

## **Camp Shortland potential usage FAQ's**

### **Background:**

Camp Shortland is a section of the Foreshore Park precinct that located between Horseshoe Beach to the north, Nobbys beach to the east, Wharf Rd to the south, and Newcastle Harbour to the west. It lies within the Coal River heritage curtilage that is listed on the State Heritage Register.

As part of the civil works completed for the Newcastle 500 Supercars event, a section of road was built linking the Nobbys Beach car park through to the Horseshoe Beach car park. Under the approval process for the civil works consent for the works completed within the heritage precinct was required from the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). It was a condition of the consent that was granted that at the completion of the event this section of road is covered under an earth mound and finished with turf to best replicate the conditions prior to the event.

Council is investigating alternate uses of this infrastructure that would align with existing strategic directions and operational goals for this area of the regional park precinct.

### **Site History:**

Camp Shortland has an extensive history extending from Aboriginal ownership, first European exploration in 1770, settlement in the early 1800's, coal mining, defence, establishment of Newcastle, port development, recreation and development into the site we know today.

**(Please see Camp Shortland History and Heritage documents in document library)**

### **Current Proposal:**

Under the current approval conditions as set by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), the road way is to be topped with 300mm of top soil and then covered with turf. This will effectively cover the roadway and return the park space to a similar visual appearance to what was in place prior to the road being constructed. If no alternate proposal as provided by Council is approved by OEH this is the option that will be actioned as per the current rectification schedule.

While the current option to turf the road is feasible, this option has several key drawbacks:

- Due to the movements in this area to remove all race infrastructure (stands, barriers, fencing) the treatment of the road pavement cannot be completed until the end of the bump-out schedule
- Due to the scheduling the works to turf this area would not commence until after the holiday break resulting in no public access to this area for up to two months post event to install, stabilise and maintain the new turf to a level safe enough for public use
- The current level open space, as used by multiple events in this area, will be disrupted by the mounding required to establish turf across the road pavement
- Inefficient use of a new asset as the area is currently underused as a park space and the turf option provides no additional activation to the area

- Potential damage to the road surface from being buried, related to drainage and water interactions with the asphalt, causing issues for subsequent Newcastle 500 events and requiring the area to be closed off for rectification works from approximately mid-August

#### **Council's Park Management:**

Camp Shortland is a regional level park, providing opportunities for leisure, relaxation, recreation, community use and special events. Camp Shortland, as a sector of The Foreshore, will be managed as the major park in the heart of the city for the use and enjoyment of people from across the Hunter and the local community. There are seven key objectives that have been identified in the Foreshore Plan of Management for the operation of the park:

1. Maintain the park's visual amenity and views to the harbour and the city.
2. Encourage informal and organised recreational use of the park.
3. Provide appropriate facilities and services and flexible spaces for a city park to meet the current and future needs of the local community and broader public.
4. Improve accessibility and connectivity both within the park and with surrounding areas.
5. Improve activation through promotion and appropriate development of the park.
6. Foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the heritage of the park.
7. Manage the park in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.

The concepts identified for the use of Camp Shortland align with these key objectives.

**(Please see Foreshore Plan of Management in document library)**

#### **Events in Camp Shortland:**

One of the key aspects of Council's consideration of the use of the Camp Shortland precinct is its role as a regional event space. Key events that have been held in this location include Anzac memorial services, fun runs, concerts, triathlons, carnivals, sporting events, charity events, and community gatherings.

The infrastructure that has been constructed for the Newcastle 500 event provides a unique opportunity for Council in catering for events in this area. The infrastructure allows a much greater hard stand area that can be used for events by improving access for patrons, protection of surrounding grass, opening up increased hard stands, reducing impact on adjacent roadways, and allowing for a greater range of events in the future. The flexible nature of the components that have been proposed under the concepts considered will enable this space to be modified to suit the needs of events.

#### **What isn't being considered:**

There are several items that are not under consideration for this space, and will not be considered as part of this consultation process:

- Maintaining vehicle access - the road is designated to be returned as park space, so maintaining vehicle access along this section is not being considered under this process. Full

vehicle access to the adjacent areas is already provided by Horseshoe Beach Rd and Pasha Way.

- Additional parking - An increase in parking through the Camp Shortland area has already been provided with the works in Horseshoe Beach Rd and the main Nobbys car park. As above, the road through Camp Shortland has been designated to be returned for park use.
- Skate Park - Council is already finalising the plans to upgrade the Newcastle Beach skate park, and works will begin shortly to construct a new skate park in Stockton. Due to the close proximity of these two facilities, it has been considered that there is no requirement to provide additional skate park infrastructure in Camp Shortland.
- Playground - Council is already planning improvements to the existing playground located in Foreshore Park. While children play areas are being considered in Camp Shortland, there are no plans to provide additional traditional playground equipment in this location.