

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who attended the Cooks Hill drop-in information session held on Tuesday 16 January, 2018 at the Newcastle Library. The nine Council officers who attended had some constructive and informative conversations with more than 100 members of the community.

As you're all aware, Newcastle is a growing city. As a Council we welcome our new residents, and plan for over 160,000 people who currently call this city home.

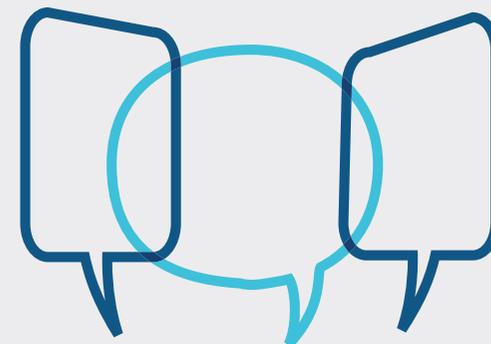
Our vision for the city is one that is prosperous for all its residents and planned in a smart, liveable and sustainable fashion. Our intention is to create a connected city, with vibrant and activated public spaces. We appreciate you may not agree with everything we do, yet we hope you understand our intention to balance the needs of our diverse city.

### Who attended?

The red dots represent locations of people who attended the session.



# January 2018 Information Session Summary



3129JAN18

### General enquiries

Customer Contact Centre on 4974 2000 or  
[mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

## What we heard

The community information session involved staff from across Council in five main interest areas: trees, public domain planning, traffic management and road renewal, and drainage issues.

Cooks Hill community are observing a changing suburb, located next to a growing city. We have tried to summarise the main points our community shared with us:

- Concerns about traffic management.
- Request for more parking.
- Concerns about loss of heritage values.
- Concerns about loss of large canopy trees across suburb providing shade and cooling.
- Council Street Renewal project - broader community (beyond Council Street residents) didn't feel engaged about a project they felt impacted them.
- Swan Street Renewal project - majority of local community were satisfied with community engagement and generally understood the rationale of the design and outcomes for the project.
- Street tree replacement planting delays after 2015 storm losses, particularly Hills Fig losses in Laman street, has been frustrating.

## What we can do

### Traffic

To address traffic management concerns in Cooks Hill, we will:

- Review the Local Area Traffic Management plan.
- Review traffic signage to look at the opportunities to place 40km/h signs around Cooks Hill and other traffic calming devices.
- Review and possibly extend parking restrictions to increase parking opportunities for residents.
- Conduct traffic/pedestrian counts on various streets. This includes the Parry Street/Bruce Street intersection to investigate feasibility of a pedestrian crossing after

concerns regarding children safe access to the park were raised.

### Heritage

Council officers review all Development Applications in heritage conservation areas to ensure that development is compatible with the heritage significance of the area. Cooks Hills is an eclectic mix of development which has occurred over time and adds to the suburbs charm.

### Community engagement

To ensure we engage our community on projects that impact them, we are committed to broadening the distribution area for Council Street project updates.

### Trees

We appreciate the Cooks Hill 'sense of place' that residents and visitors value and enjoy, especially the expansive canopy of large, mature trees that line the streets. As the suburb ages and our underground and overhead infrastructure deteriorates, we will ensure rebuilding these assets also includes street trees and landscaping that will deliver greatest benefit to community and avoid any foreseeable risks to people or property.

One of Council's objectives for our urban forest is to maximise the shade and cooling capacity of tree canopy across the city. Because we want every tree in our urban forest to be a success, we carefully consider available space and site constraints when we select trees by using the Newcastle Street Tree Selection Manual process.

Site constraints include above-ground infrastructure, such as proximity to buildings and overhead power lines, and below-ground infrastructure including utilities and drainage. This approach is being applied in Cooks Hill to achieve long-term stable canopy cover. In previous years Brooks St, Young St and Parkway Ave residents were engaged in tree species selection from suitable shortlists.

This engagement process was also included in the Swan and Council Street projects and will be similarly applied for the Bruce, Laman and Dawson Street tree planting in 2018 to ensure we collectively choose the right tree for the right place.

## Constraints

### Traffic management

Cooks Hill is located next to a large central business district which supports our economy. We welcome the growth of our city, while balancing the needs of our community.

To improve safety for all road users, as well as enhance traffic flow for everyone in Newcastle, we will be removing the road block in Council Street. This will deliver a safer outcome that complies with Aust. Road Design Standards. This option was also chosen by the Newcastle City Traffic Committee (which has representatives from the local Police, RMS, Council and local MPs) because it was the safest option for all road users.

### Trees

We understand the value our community places on the Hills fig trees in Cooks Hill - they have provided structure and form for the suburb over many years. However the rehabilitation of ageing water, drainage, utility, road and footpath infrastructure cannot be delivered in Council or Swan streets without creating foreseeable risks to people and property if the existing trees are not removed as part of the works. We're applying best practice tree management into all aspects of Council's operations.

The best possible tree-lined street aesthetic is our collective aim in all Council project works.