

# Coastal Revitalisation Frequently Asked Questions



The Coastal Revitalisation Program is in various stages of delivery, from the initial planning phase right through to construction. To assist in providing consistent responses to these enquiries, educating the community and enabling Council to continue the implementation of Coastal works efficiently, this FAQ answers some of the most commonly asked questions from the community.

## **How and when will I find out about what is happening along the coast?**

Council updates its website regularly in relation to all works happening along the coast.  
[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about\\_newcastle/coastal\\_revitalisation](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/coastal_revitalisation)

In addition to this, Community Reference Groups (CRG) have been established for parts of the Bathers Way project. The role of the CRG is to keep the community informed of both general and specific issues as they arise during both developed design phase and implementation phase of the project. Specific project information will be on posters displayed on-site during construction.

## **How wide is the Bathers Way shared pathway?**

To cater for the diversity of users of the Bathers Way, a shared path is proposed to enable slow speed recreational cyclists to access the path. A path width of four metres is the agreed minimum to accommodate the variety of uses, and to meet current expectations and future demand. The desirable width is six metres.

The minimum width satisfies the objectives of Austroads guidelines, and minimises the risk to users. This is documented in the adopted Bathers Way Public Domain Plan (2012). These widths shall only be reduced in areas where they cannot be physically accommodated due to existing infrastructure or environmental constraints.



## **What types of trees will be planted along Bathers Way?**

A high priority of Coastal Revitalisation is the provision of more shade along the coast. Shade trees have been indicated on the adopted Bathers Way Plan, and will be used in future plans to ensure the objectives of the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Strategy Master Plan 2010 and Bathers Way Public Domain Plan are achieved. Trees are also used to improve streetscapes and enhance the overall visual amenity of a precinct. Council is limited in the species of trees which will perform in the coastal environment. The Street Tree Master Plan identifies tree species which are suitable for planting in the harsh front-line coastal environment.

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For more information email [weloveourcoast@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:weloveourcoast@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
or visit [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)



**The following table outlines the appropriate use for each species.**

Use	Frontline Locations	Protected Locations
Shade	A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norfolk Pine</li> <li>• Port Jackson Fig</li> <li>• Norfolk Island Hibiscus</li> <li>• Cook Pine</li> </ul>	C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lilly Pilly</li> <li>• Moreton Bay Fig</li> <li>• Hills Weeping Fig</li> <li>• Magenta Cherry</li> </ul>
Amenity	B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dwarf Apple</li> <li>• Coastal Banksia</li> <li>• Beach Hibiscus</li> <li>• Trees listed in A</li> </ul>	D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees listed in A</li> <li>• Lilly Pilly</li> <li>• Moreton Bay Fig</li> <li>• Hills Weeping Fig</li> <li>• Tuckaroo</li> <li>• Trees listed in A, B &amp; C</li> </ul>

During the developed design process, the following aspects are considered to determine which of the above species are specified:

- Intent (shade, aesthetics etc)
- Impact on views (foliage density)
- Prevailing environmental conditions
- Soil type and condition
- Safety
- Maintenance.

Where tree plantings may significantly impact on the views of immediately adjacent property owners, Norfolk Pines are considered the most suitable species due to their thin columnar shape and sparse foliage.

Shade shelters or low planting will not be considered as an alternative to shade trees. Shelters are considerably more costly than trees, and low plantings do not provide shade and therefore do not meet the objectives of the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Strategy Master Plan 2010 and Bathers Way Public Domain Plan.

The location and number of trees indicated on an approved Public Domain Plan shall only be altered in circumstances where height is considered a safety risk (eg in areas used for landing by hang-gliders), or where the existing view of a property owner immediately adjacent to the works would be obscured by more than 50%.



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## What type of lighting is proposed along Bathers Way?

The lighting used for the Bathers Way achieve the following objectives:

- Compliance with both the Australian Standard for lighting of pedestrian areas, as well as the Australian Standard for obtrusive lighting in residential areas
- The post top fittings used on the coast cast light in a downwards direction and are fitted with an anti-glare device to prevent direct light from entering residences
- They can be spaced up to 30 metres apart to reduce visual impact
- In areas adjacent to residential properties, the lighting is able to be switched to 50% power after peak usage times
- They achieve Councils objectives in terms of appearance, energy efficiency, cost and on going maintenance
- They provide a consistent identifying element to the Bathers Way.

Bollard lights are not deemed an appropriate alternative to post-top fittings due to upfront costs and ongoing maintenance issues. Bollard lights shall only be considered in areas used by hang-gliders where height is considered a safety risk.

In areas immediately adjacent to residential properties, the location of proposed light poles may be adjusted so as not to impact one property owner more than another, within the constraints of the relevant Australian Standards.



## Will there be shade and seating along Bathers Way?

The Bathers Way Public Domain Plan (2012) identified that there are currently limited opportunities for the comfortable enjoyment of views, and provides new shade, seating and viewing facilities to address this issue.

This includes:

- Bench seats, picnic tables and seating walls
- Bicycle racks, bins, drinking fountains and BBQ's
- Interpretation signage and lighting
- Shade trees and shade structures
- Viewing platforms.



The exact locations of the elements noted above will be determined during the developed design stage, prior to construction.

## Will there be any loss of car-parking?

The achievement of significant public domain improvements often means that a reduction in parking is unavoidable. At peak times, parking spaces along the coast are heavily utilised, and Council acknowledges that it is undesirable to displace parking demands into nearby residential areas.

Council will adopt a 'parking neutral' approach wherever possible, with the aim of retaining the parking supply within each beach precinct. This is achieved by providing on-road angle parking within the beach precinct, or more efficient use of existing car-parks.

This process is undertaken during the developed design phase of the project.



## Is underground power supply an option?

During the construction of Public Domain works, it is sometimes necessary for Council to make adjustments to public utilities (eg, Ausgrid, Telstra).

Council will consider negotiating with Ausgrid on behalf of residents who wish to convert to an underground power supply, if:

- Alterations to the utility asset are required to satisfy Council's objectives
- All affected residents agree to cover the cost of all work over and above that which is required to meet
- Council objectives (including design and approval fees)
- All affected residents are able to provide the funds required prior to work commencing.

Such agreements will be assessed on a case by case basis.

## Will there be any fitness equipment located along Bathers Way?

Fitness equipment will be located along the Coast, however the location must be considered in the context of the entire coastline. It is anticipated that the completion of the Bathers Way will change how the coast is used in some locations, and as such Council will investigate options for fitness equipment once the majority of the Bathers Way has been completed.

## Can I request Council for a memorial plaque along Bathers Way for a loved one?

The natural beauty of our beaches makes the coast a popular option for people to commemorate the life of a loved one however the Bathers Way is for the enjoyment of all users. The provision of commemorative plaques on public seating creates a perception of ownership, and could cause conflict between the owner of the plaque and the general public wishing to use the coastal facilities.

As such, Council will cover the cost of replacing existing plaques on new seats, however no new applications should be approved.

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