

The biggest event in Newcastle's history is FAST approaching...



It's almost here. The countdown is on to the first ever Newcastle 500...and it's going to be huge.

More than 150,000 people are set to pour into the city for the 24-26 November Coates Hire Newcastle 500 event weekend, and our stunning beaches, working harbour and thriving CBD will provide the perfect backdrop to the action. The world will be watching.

A potential global TV audience of more than 260 million people will look on as Australia's best drivers take their place on the Wharf Road grid.

But it's not just about the racing.

Aussie rock legends Cold Chisel will ignite Newcastle Foreshore with a Saturday night concert and a host of other activities will ensure it's a weekend to remember for fans of all ages.

Anyone who witnessed the Newcastle Knights' premiership wins in 1997 and 2001, or more recently the 2015 Asian Cup and the Matildas' victory against Brazil, will know how major sporting events unite our great city and bring it to life.

This is our time to shine, Newcastle. Bring it on!

Proud to be



The City of
Newcastle



Anticipation is building and Newcastle is ready to welcome the world to this great city.

The Coates Hire Newcastle 500 is set to be the biggest sporting event in the city's history and it is incredible to see our entire region getting behind it.

An estimated 150,000 spectators are expected to converge on the city centre for what will be the finale of the 2017 Supercars Championship.

Destination NSW estimates the event will attract more than 81,000 interstate and international visitors to the city over the next five years, bringing tens of millions of tourist dollars to our region.

But it's about much more than the race.

Hosting this event has prompted Newcastle City Council to undertake a comprehensive renewal program across the city's east end.

Never before in Newcastle's history has there been such an extensive urban renewal program in such a short space of time. Better roads, better footpaths and cycleways, more reliable water supply and internet and a greener foreshore with more usable shade are among the benefits

that will create a legacy for residents and businesses in the area long after the chequered flag is waved.

Watching Australia's best Supercars drivers race around Shortland Esplanade, past Newcastle Beach, through the new Horseshoe Beach hairpin bend and down the Wharf Road straight with our working harbour in the background will be an exciting first for Australian motor racing fans.

While there has been some short-term pain as we've prepared for this landmark event, we're confident that the east end renewal program will protect our local heritage and lift infrastructure in the precinct to a standard befitting an emerging global city.

I'm pleased that we're now starting to see the long-term gains that this race will deliver for our city.

The thousands of people who packed Newcastle Foreshore earlier this year for the Newcastle 500 ticket launch was just a taste of things to come.

Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

Image: Jonathan Carroll/Fairfax Syndication

Event weekend



Friday 24 November 2017

Race practice sessions
Support category races
Disney-Pixar Cars Pit Stop for kids
Delta Goodrem/The Veronicas concert

Saturday 25 November 2017

Race qualifying session
Support category races
250km race
Disney-Pixar Cars Pit Stop for kids
Cold Chisel/Spiderbait concert

Sunday 26 November 2017

Race qualifying session
Support category races
Top 10 Shootout
250km race
Disney-Pixar Cars Pit Stop for kids



Tickets

Three-day trackside tickets cost \$120 for adults and \$100 for concessions. Kids under 12 are free.
Three-day grandstand tickets cost \$315 for adults and \$295 for concessions.

supercars.com/newcastle/tickets

Race precinct will operate 7am-7pm throughout the race weekend. Access to Nobbys and Newcastle Beaches will be available via King Edward Park and Bathers Way.



East End renewal

Newcastle City Council has invested almost \$10 million in the east end in the lead-up to the Newcastle 500.

Renewing Newcastle's oldest street

Reconstruction of Watt Street includes a new, smoother roadway, new footpaths, kerbs and gutters, smart lighting, smart city underground cabling and new water mains.



Better connections between Foreshore and Bathers Way

A major pedestrian and cyclist bottleneck between the Bathers Way at Nobbys Beach and Joy Cummings Promenade running parallel with the harbour is being widened into a shared pathway, with Tug Berth Road converted into a dedicated cycling lane.



Newcastle Foreshore - more shade and parking

Visitors to the Foreshore will enjoy almost 10 times more usable shade once new trees and shrubs are fully grown. These will include 130 advanced shade trees, more than a third of which will be Norfolk Island pines. Two car parks off Wharf Road have been linked to create 80 extra parking spaces.



Nobbys Road upgrade

A notoriously narrow footpath in front of the Boatmen's Row terrace houses is being widened, with much-loved footpath gardens maintained and enlarged. The roadway will be completely renewed and will include improved access to Fort Scratchley. New lights over the Nobbys Road pedestrian crossing will increase safety for pedestrians and motorists.

Smart City

The transformation of Newcastle's east end includes innovations to help us become one of Australia's leading smart cities. Most visible are the smart poles along much of the track route. These include remotely dimmable street lighting and WiFi transmitters, and the capacity to be upgraded with a range of high-tech components, including traffic monitoring cameras and public announcement systems. Below ground, smart cabling is future-proofing key parts of the CBD like Watt Street, providing the infrastructure needed for high-speed internet.



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DESTINATION: NEWCASTLE



Carrington



Newcastle Beach



Bogey Hole



Empire Park skate bowl



Fernleigh Track



Fort Scratchley



Newcastle Museum



Blackbutt Reserve



Bathers Way