

Social Infrastructure Strategy

Community Engagement Report



December 2020
newcastle.nsw.gov.au



City of
Newcastle

Social Infrastructure Strategy

Community engagement summary



"Social infrastructure is just as vital for economic prosperity as it is for social wellbeing, and that quality social infrastructure benefits the entire community and plays a significant role in enhancing the lives of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities"

(LMM 25/06/2019)

In 2019, the City of Newcastle Council (CN), acknowledged the importance of having appropriate and quality social infrastructure to support growth.

Engagement activities

To understand current and future social infrastructure needs, CN partnered with Cred Consulting to engage community members and stakeholders. Engagement with the community and stakeholders including government agencies, University of Newcastle, local social welfare and community service providers, and CN teams, ran between 5 November and 30 November 2020, and included:

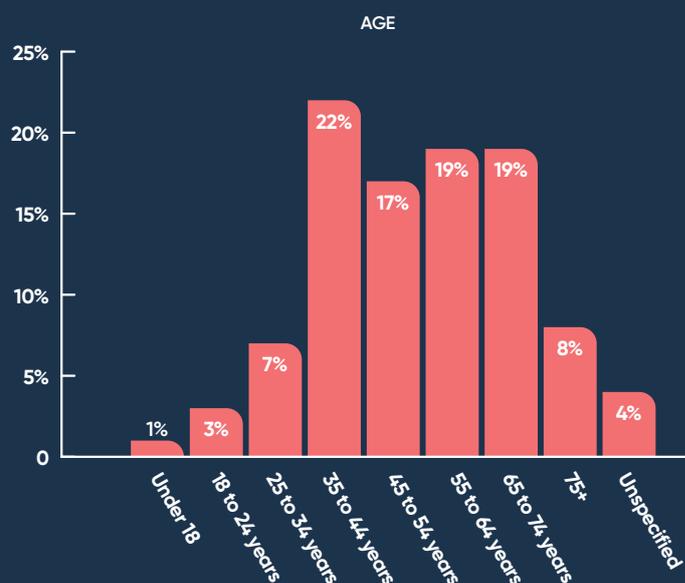
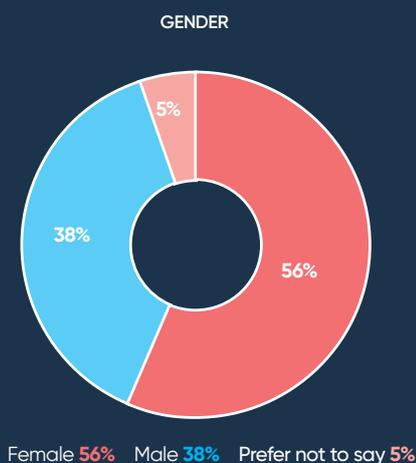
Online surveys

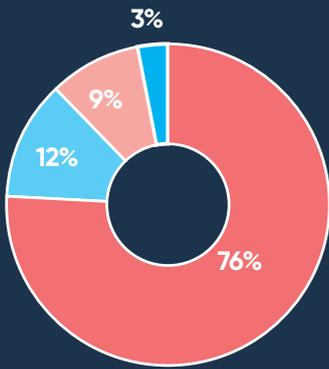
via the Have Your Say page on the CN website

Community survey

- **213** participants
- **91%** live in the Newcastle local government area (LGA)

Demographics





Service provider survey

34 participants

- Not for profit, for purpose of social enterprise: **76%**
- Commercial: **12%**
- Social group, club or Incorporated body: **9%**
- Other type: **3%**

Online interactive map

via social pinpoint



301 pins dropped across Newcastle LGA

Stakeholder interviews

via video and phone call

External stakeholder services meetings

7 meetings

NSW Government Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation

NSW Government Department of Communities & Justice

NSW Government Department of Education

NSW Government Venues NSW

University of Newcastle

The Canopy

Mercy Services

Internal stakeholders

5 meetings

Open Space and Recreation

Aquatic Services

Community Planning and Development

Property and Facilities

Culture, Civic, Libraries, Child Care



Key findings

Social infrastructure is highly valued and utilised by the community



97% of survey respondents agreed that for Newcastle, having access to public open space and recreation facilities is important.

94% of survey respondents agreed that having access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them is important.



Libraries (**65%**), cultural and arts spaces (**63%**), and community health centres (**41%**) were the most utilised community facilities among survey respondents, and in terms of public open space respondents are more likely to utilise footpaths (**85%**), parks (**82%**) and walking trails (**67%**) in Newcastle LGA.

Participants highlighted that community facilities and public open spaces will continue to play an important role as the population grows and changes, and to support community health and wellbeing outcomes.



'Keeping things pleasant, functional, and affordable are the big three. These are vital spaces for the community and our services'

Engagement respondent feedback

Social infrastructure should be affordable for everyone to use and hire

- Across engagement activities, participants indicated free or affordable spaces are a key outcome for great community facilities and open spaces and would like to see more services, activities and programs that are free or affordable for the community to participate in.
- Service providers suggested affordable spaces and facilities are highly important to continue to deliver programs and services to the community.
- Service provider survey respondents would like to see more spaces that are easily hireable, and in particular, CN facilities available for hire at a subsidised or community rate.

'Really need to be affordable. COVID-19 has highlighted the equity issues across the city and some places are just too expensive for groups to use, particularly groups from lower socioeconomic areas'.

Engagement respondent feedback

Improving access to social infrastructure that is equitably distributed is a high priority

'Programs need to be as inclusive as possible, and provide comfortable and easy activities'

Engagement respondent feedback

- A range of social infrastructure that is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all members of the community including age, abilities, and cultures is a key priority.
- Survey respondents indicated they were more likely to travel to community facilities and open space and public recreation facilities by car, commenting there is a lack of frequent, reliable, and connected public transport options to travel across the LGA, and few accessible public parking at facilities.
- 30% of respondents indicated they would like to see community facilities and open space and public recreation facilities fairly distributed across Newcastle, with consideration given for areas or people in need and particularly further distributed outside of Ward 1 (Newcastle CBD). Services also highlighted the need for increased access to social infrastructure in the growing Western Corridor where there is also increasing social disadvantage.

Increasing capacity and flexibility of Newcastle's social infrastructure

- Multipurpose, flexible, and adaptable community facilities and public open spaces that accommodate for a wide range of activities and interests was a top priority for participants.
- Contributors to the interactive map indicated there is a growing demand for flexible multi-purpose spaces, expressing a need for co-located community and recreational spaces that supports the increase in young families in some areas across the LGA.
- Opportunities to better improve public open spaces (streets, beaches, parks) for social and recreational and informal participation, including internet connectivity, improved amenity, and intergenerational spaces.



Improve the quality of what we already have to increase use and activation

- Participants would like to see improvements to existing social infrastructure to increase community use and activation.
- Across all engagement activities, respondents expressed a strong need for additional and improved amenities across community facilities and open spaces and public recreation facilities, with priorities focussing on accessible public toilets, change rooms, bubblers, more trees, shaded seating and table areas, lighting at night to activate spaces, increasing bins and waste facilities to reduce littering, and improved surfacing of pathways to support active transport and recreation links across the LGA.
- Increased maintenance of open spaces, particularly surfacing of footpaths and pathways to improve safety, accessibility and create connected networks across the LGA for active transport and recreational use. Similarly, survey respondents and contributors indicated parks, sports fields and courts are a priority, acknowledging increasing participation trends in formal sport, particularly in female memberships.

'Spaces need to be multipurpose and managed not purely as venues, but understanding the role they play in wellbeing driven by community development'

Engagement respondent feedback



'CN needs to build trust with local community groups and the community and recognise the benefits these groups provide. This can be achieved through low-cost spaces'.

Engagement respondent feedback

Partnership, collaboration and sharing

- Stakeholders suggested that there are opportunities for CN to work in partnership with the large number of services, government agencies and major institutions to plan for and deliver great social infrastructure to meet future demand. This includes in growth areas such as the Western Corridor, Newcastle CBD, and Hunter Park; through sharing social infrastructure with schools and universities; and working with services to improve access to spaces to deliver outreach services and programs in planning catchments disconnected from transport or social infrastructure provision.

The following report was prepared by Cred Consulting on behalf of City of Newcastle

Prepared for: Community, Strategy, and Innovation,
City of Newcastle

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Social Infrastructure Strategy
Stage 1 Engagement Report

City of Newcastle

December 2020



Report title: Social Infrastructure Strategy - Stage 1 Engagement Report

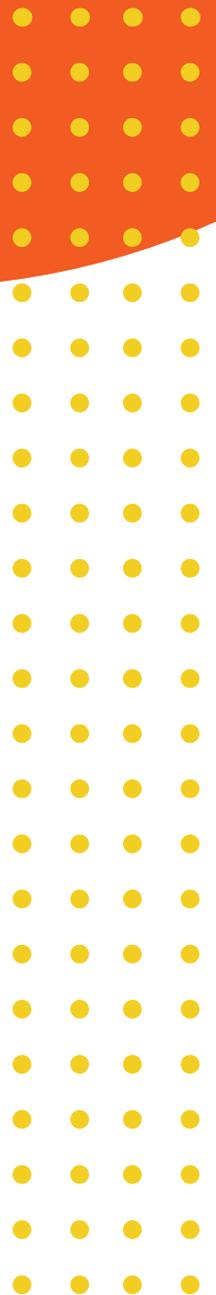
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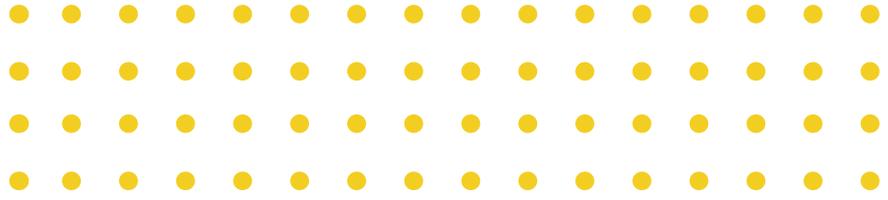


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1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of findings from Stage 1 community engagement completed in November/December 2020 to inform the development of the City of Newcastle Social Infrastructure Strategy Needs Assessment Report. The purpose of engagement was to understand the current and future social infrastructure needs based on feedback from a range of internal and external stakeholders including Council staff, the broader community, service providers, industry stakeholders and government agencies.

1.1. About the Social Infrastructure Strategy

Newcastle is Australia’s seventh largest city and the capital city of the Greater Newcastle area. Over the past two decades Newcastle has transitioned to an innovative city focused on leading the way as it transforms into the next generation. During this time, the population of the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) has grown with significant growth in its western corridor and inner-city areas and continued growth is forecast. In 2019, the City of Newcastle Council (CN), acknowledged the importance of having appropriate and quality social infrastructure to support growth, passed a resolution (LMM 25/06/2019) that:

“Social infrastructure is just as vital for economic prosperity as it is for social wellbeing, and that it benefits the entire community and plays a significant role in enhancing the lives of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities”

To enable CN to effectively plan for and deliver the social infrastructure the Newcastle community needs, CN engaged Cred Consulting to deliver a Social Infrastructure Strategy (SIS). The SIS will identify priorities for existing and future social infrastructure needs to 2041.

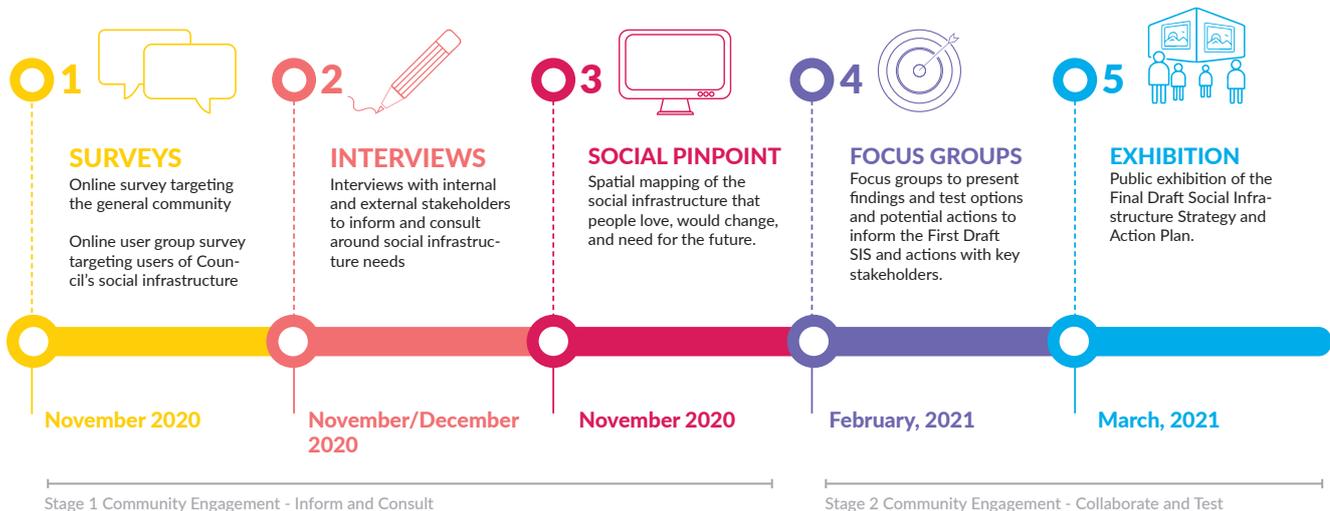
1.2. Purpose of this report

Engagement with community stakeholders is an important part of understanding current and future social infrastructure needs. This report provides a summary of engagement completed to inform the CN SIS Needs Study, which will form the evidence base for the SIS Strategy.

The objectives of the community engagement delivered for the CN SIS were to:

1. Discover resident, user group, service provider, industry and internal Council stakeholder current and future needs and priorities for social infrastructure (including public facilities and public open space and recreation facilities and the services and programs within them) for the Newcastle LGA, to inform future planning and provision.
2. Understand what a successful SIS looks like.
3. Understand what the broader community & user groups value about social infrastructure and its benefits.
4. Capture the views of a wide range of community members from diverse age groups, abilities, and geographical areas.
5. Enable more community awareness, through the engagement and planning process, of existing social infrastructure.

1.3. Engagement timeline



1.4. Summary of engagement activities

Between 5 November and 30 November, 2020, engagement was delivered to inform the current and future social infrastructure needs of the City of Newcastle community. Engagement activities delivered are detailed in Table 1. The engagement delivered below forms Stage 1 engagement with further engagement in Stage 2 to test needs and inform the SIS.

Table 1 - Overview of consultation activities

Type	Date	Location	Participants
Online surveys			
Community survey	5 November - 30 November 2020	CN Have Your Say Page	213
Service provider survey	5 November - 30 November 2020	CN Have Your Say Page	34
Online interactive map			
Have your say in shaping social infrastructure Social Pinpoint Interactive Map	5 November - 30 November 2020	https://newcastle.mysocialpinpoint.com/community-survey#/#/	301 contributors
Stakeholder interviews			
External stakeholder services			
Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation	18 November, 2020. 3.30pm to 4.30pm	Online via Microsoft Teams	2
Department of Communities and Justice	19 November, 3pm top 5pm.	Online via Microsoft Teams	2
The Canopy	27 November, 2020. 12.30pm to 1.20pm	Online via Microsoft Teams	1
University of Newcastle	27 November, 2020. 11.30 am to 12.30pm.	Online via Microsoft Teams	1
Mercy Services	9 December, 2020, 10am to 11am	Phone interview	1
Venues NSW	8 December, 2020, 9am to 9.30am	Phone interview	1
Department of Education	16 December (to be completed)	Online via Microsoft Teams	1
Internal stakeholders			
Open space and recreation	9 November 2020. 9.30am - 11am	Online via Microsoft Teams	4
Community Development and Programs	9 November 2020. 11am - 12.30pm	Online via Microsoft Teams	8
Property and Building Services	10 November 2020. 11am - 12.30pm	Online via Microsoft Teams	3
Culture and Civic	13 November 2020. 10.30am - 12pm	Online via Microsoft Teams	5
Pools and parks	9 November, 2020, 9.30am to 11am	Online via Microsoft Teams	2

What we heard



Social infrastructure is highly valued and utilised by the community

Community engagement participants told us they value and highly utilise social infrastructure across the Newcastle LGA.

The majority of survey respondents agree that for Newcastle, having access to public open space and recreation facilities is important (97%), and having access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them is important (94%).

Libraries (65%), cultural and arts spaces (63%), and community health centres (41%) were the most utilised community facilities among survey respondents, and in terms of public open space respondents are more likely to utilise footpaths (85%), parks (82%) and walking trails (67%) in Newcastle LGA.

Participants highlighted that community facilities and public open spaces will continue to play an important role in the Newcastle LGA as the population grows and changes, and to support community health and wellbeing outcomes.

Improving access to social infrastructure that is equitably distributed is a high priority



Across engagements activities, accessibility and inclusion to social infrastructure is a key priority for participants now and into the future. Participants told us they would like to see a range of social infrastructure that are accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community including age, abilities, and cultures and equitably distributed across the LGA. Opportunities to include social infrastructure included universal design principles.

Survey respondents indicated they were more likely to travel to community facilities and open space and public recreation facilities by car, commenting there is a lack of frequent, reliable and connected public transport options to travel across the LGA, and few accessible public parking at facilities.

Having equitable access to social infrastructure across the LGA to was a top priority for participants, with 30% of survey respondents indicating they would like to see community facilities and open space and public recreation facilities fairly distributed across Newcastle, with consideration given for areas or people in need (benefiting everyone) and particularly further distributed outside of Ward 1 (Newcastle CBD). Services also highlighted the need for increased access to social infrastructure in the growing Western Corridor where there is also increasing social disadvantage.



Social infrastructure should be affordable for everyone to use and hire

Across engagement activities, participants indicated free or affordable spaces are a key outcome for great community facilities and open spaces.

Participants would like to see more spaces, services, activities and programs that are free or affordable for the community to participate in.

Service providers also indicated affordable spaces and facilities are highly important to continue to deliver programs and services to the community. Service provider survey respondents would like to see more spaces that are easily hireable, and in particular, Council-owned facilities available for hire at a subsidised or community rate.



Increasing capacity and flexibility of Newcastle's social infrastructure

Multipurpose, flexible community facilities and public open spaces that accommodate for a wide range of activities and interests was a top priority for participants. In the surveys, there was an expressed desire for shared community and recreation facilities, that can accommodate and adapt to the changing needs and interests in the community.

While there was lower participation in skate/BMX parks and spaces from survey respondents, contributors to the interactive map indicated there is a growing demand for flexible multi-purpose spaces, including outdoor surfacing that is suitable for increasing trend in rollerskating as well as co-located spaces that support the increase in young families in some areas across the LGA, expressing a need for co-located community and recreational spaces that support parents and their children.

Opportunities to better improve public open spaces (streets, beaches, parks) for social and recreational and informal participation was also identified. This includes internet connectivity, improved amenity and intergenerational spaces - with a focus on needs for more spaces for young people.



Improve the quality of what we already have to increase use and activation

Across engagement activities, participants would like to see improvements to the quality of existing social infrastructure to increase community use and activation.

In particular, participants expressed increasing amenity across all types of social infrastructure is important when planning for future spaces and facilities in the Newcastle LGA.

Across all engagement activities, respondents expressed a strong need for additional and improved amenities across community facilities and open spaces and public recreation facilities, with priorities focussing on accessible public toilets, change rooms, bubblers, more trees, shaded seating and table areas, lighting at night to activate spaces, increasing bins and waste facilities to reduce littering, and improved surfacing of pathways to support active transport and recreation links across the LGA.

Many contributors to the interactive map indicated they would like to see increased maintenance of open spaces, particularly surfacing of footpaths and pathways to improve safety, accessibility and create connected networks across the LGA for active transport and recreational use. Similarly, survey respondents and contributors indicated parks, sportsfields and courts are a priority, acknowledging increasing participation trends in formal sport, particularly in female memberships.



Partnership, collaboration and sharing

Stakeholders suggested that there are opportunities for CN to work in partnership and collaboration with the large number of services, government agencies and major institutions to plan for and deliver great social infrastructure to meet future demand.

This includes in growth areas such as the Western Corridor, Newcastle CBD, and Hunter Park; through sharing social infrastructure with schools and universities; and working with services to improve access to spaces to deliver outreach services and programs in planning catchments disconnected from transport or social infrastructure provision.



2. Online community survey findings

A total of 213 people responded to the community survey which was available online via Council's Have Your Say page from 5 November to 30 November 2020.

2.1. Snapshot of findings

- Of survey respondents, 94% indicated having access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them is important.
- 97% of survey respondents also indicated for Newcastle, having access to public open space and public recreation facilities is important.
- Survey respondents indicated libraries and cultural arts spaces were the most commonly used facilities in the Newcastle area.
- To achieve great outcomes, respondents indicated community facilities should be accessible and inclusive for all regardless of their ability, age or income, free or affordable, and multi-purpose, accommodating a range of uses and community needs and adaptive to changing requirements.
- Across both community facilities and services and public open space and recreation facilities, the top three priorities for future as indicated by respondents include equitable access and inclusion to these facilities across the LGA for everyone in the community to enjoy, affordable and well-maintained spaces, and multi-purpose and flexible spaces that cater to a range of users and interest groups.
- Respondents are more likely to travel to community facilities and services and public open space and recreation facilities by car, and typically spend 10-15 minutes traveling to these spaces respectively.
- Survey respondents value access to public open spaces and recreation facilities, with the majority of respondents indicated they use footpaths and streets (for running and walking), parks and walking trails.

2.2. Survey respondent profile

In total, the online survey received 213 responses. The following provides a snapshot of the respondent profile.

Demographic indicators

- Almost all of survey respondents live within the Newcastle LGA (91%), with the top suburbs including:
 - Newcastle (9%)
 - New Lambton (6%)
 - Mayfield (6%)
 - Merewether (5%), and
 - Wallsend (5%).
- There was a relatively older age profile of survey respondents, with the largest group reflected in working-aged adults aged 35 to 44 years (22%), followed by:
 - Aged 55 to 64 years: 19%
 - Aged 65 to 74 years: 19%
 - Aged 45 to 54 years: 17%
- The majority of survey respondents were female (56%), with 38% male and 5% preferred not to say.

2.3. Community facilities, services and programs

Using community facilities in Newcastle

Respondents were asked in a normal year, outside COVID-19 period, which community facilities do they use in Newcastle.

Overall, the majority of survey respondents indicated they use libraries (65%), closely followed by cultural and arts such as museum, gallery, theatre (63%). Respondents also indicated they use community health facilities (41%), community centres and halls (36%), and community participation and development spaces (e.g. playgroups, social get togethers) (36%).

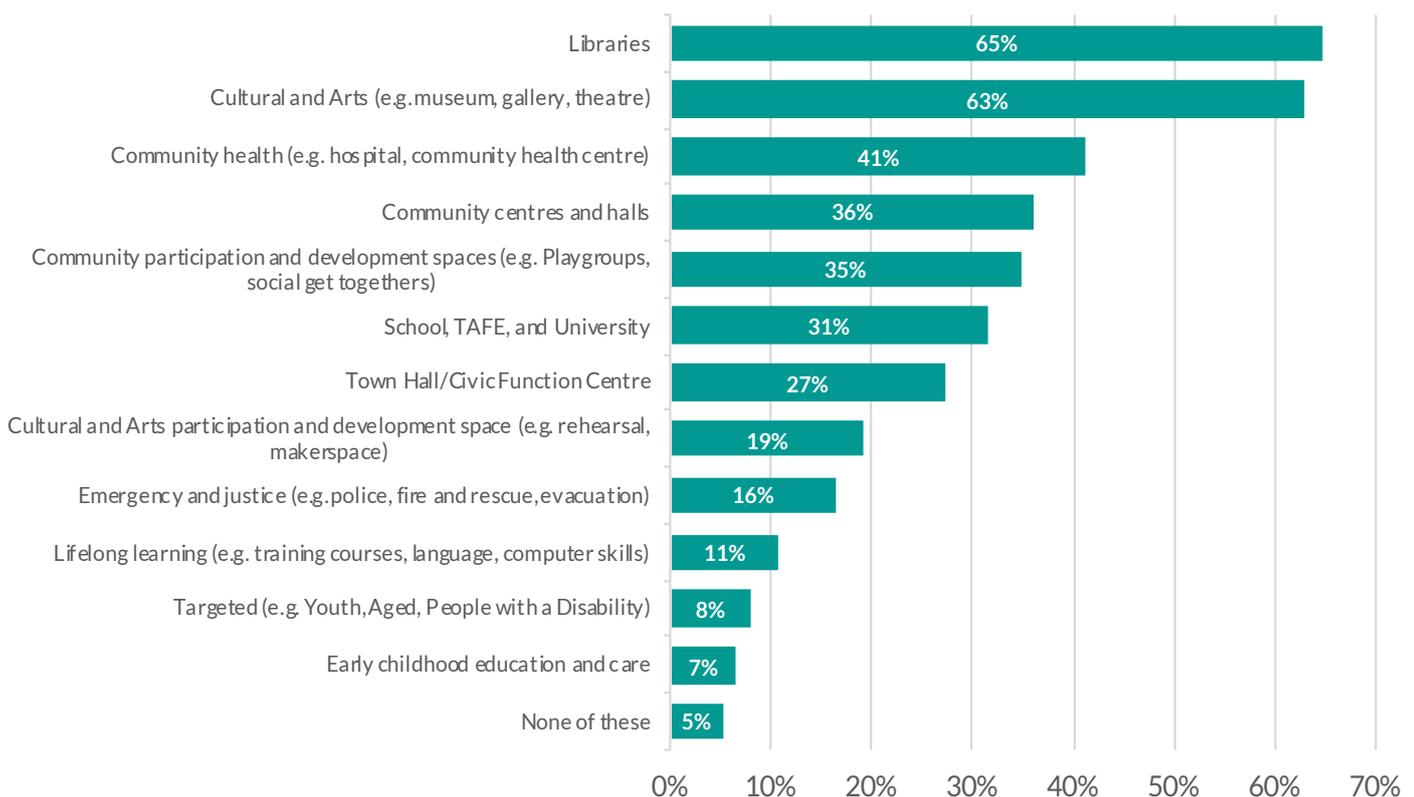
Community facilities used the least by survey respondents were early childhood education and care (7%), targeted facilities (8%) and lifelong learning facilities (11%). 5% of survey respondents indicated they did not use any of the community facilities listed.

Other community facilities used by respondents include churches with concert facilities (e.g. grand piano) like Christ Church Cathedral, community spaces at Kurraka Reserve, Fletcher places with volunteering opportunities and Lake Macquarie Live Steam Locomotive Society.

Respondents also indicated they use other community facilities, with comments having a strong focus on open space and recreation facilities, including :

- Parks, open green spaces and playgrounds (14)
- Beaches, ocean pools/baths and foreshores (11)
- Sporting fields and courts (9)
- Shared and separated paths and cycleways (7)
- Skate parks (4)
- Community gardens (2)
- Communal dance spaces with live music, i.e. The Station, Worth Place, and
- Amenities including public toilets.

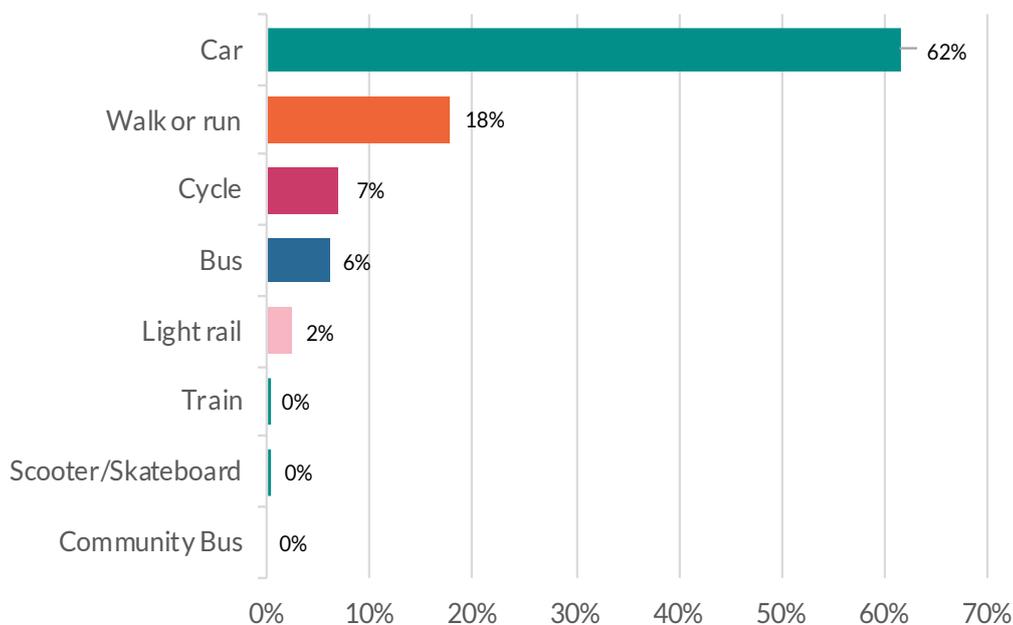
Figure 1 - Community Facilities and Services In a normal year (outside COVID-19 period), which community facilities do you use in Newcastle?



Most respondents travel to our local community facilities or services by car

The majority of respondents are more likely to travel to their local community facility or service by car (62%). This was followed by walking or running (18%), cycling (7%) and by bus (6%).

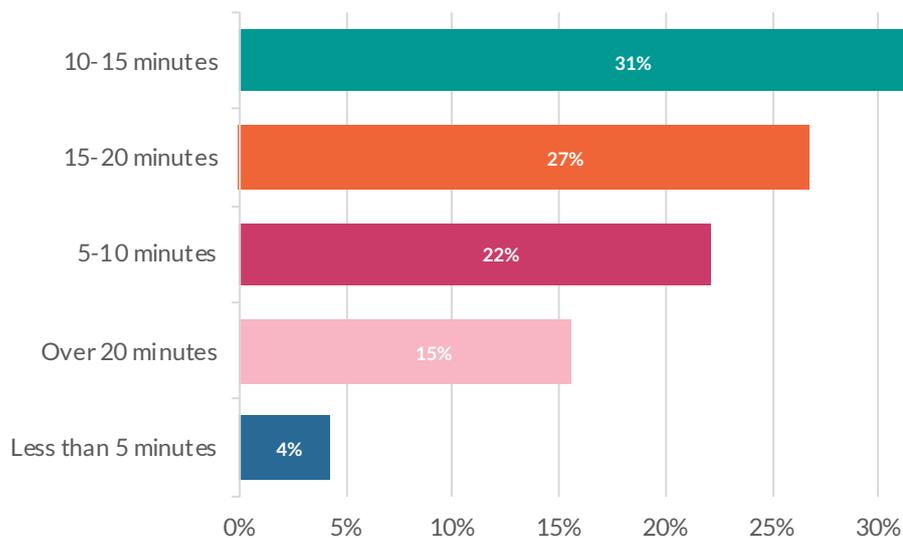
Figure 2 - How do you typically travel to the community facilities you use regularly?



Most respondents spend 10-15 minutes travelling

Respondents were more likely to typically spend 10-15 minutes travelling to their local community facility or service (31%), followed by 15-20 minutes (27%) or 5-10 minutes (22%).

Figure 3 - What is the typical travel time (using above mode) for you to get to the community facilities you use regularly?



Access and opportunities to quality community facilities

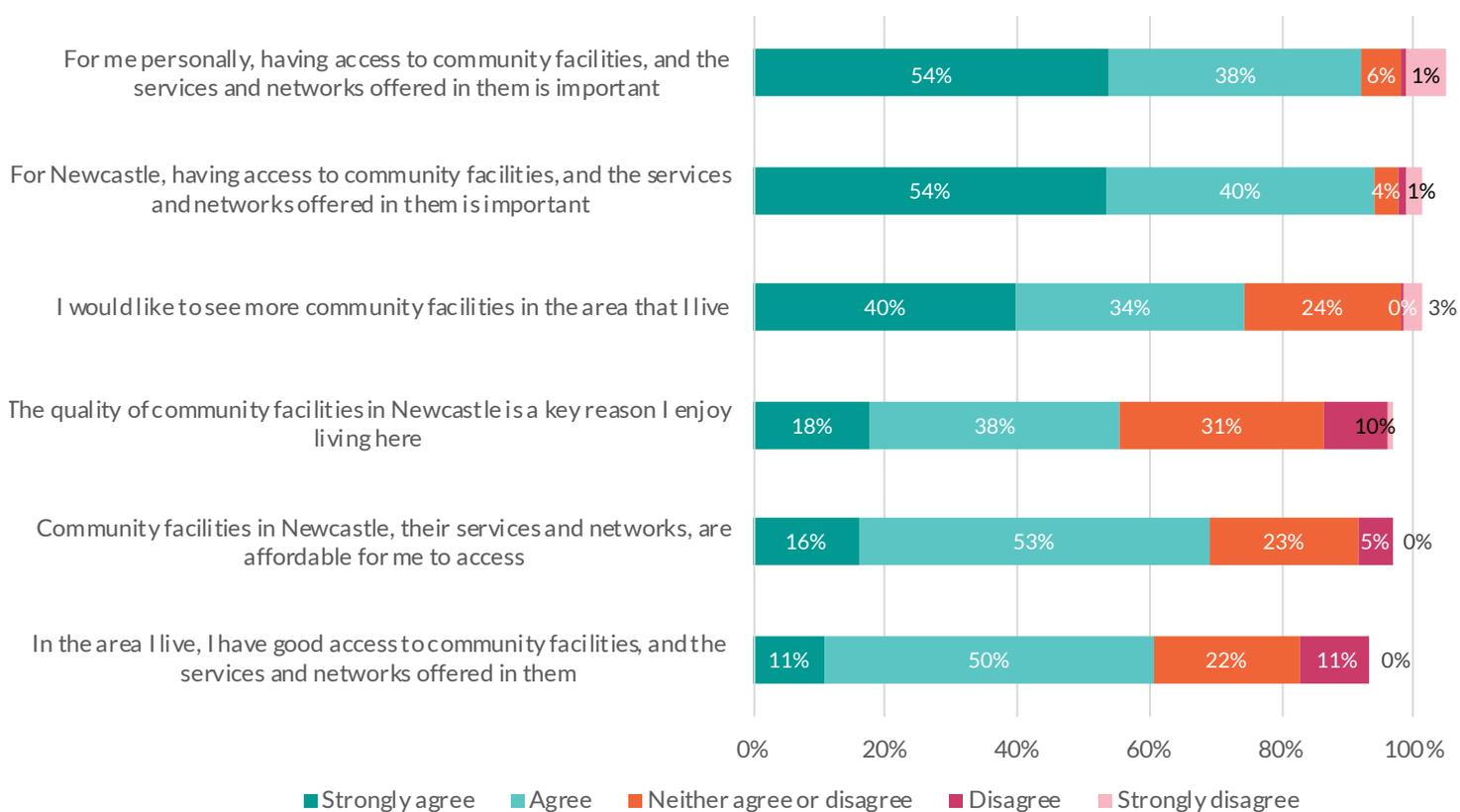
As shown in Figure 4, respondents were more likely to 'Strongly agree' or 'agree' that:

- For Newcastle, having access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them is important (94%)
- Personally, having access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them is important (92%), and
- They would like to see more community facilities in the area that they live in (74%).

Respondents were least likely to agree that:

- In the area I live, I have good access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them (11%)
- The quality of community facilities in Newcastle is a key reason why they enjoy living here (10%), and
- Community facilities in Newcastle, their services and networks, are affordable for me to access (5%).

Figure 4 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Top three important outcomes for great community facilities

As shown in Table 2, the top three most important outcomes for great community facilities are:

- Accessible and inclusive for all regardless of their ability, age or income (39%)
- Free or affordable (36%), and
- Multi-purpose, accommodating a range of uses and community needs and adaptive to changing requirements (32%).

Table 2 - In your opinion, what do you see as the three most important outcomes for great community facilities?

Outcomes for great community facilities	% of respondents
Accessible and inclusive for all regardless of their ability, age or income	39%
Free or affordable	36%
Multi-purpose, accommodating a range of uses and community needs and adaptive to changing requirements	32%
Fairly distributed across Newcastle, with consideration given for areas or people in need (benefiting everyone)	30%
Well planned and managed (social, economic, environment and governance)	22%
I feel safe there	20%
Are spaces for me to enhance my health and wellbeing	18%
Providing spaces for me to socialise and connect with friends/family/community	18%
A pleasant look and feel	17%
Close to public transport	17%
The activities/services/networks interest me	16%
I feel welcome there	9%
Providing spaces for me to participate and contribute	8%
Co-located or close to key essential services or other facilities	8%
They are spaces for me to learn and develop	5%
Supporting the delivery of the community service system (e.g. meals on wheels)	5%
I don't know	0%
They are not important	0%

Top three priority community facility or service needs that should be addressed for our area

Respondents were asked what they see as the three priorities for community facilities, services and networks that should be achieved for Newcastle and/or their community now or into the future.

Similarly to the previous question, the top three priority community facility or service needs that should be addressed include:

Equitable access and inclusion for everyone in the community (177 comments)

Respondents indicated they highly value community spaces, and would like to see community facilities services and networks that are accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community including age, race and abilities.

Many respondents noted there is currently a lack of accessible community facilities and services, particularly in areas that are further out from the city centre of Newcastle, and would like to see community facilities and services spread more equitably in surrounding suburbs in the LGA.

“Ensure that community facilities, services and networks are fairly (both in terms of quantity and quality) distributed across a geographic area so that people have equal or close to equal access.”

Respondents also expressed travel to community facilities and services needs to be addressed now and into the future. Many respondents indicated access to parking at facilities and services is important, particularly access to disabled parking.

“Sufficient Parking close by so people with disabilities can access them. We could not get a park near civic theatre for my mum so paid \$100 for nothing. Won't be going again.”

“Secure and easy parking. One of the biggest deterrents for me is not being able to park anywhere close to where I wanna be in Newcastle for recreational activities.”

Other respondents also emphasised the need for affordable and frequent public transport options to enable people to travel to community facilities and service providers. Respondents would like to see reliable, frequent, and direct public transport connections to community facilities and services.

“If we need to get somewhere close, we still need to catch two different buses with young kids. And wait a long time in between. The effort to get somewhere leaves us staying at home.”

“Easily accessible via public transport, and affordable public transport, I think the light rail is expensive for such short distance, great for the \$0.20 or so if you have come by bus or train but not \$2 just for it.”

Multi-purpose, flexible and well maintained community facilities that meet our needs (101 comments)

In the future, respondents indicated they would like to see community facilities that are multi-purpose, flexible and well maintained.

Respondents acknowledged the need for community facilities that cater to a range of users and interest groups, and ensuring with a growing, diverse population that community facilities and spaces can address the needs of these groups. Community spaces that are efficient in use, well-designed and can offer a variety of activities, programs and services is important for the Newcastle area.

“Spaces that are really well designed to be multi-use , including outside - future-proof as much as possible.”

“Multi use facilities rather than single use.”

“Variety of services suited to most interests and age groups.”

Affordable and easily hireable community facilities and services (76 comments)

Many respondents indicated they would like to see affordability of community facilities and services addressed in the future.

Respondent indicated a need for subsidised or free community programs and services participate in such as fitness classes or local events. Community facilities and programs that are affordable or free are important within the local community, particularly within lower socioeconomic areas.

Some participants also expressed they would like to see affordable and subsidised community facilities to hire.

“Really need to be affordable. Covid-19 has highlighted the equity issues across the city and some places are just too expensive for groups to use, particularly groups from lower socioeconomic areas.”

“Free access or readily affordable entrance fees stratified for different groups and located in places that are readily accessible by public transport or car.”

2.4. Public open space and recreation facilities and services

Using public open space and recreation facilities in Newcastle

Respondents were asked in a normal year, outside COVID-19 period, which open space and public recreation facilities they use in Newcastle.

Overall, the majority of survey respondents indicated they use footpaths and streets for running and walking (85%), closely followed by parks (82%).

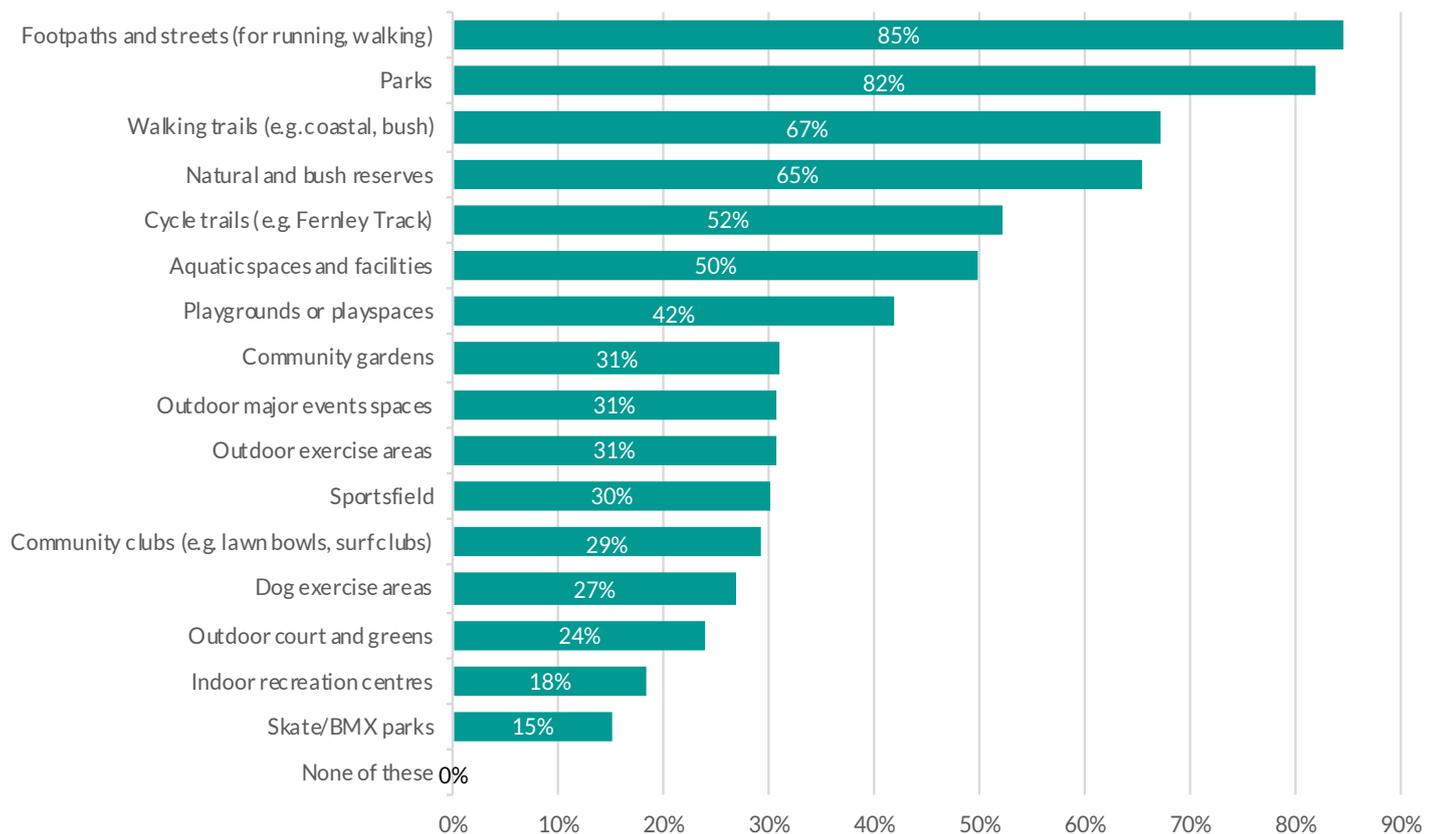
More than two thirds use walking trails (67%), natural and bush reserves (65%), cycle trails (52%) and aquatic spaces and facilities (50%).

Respondents were least likely to use skate/BMX parks (15%), indoor recreation centres (18%) and outdoor court and greens (24%), however this may be due to the older age profile of survey respondents.

Respondents also indicated they use other open space and public recreation facilities in Newcastle, including:

- Beaches and ocean baths (6 comments)
- Aquatic pools
- Cycling as active transport, particularly around Hamilton, and
- Bar Beach tennis practice wall.

Figure 5 - Open space and public recreation facilities In a normal year (outside COVID-19 period), which open space and public recreation facilities do you use in Newcastle? Please select all that apply.



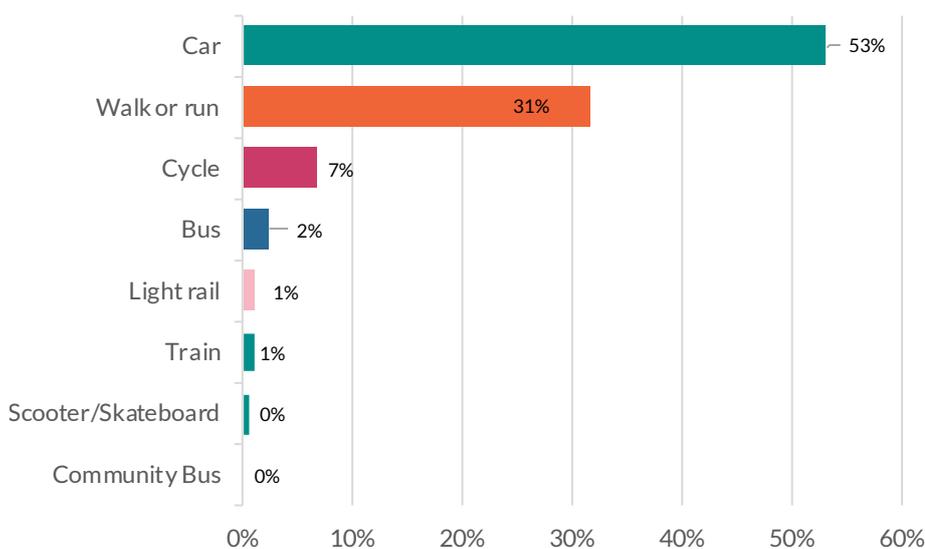
Most respondents travel to open space and recreation facilities by car

The majority of respondents are more likely to travel to the open space and recreation facilities they regularly use by car (53%). This was followed by respondents travelling by foot - with one in three respondents (31%) indicating they typically walk or run.

In addition, 7% of respondents cycle to their open space and recreation facilities, and 2% travel by bus.

Other ways respondents travel to open space and recreation facilities include a mix between active and public transport, and roller skating. One respondent indicated whilst preferring to walk, they have to take the bus on hot days with young children even though bus routes are unreliable.

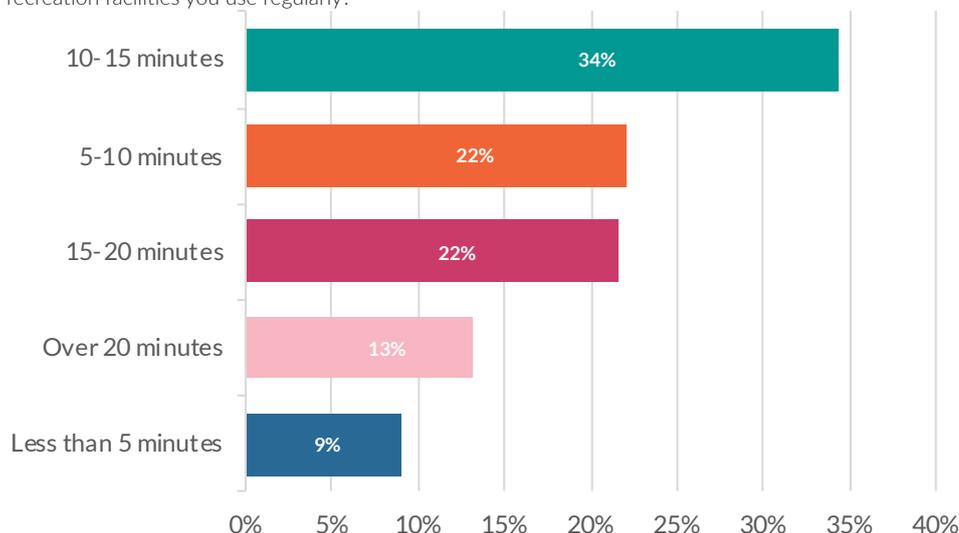
Figure 6 - How do you typically travel to the open space and public recreation facilities you use regularly?



Most respondents spend 10-15 minutes travelling

Respondents were more likely to typically spend 10-15 minutes travelling to the open space and recreation facility they use regularly (34%), followed by 15-20 minutes and 5-10 minutes (22% respectively).

Figure 7 - What is the typical travel time (using above mode) for you to get to the open space and public recreation facilities you use regularly?



Access and opportunities to quality open space and public recreation facilities

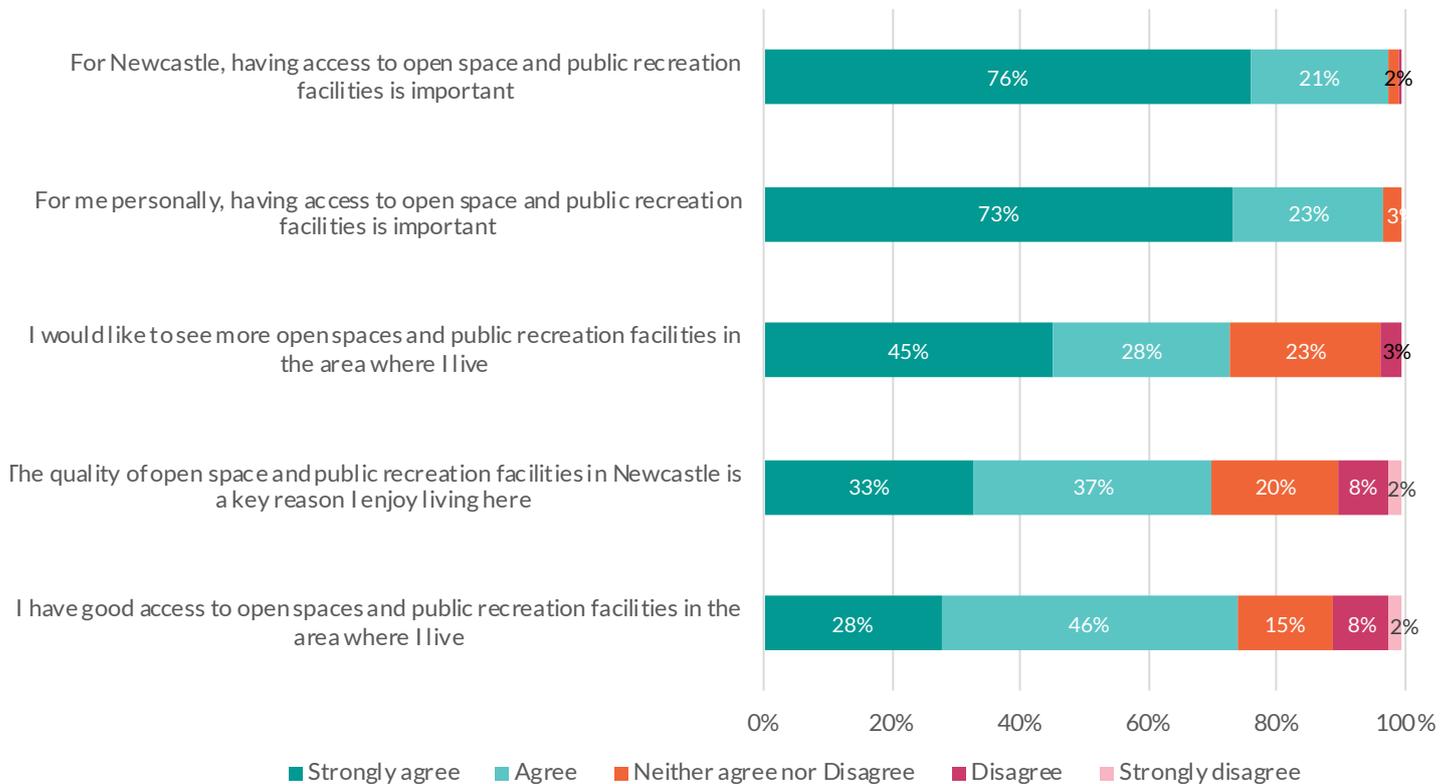
As shown in Figure 8, respondents were more likely to 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree' with the following statements

- For Newcastle, having access to open space and public recreation facilities is important (97%)
- Personally, having access to community facilities, and the services and networks offered in them is important (92%), and
- I would like to see more community facilities in the area where I live in (74%).

Respondents were more likely to 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with the following statements:

- I have good access to open spaces and public recreation facilities in the area where I live (10%)
- The quality of open space and public recreation facilities in Newcastle is a key reason I enjoy living here (10%), and
- I would like to see more open spaces and public recreation facilities in the area where I live (3%).

Figure 8 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Top three important outcomes for great open spaces and public recreation facilities

As shown in Table 3, the top three most important outcomes for great open space and public recreation facilities are:

- Accessible and inclusive for all regardless of their ability, age or income (41%)
- Free or affordable (40%), and
- Enhance my health and wellbeing (31%).

Table 3 - In your opinion, what do you see as the three most important outcomes for great open space and public recreation facilities?

Outcomes for great open spaces and public recreation facilities	% of respondents
Accessible and inclusive for all regardless of their ability, age or income	41%
Free or affordable	40%
Enhance my health and wellbeing	31%
Fairly distributed across Newcastle, with consideration given for areas or people in need (benefiting everyone)	30%
They have a pleasant look and feel	28%
I feel safe there	27%
Well planned and managed (social, economic, environment and governance)	23%
Provide spaces for me to socialise and connect with friends/family/community	22%
The activities/services/sports interest me	15%
Close to public transport	10%
Co-located or close to key essential services or other facilities	8%
I feel welcome there	6%
Are spaces for me to participate and contribute	6%
They support the delivery of providers and services (e.g. PT sessions, formal sports bodies)	6%
Spaces for me to learn and develop	5%
I don't know	0%
They are not important	0%
They are not important	0%

Top three priority open space, sport and recreation needs that should be addressed for our area

Respondents were asked what they see as the three priorities for open space, sport and recreation needs that should be achieved for Newcastle and/or their community now or into the future.

The key themes that emerged from comments relating to respondents top three priorities for open space, sport and recreation needs are summarised below.

Increased amenity and maintenance of our public open spaces and recreation facilities (183 comments)

The majority of respondents indicated they would like to see improved maintenance of public open spaces and recreation facilities across the LGA, including:

- Regular trimming, weeding and leveled surfacing of open grassed areas and sports fields
- Regular removal of rubbish and replenish overfilled bins
- Increased cleanliness and access to public toilets, with opportunity to provide signage to indicate nearest public amenities, and
- Ensure adequate disability access to open spaces, particularly wheelchair access.

“Maintain them and make them safe and inviting for all.”

“Be well maintained, tidy and safe with good facilities like toilets, seating, trees for shade.”

Many respondents would also like to see increased amenity to make open spaces more accessible and enjoyable to use, including:

- Increased lighting to improve sense of safety and nighttime activation, particularly in parks, skate parks and playgrounds
- Additional toilets that are accessible for everyone
- More shade provided by trees, shade structures and picnic shelters
- Increased seating and tables, for relaxation or social get togethers, and
- Additional water bubblers and fountains for people and their pets.

“Useable public spaces with seating, lighting and shade.”

“Facilities like bins and water (for humans and animals).”

Accessible public open spaces for everyone to enjoy (129 comments)

Respondents value their public open space and recreation facilities in the Newcastle area, noting that these spaces are important for the local community to support health and wellbeing, participate in informal and formal sporting, and provide opportunities to connect to nature.

Many respondents indicated they would like to see improved accessibility to open spaces and recreation facilities, including:

- Increased, frequent and reliable public transport connections to open spaces across the LGA, particularly for people living in the outer suburbs of the CBD
- More parking near and around open spaces and recreation facilities particularly for people with disability, and
- Increased nighttime access to recreation facilities.

“Make them accessible to all people, regardless of demographic their background, this include consideration of geographic locations of such spaces”

“They should be easily accessible, with good public transport, and via walking or bike paths.”

“Accessible and inclusive - accessible footpaths and play equipment which caters to the entire community.”

Diverse and multi-purpose recreation facilities (124 comments)

Respondents would like to see more recreation facilities that cater to a range of interests, ages and abilities including:

- More outdoor skate parks
- Additional rollerskating rinks and outdoor surfacing that can support roller skating
- More playgrounds for a range of age groups
- Water parks and play elements, and
- Outdoor fitness stations and exercise equipment.

Respondents would also like to see multi-purpose and flexible open spaces and recreation facilities to support a range of demographics and activities. Respondents commented there is an opportunity for co-located recreation facilities, for example outdoor gyms next to playgrounds to support parents and children, Respondents would also like to see well-designed spaces that accommodate a range of users, increasing shared spaces and minimising conflict between different user groups.

“More co-use facilities, like Fearnly Dawes, where different sports can co-exist without too much drama.”

“Provide a range of uses at these facilities where possible (eg basketball/netball court, playground, picnic benches) to cater for a range of demographics.”



3. Online service provider survey findings

CN distributed a survey to organisations delivering services and programs across the Newcastle LGA. 34 services responded to the survey, which was also available online via Council's Have Your Say Page.

Services who participated in the survey represented a range of government not for profit and commercial organisations include:

- Not for profit, for purpose of social enterprise: 76%
- Commercial: 12%
- Social group, club or incorporated body: 9%
- Other type: 3%

3.1. Snapshot of findings

- Services who participated represented a broad range of social, cultural, seniors, and welfare organisations. The majority service the Newcastle LGA or broader Hunter region and service more than 1,000 people.
- 71% of services have identified an increase in demand for services over the past 5 years mostly due to increasing disadvantage (including unemployment), improved communications and promotion of services, an ageing population and increasing social isolation.
- Of survey respondents, 88% used a community centre or hall for delivery of their programs and services including Council community centres and halls, scout and guide halls, and church halls. 35% of respondents use parks, streets and other free and informal public spaces.
- Inclusivity and affordability were high priority outcomes for social infrastructure. The five most important outcomes for future community spaces is to deliver services and programs are that they are accessible and inclusive for all - regardless of their ability, age or income; They are free or affordable; People feel welcome there; They are spaces for people to contribute; They have a pleasant look and feel.
- The most important considerations for planning future social infrastructure included: Planning to ensure adequate and quality social infrastructure that responds to changing and emerging community needs; Safe, fun, socially connected and multipurpose environments; Affordable and low cost access; Clean well maintained and comfortable with air conditioning and heating; Transport connectivity to the suburbs.

Services and programs mostly provided within the Newcastle area

As shown in Figure 9, in a normal year (outside Covid-19 period), services who responded to the survey delivered a broad range of service and program types. Of those who responded, the most common types of services and programs were:

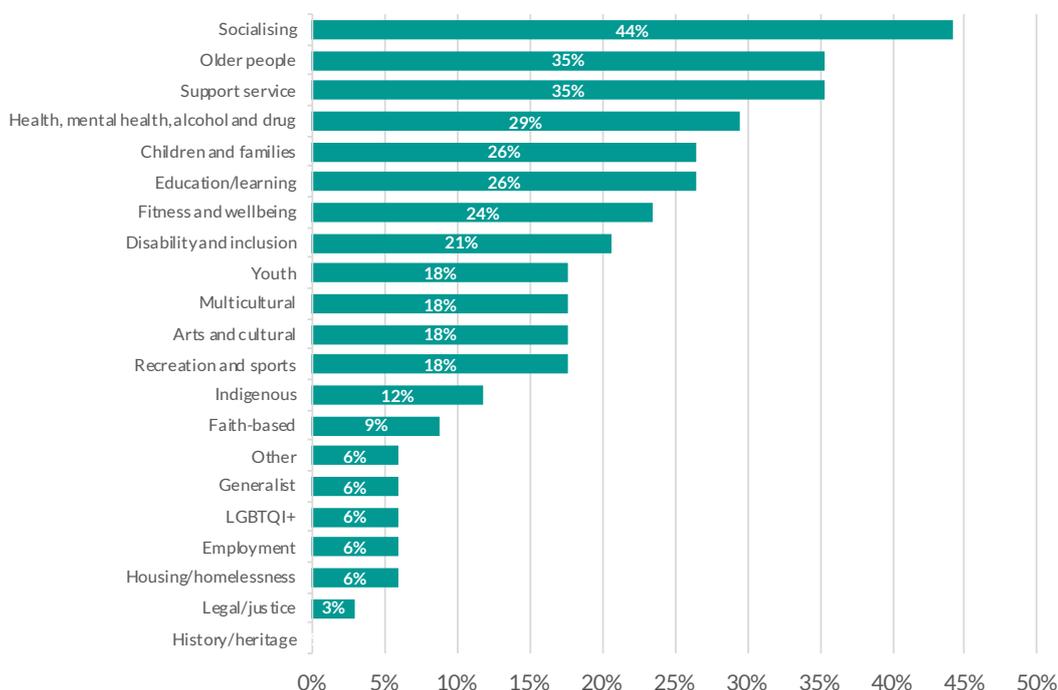
- Socialising (44%)
- Older people (35%)
- Support service (35%), and
- Health, mental health, alcohol and drug (29%).

Respondents provided further information about the services and programs they provide which demonstrate the breadth of services across the area.

- We provide a safe and welcoming place with nourishing meals for aged and disability clients.
- Under our community development program, we seek to work in partnership with agencies to improve coordination of community outcomes that reflect local needs.
- In our Men’s Shed, we hold healthy moves programs, a meal deliver services and have a cafe on site.
- Our government agency provides services to vulnerable children and families. We need accessible spaces within local communities to support people without transport, and spaces that are affordable so that cost does not become a barrier to service delivery.
- The Newcastle Men’s Shed provides outreach in a non-confrontational space for men, but particularly through

- mentoring for men who may be disadvantaged due to lower educational levels or other barriers.
- Newcastle U3A is a self help organisation for seniors which runs 4 x 8 week terms from February until December with typical sessions lasting 1.5 hours.
- Novacastrian Quilters provide members the opportunity to learn a new skills, socialise with those with like interests. We make about 200 quilts a year for John Hunter Hospital, for local refuges, for domestic assault unit and many other charities.
- We provide services to teach visually impaired people to get out and about independently. Often it is the barriers, such as, lack of transport options or well designed transport, lack of safe road crossings, challenges with the pathways and the general publics misunderstandings, and not the individual that has the biggest impact on ones ability to travel outside their home in the community.
- The Embroiderers Guild Newcastle Branch has man older ladies and would love a space with air conditioning good light and car parking. We are currently in the Community Hall in New Lambton.
- We support Indigenous business start ups and help Indigenous businesses grow with capacity building services and access to capital. The Newcastle region has seen many new and expanding Indigenous businesses and this growth offers a great opportunity to closing the gap in disadvantage.
- We supply meals to the elderly, disable and there carers. We also supply outings, social activities, have a chat program and other social interaction activities.
- We also do wellness checks on our clients.

Figure 9 - Type of services or programs provided by survey respondent



During a normal year and across all your programs and services, approximately how many people does your organisation (service or group) support?

As shown in Table 4, the majority of service providers support over 1,000 people across their organisation (50%). 3% of respondent services provide 500-1,000 people a year.

Table 4 - How many people does your service support?

Number of People	Percentage
0-99	29%
199-199	9%
200-499	9%
500-1000	3%
1000+	50%

Which of the following best describes the location (catchment) for your services and programs?

As shown in Table 5, the majority of survey respondents service the entire Newcastle LGA (56%).

Table 5 - Catchment of services and programs

Area servicing	% of respondents
Newcastle LGA	56%
Hunter Region (exluding Newcastle)	9%
Broader Regional Areas	15%
State-wide	18%
Did not answer	3%

Which suburbs in the Newcastle local government area are your services or programs offered?

A total of 19 respondents answered this question. Of respondent that answered this question, services or programs offered are evenly distributed across the LGA (58% respectively).

Number of people that your organisation supports

As shown in Table 6, the majority of respondents (71%) indicated the number of people their organisation supports increased over the past 5 years (outside of Covid).

Table 6 - Has the number of people that your organisation supports increased, stayed the same, or decreased over the past 5 years (outside covid-19 period)?

Change in # of people	% of respondents
Increased	71%
Stayed relatively the same	15%
Decreased	12%
Did not answer	3%

Reasons why respondents think this is, include:

Services indicated that following reasons for why they think service demand has increased in the past 5 years:

- There is an ageing population and an increasing demand for social connection (4 comments)
- There is an increasing unemployment rate (2 comments)
- There is a greater diversity of services and service options (2 comments)
- Improved communications promoting services and programs that are available (2 comments).
- A growing need in the community (2 comments)
- Funding from the Government for programs and services (1 comment)
- During the Covid restriction period, the demand for services and programs has increased given higher unemployment rates and increased social isolation (1 comment). This aligns with another comment regarding increasing number of people feeling vulnerable, hardship and cost of living leading to increased demand for services (1 comment)
- Increased trust with our service (1 comment), and
- Hard work (1 comment).

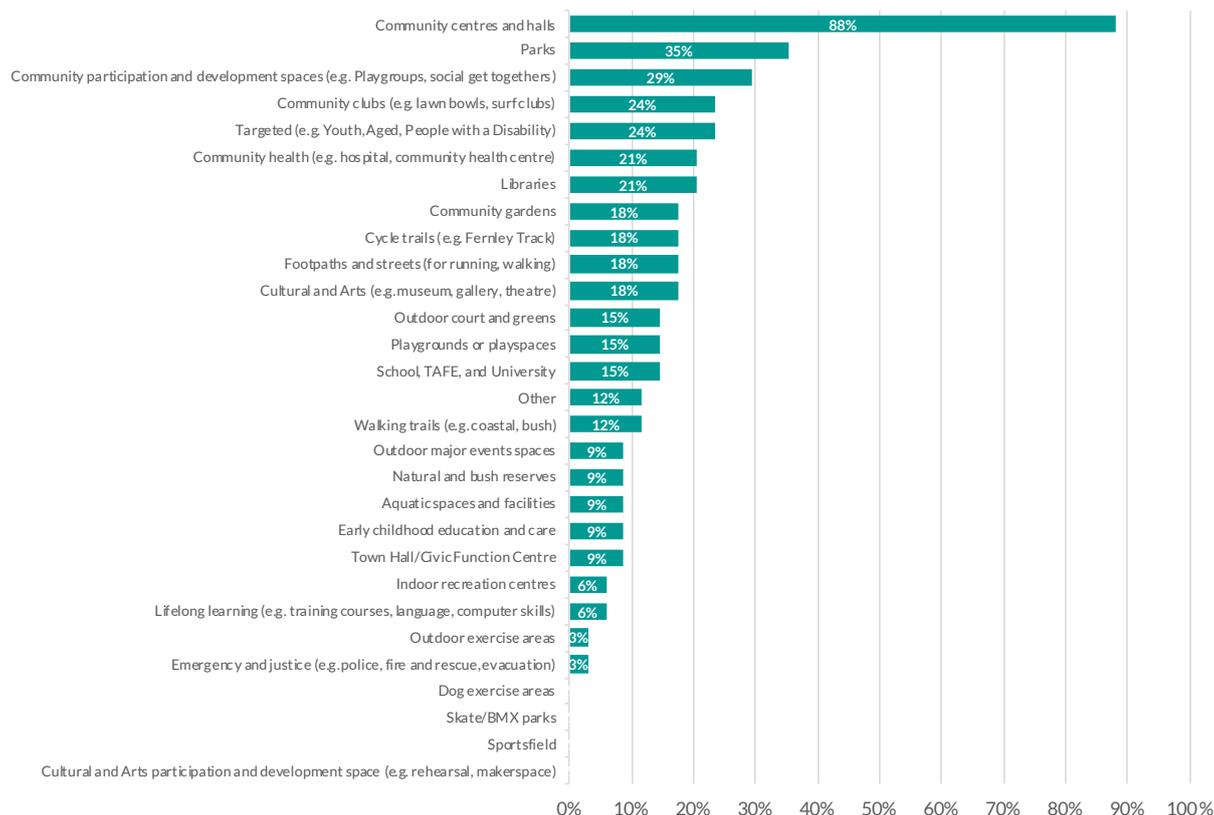
Services indicated that following reasons for why they think service demand has decreased in the past 5 years:

- Transport issues for the elderly not being able to get to services and programs (2 comments)
- Limited car parking (2 comments)
- High rents and costs associated with running the programs out of Council buildings this increases the program delivery fee and it becomes harder for participants to afford the program (1 comment), and
- A competitive market, with services competing for the same funding (1 comment).

In a normal year, which community spaces, places and facilities do you use to deliver your programs and services in Newcastle?

Survey respondents indicated that 88% of programs and services were delivered in community centres and halls across Newcastle. This was followed by parks (35%) and community participation and development spaces (e.g. play groups) (29%).

Figure 10 - Types of spaces, places and facilities in Newcastle that programs, services and facilities are delivered



Name and location of the community space respondents mainly use to deliver their programs and services in Newcastle

Survey respondents identified a number of spaces across the LGA that they regularly use to deliver programs and services. Commonly used spaces included:

- Seniors centres including Mayfield Senior Citizens, Adamstown Seniors Hall
- Maryland Neighbourhood Centre/Hunter Life Education
- Clients meet in parks and public spaces and service uses libraries for meetings - mainly Wallsend
- Hunter Multicultural Communities
- Halls - including Henry Park Scout & Guide Halls, Georgetown Guides Hall, Wallsend Pioneer Memorial Hall, Mayfield Star Hall, Henderson Park Hall. One service also uses 5 school halls, and 5 church halls.
- Community centres including Elernmore Vale Community Centre, Carrington Community Centre, New Lambton, Maycare, Alice Ferguson Community Centre
- University of Newcastle
- Blackbutt Reserve.
- During Covid, one service used the commercial kitchen at the museum and would like to extend this use.

Three most important outcomes for great community spaces

Respondents indicated the three most important outcomes for great community spaces are:

- Accessible and inclusive for all, regardless of their ability, age or income (65%)
- Free or affordable (56%), and
- People feel welcome there (41%).

Table 8 - What do you see as the three most important outcomes for great community spaces?

Most important outcomes for great community spaces	% of respondents
They are accessible and inclusive for all, regardless of their ability, age or income	65%
They are free or affordable	56%
People feel welcome there	41%
They are spaces for people to participate and contribute	24%
They have a pleasant look and feel	21%
They are spaces for people to socialise and connect with family/friends and community	18%
They are spaces for people to enhance health and wellbeing	18%
They are close to public transport	15%
They are equitably distributed across Newcastle, having consideration for highest need	9%
They are co-located or close to key essential services or other facilities	6%
They are planned and managed from a quadruple bottom line perspective	6%
They support the delivery of services and programs	3%

What are the most important considerations for CN to consider

Table 7 - Can you tell us anything else that you think is important for CN to consider when planning for community spaces, and the services and programs within them, for the next 10 to 20 years?

Priority consideration	# of comments
Planning to ensure adequate and quality social infrastructure that responds to changing and emerging community needs	6
Safe, fun socially connected, and multipurpose environments	5
Affordable and low cost access to community facilities	5
Clean, well maintained, and comfortable with air conditioning and heating	4
Transport connectivity to the suburbs	3
Inclusive and interactive for people with disability (particularly in areas with higher populations of people with disability) - including awareness of vision and hearing impairment, and disabled parking	3
Build trust with community groups and the broader community and enable their participation and engagement	2
Build local partnerships with the wider community	1
Creating a space for Indigenous and minority groups to be visible	1
Environmentally sustainable infrastructure including solar	1
Clear hire rules for Council venues and improved relationships between Council and hires	1
Consideration of the arts in future social infrastructure	1

Top three priorities for community spaces that should be achieved for Newcastle now and into the future

When asked what respondents see as the three priorities (e.g. needs, gaps, principles, outcomes, etc) for community spaces that should be achieved for Newcastle now and into the future, key themes that emerged from responses included:

- Increased maintenance and improved amenities (31 comments):
 - More shade and shelter
 - Good lighting and equipment to use
 - Access to facilities including public toilets, and
 - Heating and cooling units to support spaces during different weather seasons.
- Accessible community spaces (28 comments):
 - Equitably distributed across the LGA
 - Inclusive designs for different interest groups, such as people with disability or seniors
 - Increased public transport connections and parking, particularly for people with disability
 - Shared usage of spaces, and
 - Multi-purpose, flexible spaces, including indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities.
- Affordable and easy-to-hire spaces and facilities (16 comments)
 - Low cost rental fees
 - Free or community rate spaces from the City of Newcastle
 - Easy processes and systems to book spaces and facilities and
 - Access to under-utilised or unused council spaces, including commercial kitchens.



4. Great public spaces interactive map

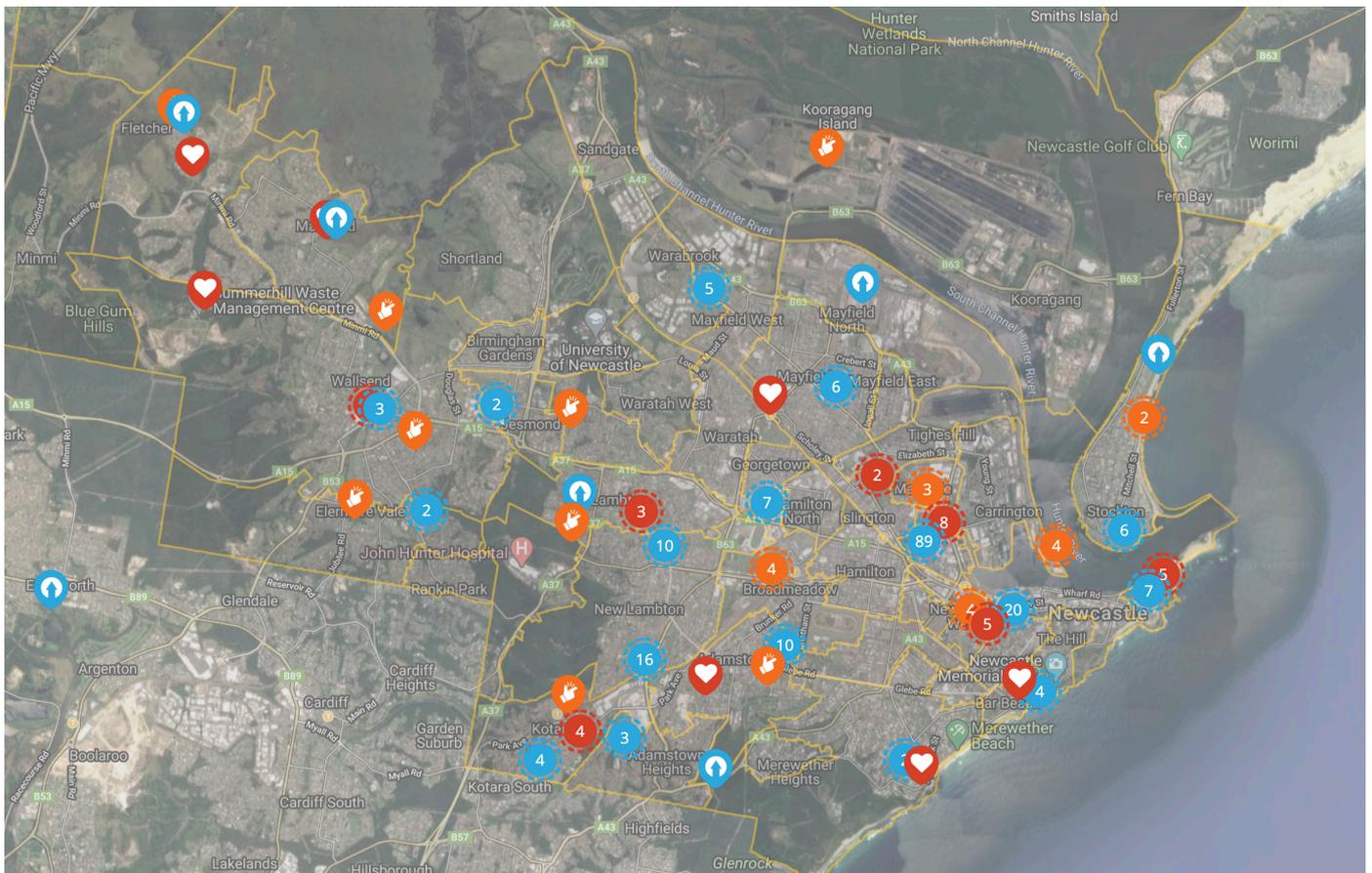
Contributors were asked to provide place-based feedback across the City of Newcastle LGA by dropping a virtual pin on a map. They could choose to comment on their favourite community space, make a comment on community spaces that need improvement, and/or share their ideas and suggestions for new community spaces we need.

In total, 301 pins were placed on the map. Please see Appendix 1 for contributor responses by Catchment.

4.1. Overall findings across all catchments

- Open space and recreation facilities are highly valued and utilised.
- Expressed need for improved amenity and upgraded recreational facilities across open spaces in Newcastle LGA to support community use and increase capacity including trees and shade, seating and tables for social gatherings, BBQ facilities.
- Increasing demand for shared open spaces and public recreational facilities to support changing demographics and needs of the community.
- Additional amenity to support utilisation of open spaces including adequate lighting at night, accessible toilet facilities, change rooms for both males and female, upgraded sports facilities including clubhouses, canteens and grandstands.

Figure 11 - Interactive map of Newcastle LGA with contributors responses



4.2. Findings by planing catchment

Catchment 1: Stockton - Fullerton Cove

Across Catchment 1, many contributors would like to see improvements to open spaces including:

- Improvements to Griffith Park, Stockton including additional lighting particularly at night, removal of the black mesh around the skate park to improve visibility into the park, additional shared paths for cycling, and additional skate spaces to accommodate advanced skaters.
- Additional public amenities and water facilities at Little Beach
- More trees at Pitt Street Reserve
- Improved maintenance and surfacing of pathways along Shipwreck walk to support recreation and active transport
- Revitalise Stockton Beach by replenishing sand dunes, managing high tide waters spilling onto the roads, more seating facing the water and additional BBQ facilities
- Increased public amenity including chairs, seating and shelter at Stockton Wharf
- Opportunity for publicly accessible water park in Stockton, and
- Opportunity to create a looping bike track by extending existing track between Corroba Oval and Hunter Water.

Catchment 2: Newcastle - Cooks Hill

Across Catchment 2, many contributors would like to see improvements to open spaces including:

- More designated skating areas/bowls a range of ages and experience levels
- Resurfacing Yuelarbah Track to improve pedestrian safety, particularly near Bar Beach Club House
- Additional dog drinking bowls attached to water fountains along the length of foreshore footpath
- Additional public amenity at the Newcastle Ocean Baths, in particular toilets and drinking fountains for people and their pets, and improved surfacing of pathways between the Ocean baths and Newcastle Beach Pavilion, particularly for roller skaters
- Increased amenity along and opposite Nobbys Beach, including lighting, bins and dog drinking taps, as well as opportunity for additional basketball courts
- Increased amenity including bins, lighting and seating at Little Birdwood Park
- Opportunity to create a picnic area and playground at the National Park
- Improved accessibility to sporting facilities at Newcastle Sports Ground, particularly toilets and change rooms for female players
- Increased maintenance of AA Park and Church Walk Park including removal of rubbish and regular weeding of grassed areas, and
- Opportunity for more diverse and interactive exhibits at Newcastle Museum.

Contributors expressed general improvements across this catchment. In particular, improved surfacing of footpaths, addition of dedicated cycleways, outdoor water features in open spaces, more dog parks, more green open spaces close to the CBD, additional seating and tables along the foreshore to enjoy the scenery and views were highly commented by contributors.

Catchment 3: Merewether - The Junction

Across Catchment 3, contributors would like to see improvements to community facilities and open spaces, including:

- Upgrades to the exterior building of Alice Ferguson Community Centre
- Refurbish commercial kitchen at Henderson Park Hall, and
- Additional public amenities and water bubblers at Glenrock.

Catchment 4: Adamstown - Kotara

Across Catchment 4, contributors would like to see improvements to community facilities and open spaces and recreation facilities including:

- Extend and continue Fernleigh Track as a separated walking and cycling path to link Broadmeadow, city centre and beaches
- Opportunity for a volleyball courts for shared use at Myers Park
- Improve access to parking at Adamstown Seniors Centre to support visitation
- Improvements and additions to Hudson Park, such as surfacing, drainage and irrigation of sportsfields at Hudson Park, preventing access onto the fields by cars, and opportunity for outdoor fitness stations
- Additional rubbish and waste bins at Kotara Park
- Replace amenities block, improve canteen and increase amount of change rooms to cater for increasing memberships, particularly for female players at Lugar Park
- Upgrade exterior of the Nesbitt Park club house
- Addition of recreation spaces across the catchment, such as:
 - Wall-ball spaces for community recreation activities such as tennis or soccer, particularly for young families
 - Skate park, and
 - Cycle track.

Catchment 5: Lambton - New Lambton

Across Catchment 5, contributors would like to see improvements to community facilities including:

- Increased opening hours at Lambton Library to support access to a range of visitors and users
- Ensure New Lambton Community Centre retains its creative space, particularly to support older community members
- Opportunity for a larger library than New Lambton Library to support a range of programs, activities and events

Contributors would also like to see improvements to public open spaces and recreation facilities across Catchment 5 including:

- Opportunity for basketball half court at Lambton Park
- Improved and/or expand Lambton Park Playground
- Expand equipment at Lambton Park Tennis Centre, with opportunity to utilise the stage for music performances on the weekend
- Upgraded amenities at Alder Park such as providing fencing all-year round to improve shared use of field, and addition of outdoor fitness equipment for all age groups
- Upgrade and refurbish of Adler Park Sports Club to attract more visitors and increase capacity
- Additional shelter, and picnic and BBQ facilities at Blackbutt Nature Reserve
- Removal of car access onto Ford Oval by adding bollards
- Upgrade change rooms at Novocastrian Park, particularly to make them accessible for females
- Upgrade amenities at Regent Park to support different sporting codes, as well as additional fencing of the park
- Improve surfacing at Richard Ford Netball Courts to provide space for roller skating when not in use
- Desire for electric vehicle charging station at Richley Reserve, and
- Additional lighting at Smith Park, as well as a clubhouse to support and promote recreation for a range of age groups.

Catchment 6: Hamilton - Broadmeadow

Across Catchment 6, contributors would like to see improvements in public open spaces and recreation facilities, including:

- Opportunity at the Broadmeadow Roundhouse for a railway museum, heritage interpretation centre and/or community cultural hub in the Broadmeadow roundhouse, to expand on Newcastle's rich industrial heritage
- Suggestion to close the racecourse to minimise anti-social behaviour and animal cruelty
- Support increasing trend of roller skating with an indoor and/or large sheltered area with smooth surfacing at the Showground Exhibition Centre, and
- Improvements to Smith Park by upgrading amenities and sports facilities, additional lighting to increase capacity and utilisation at night, and additional dog amenities including water taps.

Catchment 7: Waratah - North Lambton

Across Catchment 7, contributors would like to see improvements public open spaces, including:

- Additional amenity in Waratah Park including water bubblers and taps, more trees for shade and shaded seating near the sportsfield, daily maintenance of rubbish bins and increased monitoring and enforcement of park rules by rangers, and
- General upgrades to Pilkington Street Reserve Playground to support increase of young families in the area.

One contributor expressed they value the community spaces at John Gebhardt Centre including the community garden, Men's Shed and cafe.

Catchment 8: Mayfield - Warabrook

Across Catchment 8, contributors would like to see improvements to community facilities and public open spaces, including:

- Upgraded and additional change rooms for female players at Dangar Park, as well as a grandstand and bench seating
- New play equipment at Mayfield Bowling Club to create family friendly environments
- Improve quality of sportsfield surfaces at Stevenson Park, with Field 2 a priority
- Continue upgrades to Stevenson Park Playground, and
- Additional car parking at Warabrook Community Centre to improve accessibility. Opportunity to move this centre into Mayfield area.

Catchment 9: Wickham - Carrington - Tighes Hill

Across Catchment 9, contributors would like to see improvements to community facilities and public open spaces, including:

- General upgrades to Carrington Foreshore Playground and surrounds, with additional lighting along footpaths
- Upgrade of Carrington Foreshore car park
- Continue resurfacing of Carrington Mangrove boardwalk
- Accessibility to Dyke Point, with opportunity for additional wharf to attract visitors
- Additional shelter and water bubblers at Grahame Park Playground
- Additional seating and shade cover at Mount Carrington
- Additional cycling path and lighting at Throsby Creek to support users
- Improve facilities, including toilets at Hawkins Oval
- Additional seating and accessible public spaces at Wickham Beach

Many contributors expressed a need for major upgrades to Passmore Oval and Wickham Park & Oval, with similar themes emerging at each location including:

- A new grandstand within close proximity to the playing field
- Upgraded toilet facilities, as they are currently outdated, unsafe and at capacity
- Upgraded and additional changerooms facilities to support increasing utilisation and to particularly support female players
- Refurbishment of canteens, and
- Resurfacing and increased maintenance of grounds.

Catchment 10: Newcastle Port - Kooragang

One contributor indicated they would like to see more public spaces and facilities for families and children to visit at Koorang Island.

Catchment 11: Beresfield - Hexham

Please note there were no pins dropped by contributors in this catchment.

Catchment 12: Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi

Across Catchment 12, contributors would like to see improvements to public open spaces including:

- Additional and improved lighting on fields and pathways at Kurraka Reserve to increase nighttime activation
- Additional amenities particularly change rooms including female-friendly facilities, and increased shading and seating
- Opportunity to convert underutilised courts at Kurraka Reserve Tennis Courts into netball courts, and
- Improved drainage, additional lighting and timekeeper spaces at Bill Elliot Oval.

Catchment 13: Shortland - Jesmond

Across Catchment 13, contributors would like to see improvements to community facilities and public open spaces including:

- Additional lighting at Heaton Park
- Increase size of Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre to support utilisation and demand, increase capacity to deliver programs and activities, expressed need for more storage space, greenery, and shade above play equipment area.

Catchment 14: Wallsend - Elmore Vale

Across Catchment 14, contributors would like to see improvements to public open spaces including:

- More inclusive, creative play equipment at Elmore Vale Park Playground that is suitable for younger children, and
- Additional lighting at Federal Park and Wallsend Skate Park to increase activation at night.

5. Stakeholder interviews



5.1. About the stakeholder interviews

Stage 1 engagement including stakeholder interviews with:

Internal stakeholders:

- 5 x Council internal teams from across Council departments
- 7 x external stakeholders:
 - 2 x NGOs including The Canopy and Mercy Services
 - 4 x NSW Government Agencies including Department of Community and Justice; NSW Department of Planning; Venues NSW; Department of Education (to be completed)
- 1 x University of Newcastle

5.2. Overall findings

Across all stakeholder interviews, the following key findings emerged:

- Future social infrastructure should be multipurpose, flexible and co-located. Working toward higher quality spaces that “work harder” and can support a number of activities in the one space, will create more sustainable outcomes.
- There is increasing demand for social support services from socially disadvantaged communities, which has become stronger during Covid.
- Planning is needed to enable delivery social infrastructure to support growth across the Western Corridor, and in areas with existing and growing social disadvantage. This needs to take into consideration the poor transport connections in Newcastle’s Western planning catchments
- We need to respond to demand for informal recreational spaces that can be used in an unstructured way by all community (age, culture, gender), not just for formal and structured sports and services. There is a need to provide spaces and places for young people to engage in positive activities, particularly for those who aren’t participating in team sports.
- We need social infrastructure that is accessible not just in strategic centres but at the local level so that people without cars or money can access outreach services delivered in satellite facilities locally.
- Council’s social infrastructure should deliver social equity, social justice and people focused outcomes. This includes improved our public spaces, beaches and access points to community facilities, parks and beaches so that they are universally designed, accessible and be accessed by people of all ages and abilities.
- Some commonly suggested elements of a best practice future multipurpose community facility would include a kitchen (for classes and catering), storage space that could be shared by regular hirers, office space for on-site services to manage the space, and be universally designed.
- There are opportunities to work in partnership and collaborate with State Government Agencies and major institutions (such as the University of Newcastle) to plan for and deliver new social infrastructure to address growth, but also to improve access to social infrastructure provided by them (e.g. University of Newcastle campuses).

External stakeholders

5.3. Key findings by stakeholder group

Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)

- DCJ fund service delivery of community programs from universal services to neighbourhood centres. DCJ work within children, young people, families and communities to identify needs and support the community. A number of social infrastructure services funded by DCJ operate out of Council social infrastructure facilities.
- DCJ mainly works with vulnerable groups taking a targeted approach and a focus on early intervention. Some emerging issues include the gentrification of parts of Newcastle causing people to shift further west.
- Services operating out of Council social infrastructure facilities are funded for a maximum 5 years and the funding priorities is vulnerable communities including children aged 0 to 5 years, young parents and Indigenous people.
- Some constraints currently for service delivery across the LGA is the cost of DCJ funded services for the hire of Council facilities sometimes being prohibitive. It was noted that Council libraries are providing spaces for small groups to meet for free.
- The halls in more remote areas are important for the delivery of outreach services, but need to be affordable and accessible, including for agencies to meet and network and collectively address emerging social issues.
- Some halls have restrictions placed on them around noise and opening hours which limits their ability to deliver programs for young people such as band nights.
- Moving forward it is important to deliver multipurpose spaces as part of co-located community hubs so that multiple services can be delivered for local people in the same location, and services can share resources. DCJ encourages funded services to co-locate with each other to also support warm referral across one client service to another. Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre is an example of where this is already working.
- Western Growth Corridor is a high priority area for improved social infrastructure and people will need services that are close by and easily accessible - people from Fletcher should be able to access services and programs in Fletcher, not have to travel to Newcastle.
- There are also opportunities to provide social infrastructure services for new arrivals through cooking programs, community meals, and so kitchens are an important.
- It is also important to engage the community in design or future social infrastructure. In particular, Indigenous communities should drive the design of public facilities for their communities, and there should be more visibility of indigenous culture in all public spaces to ensure they are welcoming to Indigenous communities.

Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation

- Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC) aims to strengthen global gateways to the Hunter and Central Coast by creating diverse and sustainable regional economies, with thriving communities and leading metropolitan cities at their hearts.
- HCCDC sits on the City of Newcastle Liveable Cities Advisory Committee which aims to provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, about urban planning, heritage, safety, affordable housing and healthy and connected urban systems within the Local Government Area (LGA).
- HCCDC identified opportunities for CN to work collaboratively to deliver leading practice social infrastructure outcomes in growth areas, including future greenfield and urban developments.
- They identified opportunities as part of the Hunter Sports Precinct.
- Other future opportunity areas include the interchange site in Honeysuckle including for education/school outcomes, and Minmi which is a priority area for future social infrastructure and to look at how to work collaboratively across all levels of Government and the private sector as part of a PIC (Place Based Infrastructure Compact).

University of Newcastle

- University of Newcastle (UN) has two campuses across the Newcastle LGA including Callaghan Campus and Newcastle CBD (Nuspace and Honeysuckle in the future).
- UN's campuses are designed to be permeable spaces - that the community can access and for everyone to use. A goal of their Community Strategic Plan is to bring the community into their campuses.
- NUspace is proving to be a very popular space as it is an attractor to the area and can suit multiple needs at the one time "People can be with others, without being with others" Students like to come together and study along - because they like knowing there are other people around.
- Honeysuckle will commence operations from 2021 including a collaborative creative industries space (production/recording) - and top level innovation hub. Aim is that the building will be open at the ground level with public open space. UN is hoping to have shelters in the public space where activities can be curated and community events held. They are also proposing night time uses to activate the area. They want the CBD campuses to connect with the broader CBD and to flow as a precinct and link to Civic. TPI house site opposite University House near Civic Park will be a public and community focussed building.
- UN provides a number of social infrastructure facilities

that are used by the community including libraries, sporting facilities, Conservatorium of Music Concert Hall, Nuspace (which is very popular with the local community) and the Forum. The Forum has an Olympic Pool and indoor courts that are used by the community if they are member of the facility. The Forum Olympic Pool is used by a large number of Newcastle's schools for their swimming competitions as there are no other Olympic sized pools in the LGA. UN is doing an upgrade of the pool. The Jets lease one of the sporting fields part of the Forum facility.

- Callaghan Campus has plans to demolish some buildings on site which will improve public open space that can be publicly accessible. The University also has promoted the many walks in natural areas that can be done on campus.

The Canopy

- The Canopy has been operating for 32 years as a Not for Profit service. It is mostly based in the Western Growth Corridor. It has a community development arm and managed eight community centres on behalf of CN and Lake Macquarie's Councils. It provides a full continuum of services targeting early intervention (parenting programs, information, case work) and at the other end intensive family preservation programs where they work closely with a number of families referred to them by DCJ - where children are at risk of being removed due to significant child protection issues.
- The Canopy enjoys managing Council facilities through a lease arrangement, and this arrangement is central to them being able to deliver services and programs to local communities. As a localised services, the programs and activities offered will be guided by the identified needs of the entire community and all age groups taking an Asset Based Community Development Approach. The Canopy is not funded to manage or maintain facilities, this has been done within the management agreement funding - the more bookings, the more funding.
- Under their leasing agreement with CN The Canopy gets a management fee paid from the CN for the management of those buildings - the more bookings, the greater the management fee. The Canopy is responsible for maintenance but CN makes all capital improvements.
- The Canopy uses small programs, or soft entries, that will draw people into their facility - e.g. free bread or food packages at Maryland Neighbourhood Centre. They have entered into an agreement with Wesley Mission who hire a space to deliver financial literacy and budgeting advice.
- Some barriers for CN's residents is that they want to access services that are local. For more disadvantaged residents who are time poor, they only have a window of school hours (9am to 2.30pm) to access services. So if they have to travel into Newcastle CBD on the bus, and bus times are limited, they do not have the time. Spaces for delivery of outreach services that are locally accessible are really important. The Western Growth Corridor has problematic public transport.
- There are two major trends occurring at the moment that impact on social infrastructure needs. 1) There is continuing gentrification driven by housing affordability which is going further west. People are moving to areas like Maryland which has more affordable rental accommodation. Bordering this area are new greenfield areas of Fletcher and Sanctuary and soon to be Minmi. These areas will have product for 2nd and 3rd homebuyers. There is increasing mental health issues, and much reported higher levels of family and domestic violence and an increase in mental health issues. 2) They are seeing an increase in demand for services across the board, with higher concentrations of more vulnerable residents.
- Consideration needs to be given to removing barriers which currently exist to maximising the delivery of services / activities across the Newcastle LGA. In relation to onsite storage and staff office space, an additional barrier which currently exists is CN facility management policy which prohibits hirers of spaces in community centres/halls from storing equipment / resources in the facilities. This is on the basis that CN wants the facilities to be shared spaces and offices etc be treated as 'hot desk' spaces. This makes complete sense on philosophy of multipurpose facilities, but in practice is a barrier. Canopy regularly have to decline expressed interest from really worthwhile community organisations wishing to hire spaces in CN facilities. These booking requests relate to community organisations wanting to locate staff and deliver programs / activities to meet local resident needs but the organisation requires storing equipment/resources onsite, which CN prohibits making it impractical.
- Future needs include: buildings that are multipurpose so a whole range of activities can be happening at the one time (e.g. Fletcher); Location centrally near other services and public transport; staffed/managed facilities that are activated with people and programs; better marketing and promotion of what exists; focus on the Western Corridor.

Mercy Services

Mercy Services delivers residential aged care, and HACC services across Greater Newcastle. They manage the Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre where they were relocated after the Elder Citizens Centre in the CBD closed. Mercy Services also runs a Community Transport Programs. Mercy Services identified the following needs and opportunities for improving social infrastructure outcomes across Newcastle LGA:

- For delivery of aged and disability programs a great community space would include a hall and office space, parking for mini buses and drop off/pickup, and a good quality kitchen. The kitchen at Mayfield needs improvement and restricts how many people can be served at lunches.
- Social services are now able to provide their programs in spaces and places throughout Newcastle, not just in a day care centre. This means that there are opportunities for CN to improve access to its public facilities, public open space, beaches and other public spaces to enable more services and programs to be delivered in them. For examples, mats on beaches to allow people in wheel chairs to get onto the beach.
- The future focus could be on access and mobility. Mobility is a big issue across Newcastle for people who are less mobile and need good access to a private or public transport to get places.

Venues NSW

Venues NSW are working on the Hunter Park precinct which will see improved provision of regional level sporting infrastructure in Broadmeadow as well as increased housing and workers within the 60ha site. Future regional level sporting infrastructure is proposed for Hunter Park including and indoor Olympic pool, entertainment centre, sportsfields and stadium, and adventure playground. All existing uses would remain. This is a long term plan without detailed feasibility completed.

Internal stakeholders

5.4. Key findings by stakeholder group

Open space and recreation

- Need to ensure that we are getting the open space and recreation facilities we need as a result of planning proposals and developer contributions. Identifying the criteria for good open space outcomes through development will be useful and also the priorities for Council across a range of social infrastructure needs.
 - Need to clarify CN's role in terms of events in public spaces, and in particular the area's capacity to manage events at the local to regional scale. Need to prioritise what public space areas should be used for, and designed to accommodate (e.g. informal recreation v major events).
 - Need to ensure that we are delivering local social infrastructure outcomes (such as local parks) for our residents living in high density apartments in Newcastle/ Newcastle East.
 - Important to understand the future vision for Broadmeadow and if it is planned to be a multipurpose precinct delivering on a range of local to regional needs. There is currently no regional level public swimming pool for competition servicing the Hunter Region.
 - CN's ocean baths are ageing and need maintenance.
 - There is an opportunity to re-imagine the social infrastructure we have to deliver multipurpose outcomes that everyone can access (e.g. surf clubs, parks).
 - There is an identified gap in indoor recreation facility provision and there may be a need for indoor recreation facility (indoor pool, recreation centre) at a district level to service the Western Corridor.
 - Need to consider the most appropriate location for regional facilities in terms of parking demand traffic impacts etc.
 - A priority for open space is accessibility and making sure everyone has equitable access to open spaces.
- resource sharing.
 - There are also opportunities to look at our existing stock of social infrastructure facilities, and how it can be transformed as multipurpose.
 - There is high unemployment in some areas with corresponding higher lack of internet connectivity - an important future role of Council social infrastructure facilities is to support digital inclusion. This could also include outdoor spaces that are digitally connected.
 - Spaces for delivery of youth programs and services are important - particularly since closure of the Loft. For the future having outside, informal and flexible free spaces for young people will be important.
 - Need for safe spaces for the LGBTQI around the City.
 - Young people have expressed a desire for cultural spaces that they can activate themselves - this could be indoor or outdoor. There is an increasing issue with young people being pushed out of the city and in many public spaces.
 - There is a gap in social infrastructure West of Wallsend with an opportunity to improve access to libraries in particular.
 - Consideration should also be given to history and heritage as a cultural asset – around the rail yard and carriages Property and Building Services. Having a cultural precinct seems to happen in Laman Street, would be good to see this happen further out west. Having a space to present history and story, as well as more storage facility.

Community Development and Programs

- Community Development and Programs deliver social infrastructure programs across a range of social infrastructure facilities. They also deliver temporary events outside the libraries and other venues.
- They take a partnership approach to delivery working with the community and local providers and with other Council departments.
- A future focus for social infrastructure is to take a multipurpose, multi-visit, multi-outcome approach, and where possible co-locate social infrastructure facilities and services. There are opportunities to be smarter with collaboration and bringing in multiple tenants into one facility which can be more cost effective and better for

Culture and Civic

- Newcastle Museum is the largest local government museum in Australia. The museum delivers a high number of programs and events and exhibitions, but also facilitates informal use through the Museum Park (such as skaters - which is an exhibition of living culture). The Museum also has an internal playground inside the venue (LGBTQI + space). Looking at improving the external space with lighting, and to make it feel welcoming and friendly for all groups (from teens to seniors).
- The Civic Theatre was built in 1929 and there is a lot of scope for it to be used more by the community for community uses and to develop it more for local theatre. The Theatre also provides a space for young people to perform all-ages music events.
- Civic Hall has opportunities for improved activation and use and improved opportunities for connection to Wheeler Place.
- Fort Scratchley Function Centre was originally intended as a multipurpose community centre but is mostly used for functions and events. There are opportunities to re-imagine this space to deliver local programs such as mums and bubs and parent's yoga and exercise. Fort Scratchley is also a museum.
- The Newcastle Gallery has a vision to be refurbished and to increase community programs there. The Gallery has collaborated with Create NSW and has a 3 year program of events based on strong community relationships. Plans for the future include expansion of the exhibition space and a dedicated education and programming space, and kitchen/catering space to support events. The Art Gallery has a Youth Advisory Group who deliver programs regularly.
- It's really important to quantify the services and programs that are delivered out of Council's community and cultural spaces and to demonstrate their value. There are competing costs for ongoing maintenance and improvements that need to be considered.
- There are opportunities for improved social infrastructure in Honeysuckle and potentially creating a cultural precinct.
- There is a gap in social infrastructure outcomes for young adults with most of these needs being addressed through sport and recreation, but not through community and cultural programs - particularly for marginalised youth. There is a high need for places that young people are welcomed and respected - "you are welcome in our city and welcome to use our spaces".
- Social Infrastructure - if it's done right, leads to economic prosperity in the Newcastle in terms of an improved night time economy, family and friends connection, civic centre economy - and is an attractor for more visitors to the city.

Property and Building Services

- Asset managers for CN's physical assets. The team manages 22 buildings including 6 surf clubs. It is estimated that many of CN's community halls are in poor condition.
- There may be opportunities moving forward to re-imagine some community spaces (such as surf clubs) as multipurpose community spaces, with CN managing building maintenance. Considering anchor tenants for future management is also an option.
- The future of social infrastructure should be multipurpose and multi-use facilities.
- The main future gaps are multipurpose facilities, new social infrastructure in Minmi; planning for the future of surf clubs; and planning to support the effective maintenance of Council facilities - potentially through the provision of facilities that are fit for purpose.

Pools and parks

- CN owns 5 inland pools. Four are leased to BlueFit and one is managed by CN (Beresfield).
- Lambton is classified as a regional pool and gets 4 x the visitation of other pools. On average pools are 50 years old.
- Council patrols 6 beaches - 3 are on the stretch between Mereweather and Barre Beach. Other beaches are Newcastle, Nobbys, Stockton. Council patrols at all beaches.
- Direction is needed around the future of CN's inland pools.
- Future challenges include:
 - Maintaining existing pools to an improved standard so that they have modern technology, and can be heated to be open 12 months of the year.
 - Keeping on top of increasing maintenance costs so that we can not just retain what we have but improve the quality, capacity and activation of these important public spaces.
 - Keeping up with increasing demand for safe beaches. There are increasingly more people who can't swim. Our lifeguards patrol the ocean pools too. There are more CALD visitors. More residents. And Covid has meant more people are using outdoor parks and pools.
- Opportunities include:
 - Lift the standard of parkland through improved design and facilities
 - Lift the standard of sports grounds to support the big sports audience & so that they can deliver the best services possible. Make sports fields work harder - consider introducing synthetic fields in high use areas
 - Need a passive open space strategy and a beaches strategy - similar to the Sports Infrastructure Study - that will sit under this SIS.
 - Make our premier parks work harder e.g. Federal Park, Centennial Park, King Edward park, Gregson park (this is currently getting a masterplan), Jesmond, and Lambton Park

- Improved amenities block, including improved amenities for women as Newcastle like the rest of NSW is seeing increased participation by women, and
- Potentially improving one of Council's pools to become a 12 month pool which is heated and can be used all year round. Needs to be regional level and support water polo which is huge in Newcastle.

Appendix 1



The tables below provide a summary of comments from the Great Public Spaces Interactive Map by Catchment.

Catchment 1: Stockton-Fullerton Cove				
Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Stockton	Griffith Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The temporary cafe (2 comments) A good example of a new community space (2 up votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional lighting, particularly at night to improve safety (2 comments; 5 up votes), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along the cycling track between ferry wharf and 16 ft skiff club, and from the wharf to Lions Park Removal of planted native shrubs and palms to improve safe walking access The view of Stockton from Newcastle is dark and foreboding for visitors and locals Remove black mesh around the skate park to open up the space and create visibility for parents whose children are using the skate park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote other bike rides around Stockton, to sightsee, visit other places and eateries Skate spaces for more intermediate and experienced skaters
	Little Beach			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public amenities and water facilities for visitors and the community to use
	Pitt Street Reserve		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More trees (1 up vote) 	
	Shipwreck Walk		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve maintenance and surfacing, and continue path along Shipwreck Walk (2 up votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional paths with smooth, flat surfacing that are suitable for all kinds of transport and hobbies (2 up votes)
	Stockton Beach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalise Stockton Beach from the end of Stone Street to past Corroba Oval, particularly replenishing sand dunes and managing high tides spilling onto the road (2 up votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seating facing the ocean views, similar to Birubi sandstone blocks Additional BBQ facilities
	Stockton Wharf			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs, seating and shelter for community use and watch over the harbour
<p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for a publicly accessible water park, particularly as the weather is getting hotter. One contributor indicated having a water park in open green spaces, along the foreshore near public amenities, for children to enjoy, while parents and carers can also recreate outside is important (1 up vote) Opportunity to create a looping bike track by extending existing track between Corroba Oval and Hunter Water (1 up vote) 				

Catchment 2: Newcastle - Cooks Hill

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Bar Beach	Bar Beach Skate Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional skating section for intermediate skaters (2 likes) Additional section for children and beginners (2 likes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for variety of skate bowl sizes to cater for a range of users (2 likes)
	Yuelarbah Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open green space adjacent Yuelarbah Track car park to sit and relax (2 up votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurfacing of the track to improve pedestrian safety, particularly near Bar Beach Club House (5 up votes) 	
Cooks Hill	99 Tooke Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to home, clean and accessible 		
	General comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved maintenance and cleanliness of streets from leaves and debris, and resurfacing of footpaths (5 up votes) Improved footpath surfacing on Darby Street (3 up votes) 			
Newcastle East	Foreshore Park Skate Park and walking path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since it has been drained, the pond has become a much loved/used space for skating. Suitable for beginners and children as it is away from the road, and acts as a social connector. Opportunity to further support by resurfacing the space (3 comments; 11 up votes) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional dog drinking bowls attached to water fountains along the length of foreshore footpath
	Newcastle Canoe Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable for young kids Accessible and available parking Beach is clean Satisfied with the service 		
	Newcastle Ocean Baths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full of charm, rustic, and a space to watch the world go by (2 up votes) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve surfacing of pathways between the Ocean baths and Newcastle Beach Pavilion, particularly for roller skaters (2 comments; 7 up votes; 1 down vote) Upgrade and improve toilet facilities Additional dog drinking fountains
	Nobbys Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meeting place, with smooth open pathways to utilise (2 comments; 8 up votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional bins along the track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional basketball hoops opposite Nobbys Beach, as well as lighting to cater for demand (6 comments) Additional dog drinking fountains Additional bins along the walk around from Nobbys to King Edward Park

Newcastle West	Little Birdwood Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional bins, lighting at night and upgrade of seating (2 up votes) Manage antisocial behaviour at night (2 up votes) 	
	National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional basketball courts have been successful. Great spot for community interaction in playing casual pickup games (4 up votes) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for a picnic area and children's playground (6 up votes) Opportunity to create an urban meadow with native plants
	Newcastle Sports Ground		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve accessibility to sporting facilities on sportsfield No. 5 including toilets and change rooms, particularly for female players (2 comments; 3 up votes) 	
	<p>General comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter Street footpaths and road surfaces are excellent quality where the tram line has been installed but between Union St and Hannell at the road and footpaths are in complete disrepair (8 up votes) Additional cycleway linking The Junction to King Street (6 up votes) Opportunity to landscape median strips (5 up votes) Recent art installations in King Street are well liked, and have improved some old run down buildings (4 up votes) Additional Council bins along King street as litter is left from the nearby fast food stores regularly, as well as installing a rail in the 1m gap between the Western side of the Travelodge and the canal bridge to help prevent shopping trolleys being pushed into the canal and improve public safety for young children (2 up votes) More safe, open and green community space is needed at the west end of King Street to support the growing population living in apartments. Burwood Park is not suitable for this. (2 up votes) Retain open spaces, they are highly utilised and create a connected pathway to other places in town 			
Newcastle	AA Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve maintenance of park including rubbish, weeds and broken bamboo trees (1 up vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to create a well-utilised pocket-park Opportunity for kiosk
	Museum Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking through this space. It creates a pleasant connection from Hunter street to the foreshore (1 up vote; 1 down vote) 		
	Church Walk Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved maintenance including weeding of grassed areas, as well as listing the park on Council App. 	
	83 Newcomen Street		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional railings and footpaths (4 up votes) 	
	Newcastle Museum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for more diverse, interactive exhibits (4 up votes) 	
	<p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved footpaths and dedicated bike path along King Street (8 up votes) Improvements to paths along Stony Point including resurfacing as they not accessible for wheelchairs, dangerous for a variety of hobbies such as roller skaters. Include separated pedestrian and cycling lane. (2 comments; 7 up votes) Opportunity at the new station area along Watt Street for a mix of permanent and temporary market stalls, restaurants and cafes in the city and close to public transport (2 comments; 4 up votes; 2 down votes) Opportunity to create an outdoor water feature along green open areas on Honeysuckle Drive for children to use such as sprinkles built in ground (3 up votes; 1 down vote) Opportunity for a dog park in open green space opposite intersection at Honeysuckle Drive, Wright Lane and Workshop Way (2 up votes; 2 down votes) A Wickham Ferry Wharf to connect to Stockton and Queens wharf (1 up vote) Value Newcastle Breakwall, however closure of Newcastle Breakwall could have been better planned to be done in the winter months Opportunity for bush regeneration and landscaping, as well as additional formal seating in open green space at Bogey Hole along York Drive (2 comments; 1 up vote) Additional seating, tables and chairs near the Ferry Terminal for community to sit and watch the harbour Regularly pressure clean paving 			

Catchment 3: Merewether - The Junction

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Merewether	Alice Ferguson Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuable centre for seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional maintenance and upgrades to the exterior of the building 	
	Glenrock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children enjoy riding at Glenrock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional amenities and water supply to support increased visitation and utilisation (2 up votes) Opportunity for investment to improve this space to reach its potential 	
	Henderson Park Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well loved hall and open green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbish kitchen 	
	Merewether Ocean Bath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open grassed section above the pools (1 up vote) 		

Catchment 4: Adamstown - Kotara

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Adamstown	Ferneleigh Track		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Ferneleigh Track as a continued, separated cycleway to link Broadmeadow, city centre and beaches (2 comments; 7 up votes) Complete footpath at the end of Ferneleigh Track along Bailey Street and along Fourth street to Wood Street for pedestrian safety 	
	Laneway Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play equipment, garden, and its location in a laneway rather than a main road. 		
	Myers Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of volleyball courts for community and formal sporting uses (1 up vote)
	Adamstown Seniors Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to parking to support community use and visitation of the centre, including seniors and artists 	
	<p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support biodiversity and wildlife by planting flora in under-utilised open green spaces 			
Adamstown Heights	Hudson Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home ground of the Kotara Bears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of the sportsfields, particularly improvements to surface, drainage and irrigation Prevent access onto the field by cars that damage the grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional fitness station and exercise equipment, particularly for adults
Kotara	Blackbutt Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oasis in the City, a place of harmony and tranquility (5 up votes) 		
	Kotara Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More rubbish and waste bins, particularly as there are none near the train station or in the park
	Lugar Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace amenities block, improve canteen and increase amount of changerooms to cater growing football (soccer) club and increasing memberships , particularly for female players (2 comments; 2 up votes) 	
	Nesbitt Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public open space accessible to the community (1 up vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exterior of Nesbitt Park club house, including repainting the building using Kotara South FC colour scheme (1 up vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for public art such as a mural on the bare walls of the Club House (1 up vote)
	<p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of wall-ball spaces for community recreation activities such as tennis or soccer, particularly for young families (1 up vote) Addition of a skate park (1 up vote) Addition of a cycle track, particularly near Styx creek, Park Avenue or further up the track near Princeton Avenue (1 up vote) With more young families moving into Kotara, there is an increasing demand for formal and informal recreation spaces. One contributor indicated sporting grounds and amenities need to be improved to cater for the increasing demand. Support biodiversity and wildlife by planting flora in under-utilised open green spaces 			

Catchment 5: Lambton - New Lambton

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Lambton	Lambton Library		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opening hours to support accessibility and cater to a range of users (2 up votes) 	
	Lambton Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The playground, and very well used sports fields. It is a gorgeous place to walk around with beautiful gardens and trees. (2 up votes) The park is the centre of the community. It is always well maintained (2 up votes) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for basketball half court (2 up votes)
	Lambton Park Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a true central location for Newcastle residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An improved and expanded playground / play area to replace existing, similar to one built for Stockton recently. 	
	Lambton Park Tennis Courts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand play equipment (1 up vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to offer the stage for live musicians on weekends for free, to attract more people to the park (1 up vote) Events including food vans and a stalls to add to the community spirit (1 up vote)
	Lambton Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a great place to take the kids on holiday or weekends and they have a lot of fun on the waterslide and water game area often meeting other kids they know. (1 up vote) 		

New Lambton	Alder Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating of amenities, fencing that can exist all year round so football and athletics can co-exist, and ideally a duplication of the Fearnly Dawes facility at Cooks Hill. (1 up vote, 1 down vote) outdoor exercise equipment for adults and children, along with bat ball court at Alder park, plenty of space to be utilised 	
	Alder Park Sports Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "old bowlo" is in real need of an update, more than just a coat of paint, but real change to the venue to attract new people. Something along the lines of the Calabria Club in Sydney would work quite well. (1 up vote, 1 down vote) 	
	Blackbutt Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absolute Jewel of NCC - important place for maintaining local habitat; but also great attraction to show tourists, great for locals to walk in etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackbutt Nature Reserve (corner of Mahogany road & Aldyth Street) needs public facility - Shelter, picnic and or bbq facility 	
	Ford Oval		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars belonging to people who play football are frequently being driven onto the grasses area to park even when ample street parking exists. The grassed area is frequently damaged by this. The area needs a fence or bollards 	
	New Lambton Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a great space and well used. I have seen lots of older people using this space. Full to the brim with embroiders doing their creative thing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please dont take away a creative space for older people, where else can they go? 	
	New Lambton Library		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bigger library that can run activities like plant or seed swaps, informed talks or lectures on everything from local history to council rules and regulations, to what is Agenda 21 and how is it being implemented in Newcastle? How will life be in the coming unit dwelling technocracy when we have no civil rights left? Local wildlife talks or basic art classes and lots more events for kids in the school holidays like little drama and talent shows they can perform or sing at and parents can watch. 	
	Novocastrian Park Playground		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilities at Novo are in major need of a refurb. The change rooms are not friendly for women to access on their game days, they're barely usable for the men. (1 up vote) 	
	Regent Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rejuvenation of the amenities so that they can be used when football and cricket are on. Fencing of the park, a white picket fence made of high impact plastics, would suit the ground and the area. It would then make the park safe for school use during the week, and then soccer and cricket use on the weekend. (1 up vote) 	
	Richard Ford Netball Courts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great to skate on but the asphalt is rough and wearing away. The fact that most of the time it's empty means it can serve rollerskates/bladers too. (1 up vote) 	
	Richley Reserve		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EV charging station, to be used by people at the park. 	
	Smith Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> smith park need lights and clubhouse for sport to be able to continue to grow and promote healthy lifestyle for both senior and junior players. keeping everyone active and social and mental well being of all community by getting out and enjoying sport in this pandemic and beyond. (1 up vote) 	
	General Comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop some perennial & annual flower seeds in the less used areas, to provide some sort of habitat for bees & insects. 				

Catchment 6: Hamilton - Broadmeadow

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Broadmeadow	Broadmeadow Roundhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is located conveniently to public transport and has good vehicular access. Rail and maritime heritage are the foundations of European Newcastle 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for a railway museum, heritage interpretatin centre and/or community cultural hub in the Broadmeadow roundhouse, to expand on Newcastle's rich industrial heritage (2 comments) Suggestion for skilled ex-trades people to restore and maintain the locomotives housed here. Potential to supply local locomotives for Hunter Valley Steamfest when it resumes post-coronavirus. The closest things are LMLSLS; Richmond Vale, but there are so many people in Newcastle for whom these are too far away to get to regularly to volunteer and visit (2 up votes) Potential to develop an entertainment venue replacing the present showground facility, with an opportunity for increased utilisation by the performing arts school adjacent to the site.
	Newcastle Racecourse		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of the racecourse to minimise anti-social behaviour and animal cruelty (2 up votes, 3 down votes) 	
	Showground Exhibition Centre			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With an increasing trend in roller skating, there is an opportunity for an indoor and/or large sheltered area with smooth surfacing for roller skaters (2 up votes)
	<p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed need for speed bumps along Dumaresq Street to minimise speeding and improve safety (2 comments; 1 down vote) Opportunity to plant perennial and annual flower seeds in the underutilised open space areas, to support habitats for bees and insects. 			
Hamilton North	Smith Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large, well utilised park for a range of sporting codes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve amenities and sporting facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional lights to support sporting and recreational groups, and increase capacity and utilisation particularly at night (6 comments; 4 up votes) Dog amenities including water taps.
	<p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently Denison Street between parkway and Tudor Street is hot, dry and barren. Opportunity to plant street trees for urban cooling (1 up vote) 			

Catchment 7: Waratah - North Lambton

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Georgetown	Waratah Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional shaded seating near the sports fields and trees for shade (1 up vote) Increased monitoring and enforcement of park rules by rangers, particularly for children and dogs (1 up vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional water bubblers with taps for dog water Daily maintenance of bins and rubbish removal
North Lambton	Pilkington Street Reserve Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only play area within close walking distance to North Lambton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade to support increase of young families in the area (2 up votes) 	

Catchment 8: Mayfield - Warabrook

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Mayfield	Dangar park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangar Park the home of East Rugby Club needs new change sheds which includes a woman's shed. I would also like to see a grand stand added so people can cheer our Easts on. Would also like to see the bench seat put back as it was vandalised (2 down votes) We need new play equipment located at the Bowling Club end of the block in Carrington Street. This would help create a family friendly space similar to at Carrington where people can gather at the club to eat and children have access to a playground adjacent. The current position for the playground is too close to the main roads (1 up vote) 	
	Mayfield Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A well used space, particularly by seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade the roof to rectify leaks 	
	Webb Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shade for play equipment and regular cleaning of equipment due to night time activities (vomit/drugs/rubbish) (1 up vote) 	
	<p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to improve small green spaced and use for multicultural food market stalls like it has been done once before Establish and improve cycleways connecting Mayfield to Throsby creek with designated cycleways (1 up vote) 			
Mayfield West	Stevenson Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of the playing surfaces needs to be improved, making Field 2 a priority (2 up votes) We had a really good opportunity to re-purpose turf from MacDonald Jones Stadium here. Please consider this an annual sustainable option for any community sporting field in the area. That turf would have been a much higher quality than what we currently have. It would be good to have an annual seasonal plan for looking after the field (weed and feed) that the community knows about. Don't leave it up to volunteers to maintain or make calls to NCC. Water tanks around the park are essential. 	
	Stevenson Park Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such a great new playground at Stevenson Park, now needs funding for the next phases of the project developed over the last 3 years. Let the community know how to help NCC move this along. (2 comments;1 up vote) 		
	Warabrook Community Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult space to get to. Needs car parking facilities. Opportunity to move this centre into the Mayfield Area 	

Catchment 9: Wickham - Carrington - Tighes Hill

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Carrington	Carrington Foreshore and boat ramp		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrington Foreshore playground and the general area could use a spruce up. Lighting would be good for evening walkers/ runners (4 up votes) Carrington boat ramp and foreshore area has the potential to be such a lovely spot. Unfortunately the car park area and foreshore is unappealing and very due for an upgrade. This stretch seems to be one of the only spots left on the water that has not had a face-lift. Additionally the rocks pose a danger to children (1 up vote) Lighting is needed all the way along the Carrington foreshore for safety of a night and to match that on the other side in Wichman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A retainer, some seats and some minimal effort landscaping could turn this into a great area. It is what people see as they drive into Carrington.
	Carrington Mangrove boardwalk		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of the old timber walk needs to be completed as only half was done a few years ago. The information signs on wildlife need replacing due to vandalism. 	
	Dyke Point			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access to Dyke Point. Add a ferry wharf and it could be a public recreation space like Cockatoo Island in Sydney. (1 comment; 15 up votes)
	Grahame Park Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrington kids favourite place. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter and water is a much needed addition though
	Mount Carrington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fantastic waterfront location with much potential (1 up vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount Carrington is a fantastic community space which children and animals love to run around but it needs some vast improvement with maintenance works and the addition of seating and overhead cover. A structure like those at Bar Beach would be perfect with some additional bench seating (5 up votes) 	
	Pumphouse			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the pumphouse location with outdoor seating and parklands with the anticipation of future waterfront access would be a popular location for locals but also visitors and cruise ships (4 up votes)
	Throsby Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I love us sing Throsby creek cycleway (1 up vote) 		
<p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pebblecrete path between Elizabeth St Bridge and Carrington Bridge is so rough it can only be used by cyclists and walkers. Make it smoother and wider so all community members can use it for recreation, particularly for roller skaters. Currently, skating is possible along the Islington Park path from the TAFE, however this ends at this section with trucks passing it is dangerous. I love being able to skate from Tighes Hill to Nobbies. (2 up votes) 				
Maryville	Islington Park Cricket Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting place and well used park for young and old from near and far. (2 up votes) 		

Maryville	Throsby Creek			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional bike path on the other side of Throsby Creek (Tighes Hill side) to create a loop for families. Lots of people walk this as a loop but the Tighes Hill side is overgrown and rocky so not suited to bikes, scooters, prams etc. The number of people that use the existing bike path suggests that this would be worthwhile. (1 up vote) The Throsby Creek path between Hannell Street and Lewis Street does not have any lighting and does not feel safe. Upgrading the path, including lights, expanding the width and new kids equipment on the side of the path would greatly improve the community space. The improved community space would effectively connect Mayfield and Islington to Maryville / Wickham / City and enable a community space corridor for the northern city suburbs. (8 up votes)
	<p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a coffee shop along this bike track (Northumberland Street next to Throsby Creek) (2 down votes) 			
Tighes Hill	TAFE NSW - Newcastle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE is a marvellous place to learn and have fun making things. And a wonderful place to see one's friends (2 up votes, 1 down vote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs better organisation and management to work as a business, not a government run institution, seeing as it does not seem to get enough from the government to run it. Instead of worrying about not getting enough funding, we need to realise that if smaller, less well equipped private companies can do it, such a well equipped and huge institution should do it (2 up votes, 1 down vote) 	
Wickham	Croatian Wickham Sports Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General upgrades to the Sports Club and its facilities (15 comments; 10 up votes) Upgrade the granstand, it is currently outdated, falling apart and unsafe with the wooden floors that are a trip hazard (10 comments; 3 up votes) Upgrade toilet facilities, including additional accessible toilet (8 comments; 4 up votes) Upgrades to the canteen, including larger spaces and increased hygiene (7 comments; 5 up votes) 	
	Hawkins Oval		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilities here are sub-par, especially when compared to other sporting grounds in the region. The small toilet facility is dark and dingy, and a little bit scary to use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area could use a bronze statue of the great "bubba" Coleman. Bubba is a local legend around passmore and hawks, Newcastle rugby. To save money use a picture from 2002 rather than the current 2020 model. This would also only need about half the bronze as he was heaps fitter in those days (2 up votes, 3 down votes)
	Passmore Oval			
	Wickham Beach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wickham waterfront and marina has great paths and lighting and access however could be improved with more useable public spaces and seating 	
	Wickham Oval			
Wickham	Wickham Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wickham Park needs urgent funding to bring it up to an acceptable standard if it's to be a showcase recreation and sporting area we can be proud of. Of particular need is funding to update the antiquated facilities at Passmore Oval. 	

Catchment 10: Newcastle Port - Kooragang

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Kooragang	Kooragang Island			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somewhere on Kooragang island for families with interested children to go and watch all of the marvellous machinery working. (1 up vote)
Mayfield North	BHP Land (51 hectare parcel of land)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHP land should be utilised to build an international convention centre in partnership with NSW government and private sector... Needs to have a Hotel adjunct... It is a BIG thing missing from our City!!!! (2 down votes) 	
	General Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities haven't change since I started rugby there in 1999,grandstand,change rooms,canteen 			

Catchment 11: Beresfield - Hexham

Please note there were no pins dropped by contributors in this catchment.

Catchment 12: Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Fletcher	Kurraka Reserve Playground		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Improvement to lighting, both sporting and pathways would encourage greater after dark sporting and engagement events in this area. A shared use (netball, football, cricket) female friendly change rooms would encourage greater participation of female sports in the area. Shaded seating - a severe lack of shaded seating in the area. Local spectators from the area, which can easily number over +200 people on a sporting weekend, have no shaded seating." (1 up vote) 	
	Kurraka Reserve Tennis Courts			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of existing underutilised tennis courts to competition level netball games that can be held under lights, activating after dark sports in the local area. (1 up vote)
	Kurraka Sanctuary Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local sense of community, great for local sports that engage the local community in a accessible, inclusive way. 		
Maryland	Bill Elliot Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home to the Wallsend West Newcastle AFL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home To the Wallsend West Newcastle ARFC - ground needs drainage improvements, along with improvements to ground use, such as coaching boxes and & timekeeper spaces. Plus year to year maintenance, such as lightening - globes need replacing) 	
	General Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western corridor sports facility to cater for population growth & higher grades of competition (piece of land behind 'Safe 'n' SOUND Self Storage Wallsend) (1 down vote) 	

Catchment 13: Shortland - Jesmond

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Jesmond	Heaton Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heaton Park needs lighting for use of various sporting needs, (1 up vote) 	
	Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre is an ideal place for the community to meet regularly when wanting to hangout with others, financial support , mental health, employment, and several other basic needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good location next to a shopping centre. Can be a busy little place at times as it is in a lower socio-economic area. Needs to stay - need to have something in the area. The centre is way too small to support the local community and the available space is limited for several programs to run at the same time. Storage space is also an issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesmond neighbourhood centre would be an ideal meeting place as it supports many of the local community. A second story extension, shed and more greenery would be ideal for the community to regularly visit as a drop in centre for tea, coffee, a chat and to tender the current garden for herbs and vegetables to take home and start a second garden bed. A shade above the swings would also be ideal for the children accessing the playground. It is an ideal location central to the shopping centre an

Catchment 14: Wallsend - Elmore Vale

Suburb	Place	I love..	Improve..	New..
Elmore Vale	Elmore Vale Park Playground		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needs updating so when the younger kids use the equipment they can reach the stuff easily, and its interesting for them to be more creative. (1 up vote) 	
	General Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When removing houses due to flooding, instead of having vacant land place some playing equipment and seating for parents (open space next to 12 Watkins Rd) 			
Wallsend	Federal Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting required on road side to improve access for various sports on such a large open space. Better utilisation. (1 up vote) 	
	Summerhill Waste Management Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summerhill is a very interesting place to go & visit not only when dumping or recycling unwanted goods. It is very educational and great fun watching all of the machinery. (1 up vote) 		
	Wallsend Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallsend library - fantastic, free, inclusive, something for everyone, all ages & abilities, variety of free or cheap programs 		
	Wallsend Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amenities needs replacing at Wallsend Park to cater for female football & cricket players, coaches & volunteers. Wallsend skate park needs lights so it can be used at night 	
	Wallsend Skate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A great place for kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallsend skate park needs lights so it can be used at night 	
	General Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We love going to Bunnings for all of our shopping needs, we go most weeks. (Bunnings) (1 up vote) 			