

The Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade is a staged project that will begin with the restoration of the pool and promenades in the second half of 2021 as part of Stage 1.

Will the bleachers and boardwalk be retained?

Yes, the historic bleachers and boardwalk will be retained as part of the renewal of Newcastle Ocean Baths.

What's happening with the pump and pumphouse?

Due to the operational constraints of the existing pump and surrounding infrastructure, the pumps will be decommissioned, but the iconic pumphouse will remain in place. A new pump system will be installed elsewhere on the site, in a location which allows effective access for maintenance. The new pump system will allow for increased consistency in water quality by dramatically increasing water circulation which will minimise the opportunity for algae to grow and reduce maintenance dependency on tides.

Will the pool surrounds be resurfaced?

New concrete surfaces will be constructed across the entire site to adhere to modern standards and ensure design is sympathetic to the site's heritage.

Will the sand floor be retained?

Yes, the concept design addresses the undulating rock bottom, while retaining the sand floor, to facilitate cleaning of the pools and increase user safety when sand levels are low, with sand continuing to accumulate in the pools via natural ocean processes as it does currently. Sand will continue to accrete in the same fashion as it does today, allowing for a sand floor to be retained. As per current practice, this will be periodically cleaned for hygiene and water quality purposes.

Why is the pool floor being capped?

As part of Stage 1, we'll be capping the rock bottom with a safe, flat surface. Other concrete features such as the stair accesses will be maintained along with the sand floor in line with heritage advice to keep the pool 'rugged'. We've consistently heard from the community that water quality is a key issue at the baths. Capping the bottom with engineered concrete will allow for improved cleaning and maintenance of the baths, which will enhance water quality for years to come. Capping the pool bottom will also improve safety by minimising uneven edges on the floor and sand will continue to build up on the pool floor as it does now.

Will the pool deck level be raised?

Yes, as part of the Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade, the level of the pool deck will be raised to improve the structural stability of the pool promenade. The overall depth of the

pool will be maintained through increasing the floor height. Raising the pool will allow for the baths to be used more days per year given the need to close when seas are too high and dangerous.

Will the ocean view be maintained?

The proposed concept design does not have impact on the view to the ocean.

Will the northern vehicle access ramp be retained?

The northern vehicle access ramp will remain with minor modifications to be made during Stage 1 works to facilitate maintenance access to the facility.

What's happening to the central pedestrian stairs and southern pedestrian ramp?

The concept design shows the existing central pedestrian stairs will be incorporated into the new design within upgraded seating and improvements to ensure they meet modern standards and provide access from the main entrance through to the pool. The southern pedestrian ramp will be replaced with a ramp which is compliant with modern accessibility and safety standards.

Will there be beach access from Newcastle Ocean Baths?

Yes, the existing access to the Cowrie Hole will be upgraded and maintained as part of Stage 1 works.

Has accessibility been considered in the preliminary design process?

Yes, City of Newcastle has engaged accessibility consultants and the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to provide input in the development of the concept design. Careful consideration was made to the location of the ramp access into the pools and following advice from the CRG and in consultation with disability advocates, the new ramp will be realigned to the western edge of the pool to allow long lap swimming.

Has heritage been considered in the preliminary design process?

Yes, City of Newcastle has engaged heritage consultants to provide input in the development of the preliminary design and future concept design.

Will a wave dissipation structure be installed as part of the renewal?

If required, a wave energy dissipation structure may be developed as part of the design process.

Can the diving board be brought back?

The diving board was removed due to user safety concerns caused by the inconsistent depth of the pool. The Newcastle Ocean Baths renewal will not feature a

diving board as the pool depth cannot be delivered or maintained to meet the standards required for a diving board.

Has drainage been considered?

The detailed design for Stage 1 will consider appropriate drainage for the site.

When will Stage 1 works occur?

The works will be scheduled with a view to minimise disruption to users as best as possible. A construction timeframe will be available following detailed design.