



Community Feedback



We are seeking community feedback to make an informed decision on this project.

Design drawings of the entire route and major elements including the crossing details as well as other information are available on our website.

To have your say visit the Public Exhibition section of our website newcastle.nsw.gov.au and complete the online form to tell us if you support the traffic management aspects of this proposal and to provide your feedback on the overall project.

Alternatively, you can email a written submission to mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au. Include 'Submission – The Junction to Merewether Beach Cycleway' in the subject line.

Postal submissions can be sent to:

Chief Executive Officer
City of Newcastle
PO Box 489
Newcastle NSW 2300

Subject: Submission – The Junction to Merewether Beach Cycleway

The public exhibition period closes midnight 27 July 2020.

For more information visit:
newcastle.nsw.gov.au



Project Update

The Junction to Merewether Beach Cycleway



Significant Features

Overall, the project promotes and encourages cycling as a genuine transport option by creating a safe and convenient cycling route for residents, families, commuters and recreational users. Significant features of the project include:



Cycleway/Shared path

- On-road cycle lanes from Glebe Road intersection to The Junction Public School children's crossing
- Off-road, bi-directional shared pathway on eastern side of Watkins Street from The Junction Public School through to John Parade, Merewether Beach
- Retain existing (recently upgraded) pathway from north of Patrick Street to Buchanan Street
- Off-road, bi-directional shared pathway on northern side of Coane Street from Watkins Street to John Parade
- The wide kerbside lane from Glebe Road to John Parade also means on-road cycling can be accommodated
- Widening of existing footway between Buchanan Street and John Parade to accommodate 2.5m shared pathway and required offsets.



Crossings upgrades

- Upgrade of existing children's crossing on Watkins Street at The Junction Public School to a combined pedestrian and cyclist crossing and related changes to the school frontage
- Conversion of the recently upgraded pedestrian crossing on Patrick Street to a combined cyclist and pedestrian crossing (linemarking only)
- Proposed new combined pedestrian/cyclist crossings on John Parade at Coane Street and Watkins Street'
- Upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing on Helen Street to a combined pedestrian and cyclist crossing
- New continuous footpath treatments installed at Chester Lane, Buchanan Street and Coane Street



Bus stop changes and upgrades

- Relocation of bus stop opposite the Junction Public School slightly south away from Hunter Water easement
- New centralised bus stop on Watkins Street at the NSW Land and Housing Corporation units, replacing the two existing bus stops immediately north and south of the units
- Relocation of shelter at bus stop near John Parade
- All relocated stops upgraded to comply with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.



Drainage upgrades

- Underground stormwater infiltration and storage system to capture stormwater for re-use and reduce downstream flooding
- Permeable gutters and sustainable water management features
- Infiltration drainage pits and rain gardens



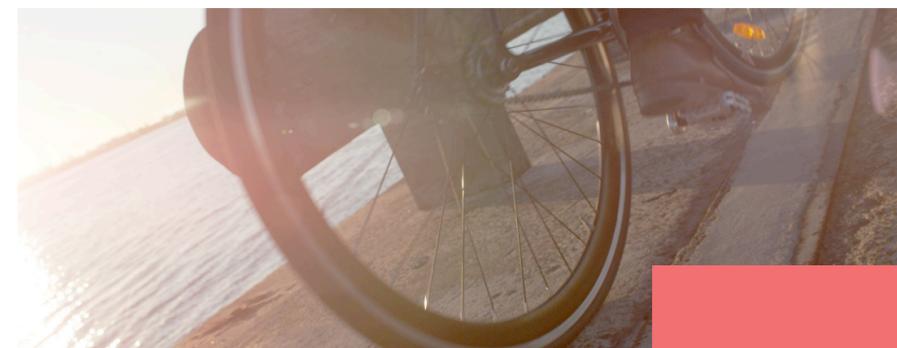
Traffic changes

- Proposed 40km/h speed limit on Watkins Street from Glebe Road to John Parade (subject to Transport for NSW approval)
- Changes to No Stopping zones associated with bus stops and intersections
- Installation of additional traffic calming devices including kerb extensions and road humps
- Reduction of approximately 11 on street parking spaces
- Proposed No Right Turn from Watkins Street into Helen Street

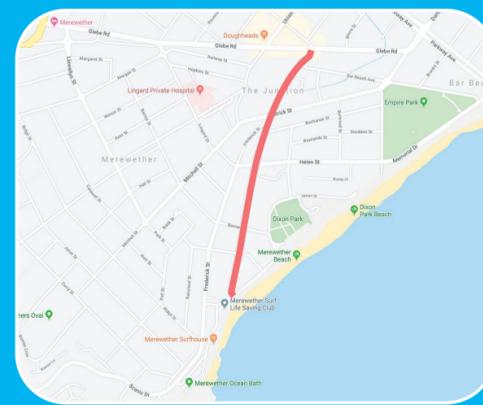


Trees and gardens

- Removal of approximately 36 street trees along Watkins Street to accommodate 2.5 metre wide shared path
- Replanting of around 68 advanced street trees of a species similar to the existing trees
- Majority of existing verge gardens retained and left undisturbed during construction
- Replacement landscaping between new shared pathway and roadside kerb
- New garden beds constructed as part of upgraded intersection works



Watkins Street Merewether Shared Pathway and Intersection Upgrades



Indicates area for upgrades

LEGEND	
CONCRETE BIDIRECTIONAL SHARED PATH	
ROAD SURFACE RESEALING	
CYCLE LANES	
STORMWATER RAINGARDENS	
PLANTED GARDENS	
PERMEABLE PAVERS TO INFILTRATE STORMWATER	
PROPOSED KERB AND GUTTER	
PROPOSED TREES	
EXISTING NORFOLK PINE TREES	
POWER POLE	
GIVE WAY SIGN	
NO RIGHT TURN SIGN	
STORMWATER PITS AND PIPES	
STORMWATER INFILTRATION TANKS	



Expanding and improving the city's bicycle network is one of our four priority projects. Our cycleways objectives include providing high standard facilities that encourage more people to ride for more of their trips.

We have now progressed designs for a cycle route from The Junction through to Merewether Beach starting at the intersection of Glebe Road and Watkins Street and following Watkins Street through to John Parade and Merewether Beach.

The measures include widening the existing footway to create a new shared pathway (mostly along Watkins Street), physical treatments to slow traffic, on road markings and upgrading a number of intersections to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists.

The section from The Junction to Merewether is part of a planned Merewether to City Centre cycleway with design and construction of the extension part of our future program.

Significant upgrades to stormwater drainage systems will be incorporated into the project.

We are now seeking community feedback on the designs. Community feedback will be considered as we progress this project and finalise the designs for approval.

The estimated construction cost is approximately \$2.3 million. If approved, construction may occur over multiple years, depending on funding.

Background

The Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan guides our plans for providing high quality cycling facilities, creating linkages and expanding our cycleway network.

The Junction to John Parade at Merewether Beach project is part of a broader strategy to provide a north-south connection between Newcastle City and Merewether Beach, which has been identified as a key link in the cycling network.

A major barrier to increased participation in cycling is the perception of lack of safety. Separation from motorised traffic is key to increasing mode share to cycling, particularly for new and less confident riders. Overall, the project has been designed with the aim to provide a slower speed environment for on road cyclists, off road provision (shared path) and changes to intersections and crossings to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists where possible.

Traffic and pedestrian counts have been completed to inform the project design which has in principle support from the Newcastle City Traffic Committee.

Route Description

The proposed route is on Watkins Street from Glebe Road to John Parade at Merewether Beach. From Glebe Road to The Junction Public School on road lanes will be marked and a shared path on the western side of Watkins Street provided. From the crossing, a shared path on the east side of Watkins Street is proposed. A shared path connection on the north side of Coane Street from Watkins Street to John Parade will also be provided.

Removal and replacement of street trees

The new shared pathway will be 2.5m wide, narrowing to 2.0m at select locations.

To maintain the 2.5m width for the majority of the routes, retain existing landscaping at property boundaries and achieve the required offsets to ensure cyclist, pedestrian and motorist safety, it is necessary to remove existing trees and replace with new trees offset from the pathway.

Advanced trees of a similar species will be replanted along the route as part of this project.

Parking impacts

There will be a loss of approximately 11 on-street parking spaces across the proposed route from Glebe Road through to John Parade including the side streets adjacent new crossing treatments. The loss of parking is related to providing the required offsets from pedestrian crossings, intersections and bus stop provisions.

Indicative construction staging

Following consultation and subject to approvals and funding, construction of the new cycleway would be staged over several years. An indicative staging plan is:

1. Helen Street pedestrian crossing
2. Buchanan Street to Helen Street, including traffic calming on Helen Street
3. Helen Street to Berner Street
4. Glebe Road to Buchanan Street, including upgrade of the existing children's crossing
5. Berner Street to John Parade

As part of detailed planning for the project it is also proposed to conduct a tree planting trial to assess proposed planting and drainage techniques.

