



Mitchell Street Upgrade, Stockton

Engagement activity report

1 December to 14 December 2020

December 2020

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Executive summary

During December 2020, City of Newcastle (CN) engaged with community members and businesses from Stockton and across the local government area (LGA) on the planned upgrade to Mitchell Street, Stockton.

The local community had been earlier consulted to understand what elements were important to them and how we could improve Mitchell Street. The local community revealed that they valued the community atmosphere already visible in Mitchell Street, Stockton but expressed they would like to enhance this public space.

A Public Domain Plan for the proposed upgrade to Mitchell Street was presented to the community and available for feedback between 1 and 14 December 2020.

The engagement objectives and opportunities for the community to provide their ideas and opinions were widely promoted on the CN website and via social media, media outlets, a flyer and Stockton community update, corflutes along Mitchell Street, e-newsletter, stakeholder email and doorknock of Stockton businesses.

The community could provide feedback via an online or hard copy feedback survey which was also available at Stockton library along with the Public Domain Plan, Frequently Asked Questions and information on the plan. In total, 71 survey responses were received and 85% of respondents thought the plan looks great or ok. The preferred colour for the planter boxes to be installed along Mitchell Street was charcoal. Community comments on the plan and themes that arose in the comments were trees and planting; public domain and street improvements; transport, parking and access.

CN is now considering the feedback summarised in this engagement summary report ahead of construction starting in early 2021. Feedback on the preferred choice of the colour of the planter boxes has been communicated to the project team to action. The community will be kept informed on the project progress and key construction timeframes and considerations ahead of work starting in early 2021.

1. Background

City of Newcastle (CN) engaged with the local community in 2016 and 2017 to understand what elements were important to the community and how we could improve the Mitchell Street, Stockton area. The local community told us they valued the community atmosphere but would like to enhance this public space.

The upgrade will:

- Improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improve visibility and traffic flow for drivers.
- Improve the look and feel of the public spaces with new paving and landscaping.
- Upgrade drainage infrastructure and improve water quality with new rain gardens.
- Improve the natural environment and increase shade cover by providing more trees and groundcover planting. The number of trees in the section of Mitchell Street being upgraded will increase from three to 40 trees – a significant boost to shade along the main street.

The design for Mitchell Street is in the final stages and construction is due to start early in 2021. To guide elements of the design for Mitchell Street, CN invited the community to provide feedback and guidance on the colour choice of planter boxes which will be installed at various locations along Mitchell Street. Feedback was sought from the community between 1 and 14 December 2020. During this time the community could provide feedback online or at Stockton library.

2. Engagement objectives

To better understand community opinion on the Mitchell Street Upgrade, CN publicly displayed the Public Domain Plan and invited feedback from 1 December to 14 December 2020.









The engagement sought to:

- Raise awareness of the plans to upgrade Mitchell Street in early 2021
- Seek community feedback on the plans for the upgrade to Mitchell Street and the community preference for the colour of the planter boxes to be installed at various locations on Mitchell Street as part of the upgrade.

3. Communication and promotion

During the engagement period, a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the Mitchell Street Upgrade and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix I.

Channel	Description	Reach
 <p>Have Your Say webpage</p>	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. A link to this page was also added to the Mitchell Street Upgrade project page. The page aimed to provide information and raise awareness about the proposed plan to upgrade Mitchell Street, and to encourage people to comment on the proposed changes.	464 page views (372 unique views)
 <p>Flyers and onsite signage</p>	<p>Flyers on the Mitchell Street Upgrade and a Stockton works update flyer was distributed to 2,000 Stockton residents and additional flyers were placed at the Senior Citizens Centre.</p> <p>Onsite signage was also installed at key locations along Mitchell Street and at the Stockton ferry terminal. An A3 poster was also displayed on the noticeboard near the IGA supermarket, at the Stockton library.</p>	<p>2,210 flyers</p> <p>6 corflutes</p>
 <p>Social media</p>	<p>The engagement was promoted via an unpaid post of CN's Facebook page on the CN Have Your Say page on 4 December 2020. The post intended to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say.</p> <p>Paid social posts also took place on 4 December 2020 targeting Stockton residents.</p>	110 likes, 47 comments and 9 shares
 <p>Newsletters</p>	An e-newsletter was distributed and there were 32 click-throughs on the Mitchell Street upgrade story.	Distributed to 2,272 people
 <p>Stakeholder email</p>	Key stakeholders such as the Stockton Community Liaison Group (CLG) and Stockton Action group were informed on how to submit their feedback on the Mitchell Street Upgrade. Those identified as living in Stockton on our Community Panel distribution list were also informed.	72 stakeholder emails
 <p>Doorknocks</p>	CN representatives from the Project and Community Engagement team attended Mitchell Street, Stockton on 8 December 2020 to carry out a doorknock with businesses along and near the project area. The purpose was to raise awareness of the Mitchell Street Upgrade and encourage feedback through CN's Have Your Say webpage.	28 businesses
 <p>Councillor Memo</p>	A memo was distributed to CN Councillors on 1 December 2020, advising of the engagement and providing information on how constituents can provide feedback and comment.	n/a
 <p>Media coverage</p>	A media release was issued on 1 December 2020, and was subsequently reported on the Daily Telegraph online, In Touch Magazine online, 16 news, 2HD radio news, NEWFM, 2NUR, and NBN news.	n/a

4. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Mitchell Street Upgrade from 1 December 2020 to 14 December 2020.

The community were able to provide comment on the Public Domain Plan for the Mitchell Street Upgrade in a number of ways:

Online feedback form

An online feedback form was available on the CN Mitchell Street Upgrade Have Your Say webpage. Hard copies were also available at the Stockton Library, along with a submission box so community members could submit their feedback forms for collection by CN staff. The key questions we sought feedback on were:

- Overall, what do you think of the plans for the Mitchell Street upgrade?
 - Looks great!
 - Looks OK
 - I don't really like it
 - Not sure
- As part of the upgrade, planter boxes will be installed on Mitchell Street. What is your preferred colour for the planter boxes?
 - Charcoal
 - Concrete Grey
 - White
 - Kalgoorlie
- Please write in any comments you have about the plans for Mitchell Street: *(opportunity to write open text comments)*
- Contact details:
 - Name
 - Email address
 - Suburb
 - Phone

See appendix II for the online feedback form displayed on the CN website and hard copy form.

Doorknocking of businesses

The project team and a community engagement team member doorknocked 28 businesses along and near Mitchell Street Stockton on 8 December 2020. The purpose was to raise awareness of the Mitchell Street Upgrade and encourage feedback through CN's Have Your Say webpage. Overall, businesses expressed support for the upgrade to Mitchell Street and provided valuable insights on key considerations for the upgrade.

5. Key findings

Respondents

A total of 71 people provided feedback on the plans, with 66 people from across the Newcastle local government area (LGA) and 5 people outside of the LGA. The demographics captured show that most respondents live in Stockton (86%) and nearby areas. Of the 71 responses, 69 were submitted online via the Mitchell Street Upgrade Have Your Say webpage and 2 were received in hard copy from the display at Stockton Library.

Table 1: Respondent suburb

Suburb	%	Total
Stockton	86%	61
Fern Bay	3%	2
Cardiff	1%	1
Maryville	1%	1
Newcastle	1%	1
Newcastle East	1%	1
North Lambton	1%	1
Tighes Hill	1%	1
Wallalong	1%	1
Warners Bay	1%	1
	100%	71

What people thought of the plans

Overall, people thought the plan looked great (55%), 30% thought it looked OK, 7% didn't really like it and 7% weren't sure.

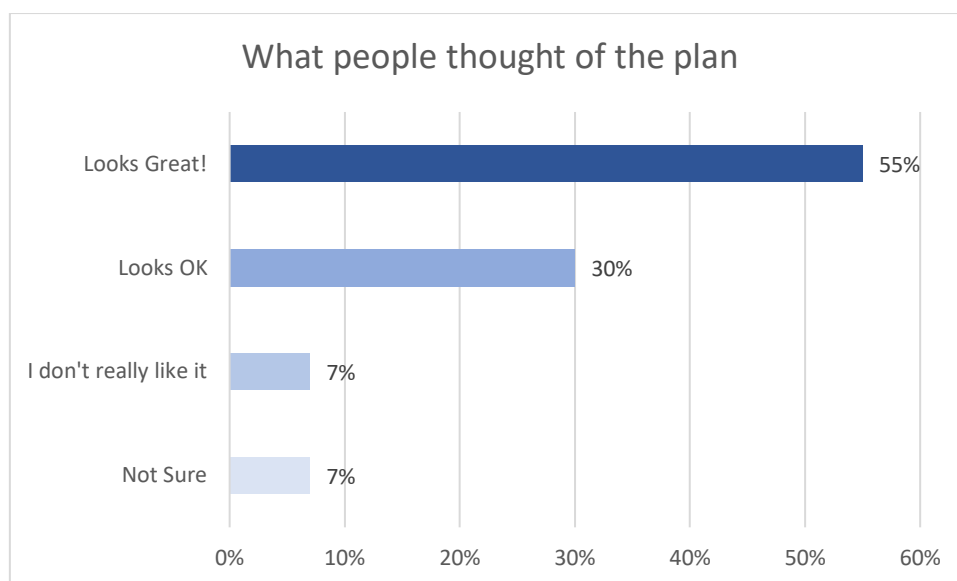


Figure 1 What people thought of the plan

There was a strong preference that the colour of the planter boxes be Charcoal (49%), followed by White (21%), Concrete Grey (16%) and lastly Kalgoorlie (14%).

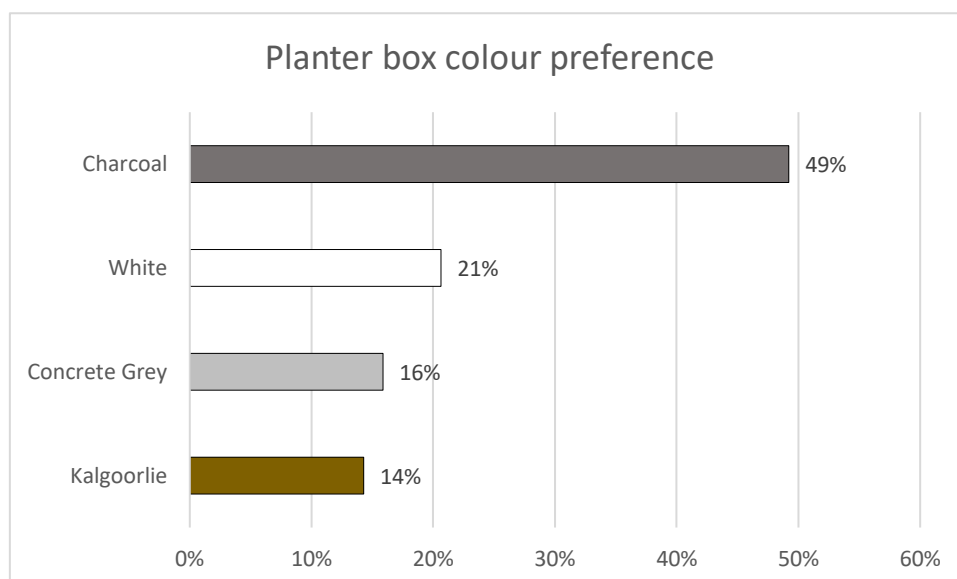


Figure 2: Planter box colour preference

Comments on the plan

Respondents were asked in an open-ended question if they had any other comments on the plans for Mitchell Street. Some respondents expressed they were happy with the plan for Mitchell Street:

'Looks good well done' - survey respondent

'Am pleased for this well thought out change' - survey respondent

'I am a strong supporter of this upgrade' - survey respondent

Themes that arose in the comments were trees and planting; public domain and street improvements; transport, parking and access and some other general comments were raised.

Trees and Planting

Community members loved the possibility of more shade across Mitchell Street with the increase in trees proposed. There were various suggestions for consideration for alternative tree and planting choices including:

- Native flowering trees but not tuckeroos as they were considered to be overused
- Palms trees – considering it's a coastal area
- Trees that flower much nicer
- Broadleaf Lily Pilly would be better on both sides of street to create an 'avenue' look or even better something pretty and deciduous such as frangipani or jacaranda

One community member also noted that Golden Penda and Broad-Leafed Lilly Pilly are not endemic to this region. Another also wanted confirmation on the height of the trees and whether they would impact views and sunlight.

Public Domain and Street improvements

Community members liked the suggested public domain improvements and wanted the following suggestions also considered:

- decorative water fountain in Mitchell Street and also some bubblers
- extending the new pavers down the walkway from Mitchell Street to IGA
- provision of street lighting over seating
- extra garbage bins for collection of rubbish from local businesses
- adopting a coastal theme for the public domain improvements

'Looks great. Could we consider installing a decorative water fountain in Mitchell Street and also some bubblers?' – survey respondent

'I think some coastal images would be good if possible. In Penguin, Tasmania, they have penguin images or shapes on garbage bins, bollards etc which is quite effective and striking. Perhaps a coastal theme might work here or could be developed as time goes on' – survey respondent

Traffic, Parking, Transport and Access

Community members had various suggestions for consideration on traffic, parking, access and transport.

The location of the disabled parking was of a high concern to residents. Community members expressed there were many older people in Stockton who would benefit from the disabled parking spots located in close proximity to the Seniors Citizen Centre, General Practitioner (GP) and chemist.

'It is too far to walk from the shopping centre car park to the King street corner when you have to visit the doctors if you are on a walker or use a stick' – survey respondent

Parking was also raised by residents with suggestions included angled parking and car parking on one side of the road.

Additionally, there were suggestions that King and Crown Street and also Mitchell Street be one-way to open up areas for outdoor dining and to calm traffic areas.

Some respondents wanted to make Mitchell Street more cycle friendly, through speed calming measures, installing bicycle racks and an electrical bike parking station.

'Add a cycleway to this plan... Cycling is extremely popular in Stockton both for locals and tourists'

-survey respondent

Some concerns were raised about the safety of pedestrians when crossing the southern end of Mitchell Street across to the ferry terminal and park. It was observed by residents that this was a high pedestrian traffic area (particularly in peak travel times). Also of concern was the location of the pedestrian crossing, with various suggestions for the preferred location for this.

Other comments

The drainage issue at the IGA and flooding of the carpark was raised as of concern to residents.

Other general comments included broad support for the plan:

'This project will definitely brighten up the quality and feel of Mitchell Street. What a beautiful location to the city and local beaches. Stockton has so much potential to be a high-end area of Newcastle'

-survey respondent

6. Next Steps

CN is reviewing the feedback received for consideration before construction starts in 2021. The preferred colour choice for planter boxes was charcoal so CN will proceed to install charcoal planter boxes. All respondents will be encouraged to view the summary of the engagement report on the CN website and informed of the final planter box colour choice. CN will continue to keep the community informed on the progress of the plan and in the lead up to the work starting in early 2021.

Appendix I – Promotional materials

Mitchell Street Upgrade Plan



OVERALL PLAN

- DESIGN PROPOSAL**
1. Kerb extension and kerb ramps to reduce crossing distances and increase pedestrian safety.
 2. Relocate pedestrian crossing to improve access and increase on-street parking.
 3. Rain gardens to capture gutter flows draining towards Mitchell Street.
 4. Potential occasional street closure for markets and community events.
 5. Footpath widening outside library with seating and planting.
 6. Speed caution to increase pedestrian safety.
 7. Planting of Golden Poppies through main commercial centre to provide canopy shade and accentuate commercial centre.
 8. New winter pattern footpath. Generally all footpaths have been widened.
 9. Planting of Southern Mahogany within streetscape to provide canopy shade, biodiversity and vertical accent.
 10. Planting of Broad Leaved Lily Pili to provide canopy and habitat while being resistant to browsing.
 11. Footpath continuation across laneways to give pedestrians priority.

- NOTES**
1. A 40m zone with associated traffic calming devices is proposed for the Mitchell Street Upgrade. All existing car parking arrangements are retained unless shown on the plan.

CARPARK NUMBERS

LOT NUMBER	NUMBER	STATUS
101	101	EXISTING
102	102	EXISTING
103	103	EXISTING
104	104	EXISTING
105	105	EXISTING
106	106	EXISTING
107	107	EXISTING
108	108	EXISTING
109	109	EXISTING
110	110	EXISTING
111	111	EXISTING
112	112	EXISTING
113	113	EXISTING
114	114	EXISTING
115	115	EXISTING
116	116	EXISTING
117	117	EXISTING
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120	120	EXISTING
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191	191	EXISTING
192	192	EXISTING
193	193	EXISTING
194	194	EXISTING
195	195	EXISTING
196	196	EXISTING
197	197	EXISTING
198	198	EXISTING
199	199	EXISTING
200	200	EXISTING

The new kerb extensions of intersections shorten available parking spaces. Only entry spaces are annotated in the table.

- STREET TREES**
- | LOT NUMBER | TREE SPECIES | STATUS |
|------------|--------------|----------|
| 101 | 101 | EXISTING |
| 102 | 102 | EXISTING |
| 103 | 103 | EXISTING |
| 104 | 104 | EXISTING |
| 105 | 105 | EXISTING |
| 106 | 106 | EXISTING |
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| 198 | 198 | EXISTING |
| 199 | 199 | EXISTING |
| 200 | 200 | EXISTING |

- NOTES**
2. Street tree planting has been introduced to provide greenery, shade, habitat and biodiversity within the streetscape.

LEGEND

- Existing tree to be removed
- Existing tree to be retained
- New tree: Southern Mahogany (Eucalyptus mahogany)
- New tree: Broad Leaved Lily Pili (Araucaria laevis)
- New tree: Golden Poppies (Chamaecyparis thyrsioides)
- Mass planting to rain garden
- Turf
- New concrete winter footpath
- New concrete footpath
- Decorative paving to indicate rain garden
- Proposed concrete kerb
- Permeable kerb
- Bus stop
- Accessible parking
- Pedestrian crossing
- Speed caution to slow traffic
- Potential Outdoor Overlighted Space
- Footbridge Queue
- Bus Stop

Southern Mahogany (Eucalyptus mahogany)

Rain gardens proposed to capture runoff

Street furniture drawn from skate hub

Concrete winter pavement to Mitchell Street

Mitchell Street Upgrade NOVEMBER 2020



DETAIL PLAN

- DESIGN PROPOSAL**
1. Kerb extension and kerb ramps to reduce crossing distances and increase pedestrian safety.
 2. Relocate pedestrian crossing to improve access and increase on-street parking.
 3. Rain gardens highlighted in the streetscape with decorative paving to encourage 'water watching' activities with children to help reduce surface runoff and improve water quality.
 4. Potential occasional street closure for markets and community events.
 5. Footpath widening outside library with seating and planting to improve accessibility.
 6. Speed caution to increase pedestrian safety.
 7. Planting of Golden Poppies through main commercial centre to provide canopy shade and accentuate commercial centre.
 8. New winter pattern footpath. Generally all footpaths have been widened.
 9. In road along line corridor outside shade and maintain low vehicle access.
 10. Commercial centre framed with decorative walls.
 11. Decorative planting (curbwall) on adjoining streets across commercial buildings.
 12. Available parking space close to Starline and Denver Cinema Centre.
 13. Kerb extension, pedestrian crossing and lighting upgrade.
 14. Permeable kerb installed to reduce runoff and improve water quality in low lying areas.

MITCHELL STREET TYPICAL SECTION



- Existing tree to be removed
- Existing tree to be retained
- New tree: Southern Mahogany (Eucalyptus mahogany)
- New tree: Broad Leaved Lily Pili (Araucaria laevis)
- New tree: Golden Poppies (Chamaecyparis thyrsioides)
- Mass planting to rain garden
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- Permeable kerb
- Bus stop
- Accessible parking
- Pedestrian crossing
- Speed caution to slow traffic
- Potential Outdoor Overlighted Space
- Footbridge Queue
- Bus Stop

Golden Poppies (Chamaecyparis thyrsioides)

Broad Leaved Lily Pili (Araucaria laevis)

Seating with permeable concrete kerbs

Mitchell Street Upgrade NOVEMBER 2020

Renders



Have your say webpage

02 4874 2000 Phone enquiries 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday


City of Newcastle

Select Language

SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE MITCHELL STREET UPGRADE

Upgrade to Mitchell Street, Stockton

A spruce-up of Mitchell Street is coming in 2021.




We're planning an upgrade of Mitchell Street, Stockton

We engaged with the local community early in this project to understand what was important and how we could improve Mitchell Street. You told us you love the community atmosphere but would like it to be enhanced with improved public spaces. The upgrade will:

- Improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improve visibility and traffic flow for drivers.
- Improve the look and feel of the public spaces with new paving and landscaping.
- Upgrade drainage infrastructure and improve water quality with new rain gardens.
- Improve the natural environment and increase shade cover by providing more trees and groundcover planting. The number of trees in the section of Mitchell Street being upgraded will increase from three to 40 trees – a significant boost to shade along the main street!

View the plans for Mitchell Street



View planter box colour options

Thanks for having your say

Report_Coastal_...pdf Report_Coastal_...pdf TeamsSetup64_...exe Show

Flyer and onsite signage

Flyer



We engaged with the local community early in this project to understand what was important and how we could improve Stockton's Mitchell Street. You told us you love the community atmosphere but would like it to be enhanced with improved public spaces.

We have incorporated your feedback into the detailed design which we would like to share with you now.

The upgrade is intended to:

- Improve accessibility, safety and comfort for pedestrians and bike riders.
- Improve driver visibility and ease of movement.
- Strengthen the sense of place and identity by improving the look and feel of the public spaces with new paving and landscaping.
- Upgrade drainage infrastructure and improve water quality with new rain gardens.
- Improve the natural environment and increase shade cover by providing more trees and groundcover planting. The number of trees in the upgraded section of Mitchell Street will increase from three to forty trees - a significant boost to the shade canopy along the main street.

Have your say

We would like your feedback on the design and guidance on elements including the colour choice of planter boxes which will be installed at various locations along Mitchell Street.

How you can provide feedback:

In person
Visit our information display and let us know your preference at Stockton Library during opening hours between 1 - 14 December 2020.

Online
Find out more and let us know your preferences at newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay between 1 - 14 December 2020.

Flyer – Stockton Update

Stockton Update
Community information on projects underway in Stockton

Stockton Beach erosion
Following a significant amount of community consultation, City of Newcastle's Stockton Coastal Management Program (CMP) was endorsed by the NSW Government in August 2020.

Mitchell Street Upgrade
An upgrade of Mitchell Street is starting in 2020. We engaged with the local community early in this project to understand what was important and how we could improve Stockton's Mitchell Street. You told us you love the community atmosphere but would like it to be enhanced with improved public spaces.

Other projects underway
Installation of coals, Stockton Active Hub, Rehabilitation of Hunter Riverbank.

On site signage

Stockton

Mitchell Street Upgrade

Mitchell Street is set for a facelift.

We engaged with the local community early in this project to understand what was important and how we could improve Stockton's Mitchell Street. You told us you love the community atmosphere but would like it to be enhanced with improved public spaces.

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City of Newcastle

Sticker on corflutes – after engagement period closed.



Frequently Asked Questions: Stockton Public Domain Plan and Traffic Plan, Mitchell Street Upgrade

Why was this plan developed?

- In 2016 we audited all of the Local Centres within Newcastle LGA. Through this process Stockton was prioritised for infrastructure renewal.
- The purpose of the plan is to identify and resolve public domain issues within Stockton Local Centre, which is the section of Mitchell Street between Hunter Street and King Street.

What is the scope of the plan?

- The plan includes public land including streets and public open spaces within Stockton Local Centre, which is zoned B2 in the Newcastle Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2012.
 - The objective of B2 zoning is for Local Centres is to provide a range of retail, business, entertainment and community uses that serve the needs of people who live in, work in and visit the local area. For more information on B2 zoning and our Local Environment Plan visit <https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/development/land-use-planning/local-environmental-plans-lep>

What is out of scope?

- Privately owned land, and land outside of the defined Local Centre area.

Why is City of Newcastle investing in the Mitchell Street Upgrade when there are continuing erosion issues at Stockton Beach?

- The Mitchell Street upgrade is funded out of our Urban Revitalisation Program, which is separate to the funding for management of erosion at Stockton Beach. Funding of the Mitchell Street upgrade does not redirect funds from our investment in management of erosion.
- Managing the erosion issues at Stockton Beach remains a key priority. Both are important for the Stockton community both now and into the future.

What are the issues you're addressing?

The issues dealt with include:

- Transport safety, access and parking (vehicle, cycle, pedestrian, buses and taxis).
- Infrastructure (roads, drainage, trees, street furniture, lighting and public utilities).
- Legibility, way finding and useability (connectivity, signage, landmarks, opportunities for outdoor dining and different uses of the space).
- Look and feel, as well as the environment (trees, mass planting, public art, heritage interpretation, quality of design).
- Crime (graffiti, vandalism, theft etc).

Social media



Nuatali Nelmes - Lord Mayor of Newcastle is in Stockton, New South Wales, Australia. ...

December 1 at 1:43 PM · 🌐

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 1:43 PM

*** \$3.3 Million upgrade for Mitchell Street is set to begin in early 2021. ***

City of Newcastle will increase the number of street trees in Stockton's main street from three to 40 as part of a \$3.3 million upgrade to start in early 2021.

The project will give Mitchell Street a makeover to improve public spaces, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and increase shade as part of the City's Local Centres program.

The investment will deliver a more attractive space for shopping and dining as Stockton's population grows.

The community has told us that they love the atmosphere of Stockton's main street and shopping precinct, but they want an improved public space.

A key feature of this upgrade is the significant increase in street trees which will provide much needed shade and add to the colour and character of this important shopping and business centre within Stockton.

An innovative design has been developed to create space for these trees and still allow space for parking and footpaths. Local businesses will be able to take advantage of shade for street side dining, and shoppers will have a more pleasant place to spend time or catch up with friends.

We're now inviting the community to view the plans on our website or in Stockton Library and let us know their thoughts before starting construction in the New Year.

This investment is one of 26 projects valued at more than \$17 million delivered in Stockton over the past five years, including coastal protection works and the much-loved Stockton Active Hub.

Newsletter

City E-news



Stockton's Mitchell Street set for a facelift

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The project will give Mitchell Street a makeover to improve public spaces, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and increase shade as part of the City's Local

Media release



1 December 2020

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Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said that the investment would deliver a more attractive space for shopping and dining as Stockton's population grows.

"The community has told us that they love the atmosphere of Stockton's main street and shopping precinct, but they want an improved public space," the Lord Mayor said.

"A key feature of this upgrade is the significant increase in street trees which will provide much needed shade and add to the colour and character of this important shopping and business centre within Stockton.

"An innovative design has been developed to create space for these trees and still allow space for parking and footpaths. Local businesses will be able to take advantage of shade for street side dining, and shoppers will have a more pleasant place to spend time or catch up with friends.

"We're now inviting the community to view the plans on our website or in Stockton Library and let us know their thoughts before starting construction in the New Year.

"This investment is one of 26 projects valued at more than \$17 million delivered in Stockton over the past five years, including coastal protection works and the much-loved Stockton Active Hub."

Plans for the upgrade are available on City of Newcastle's website, and on display at Stockton Library from today until December 14.

The Mitchell Street upgrade will include drainage improvements, new footpaths and street furniture, landscaping including new street trees and raingardens, and a reduction in speed limit to 40 km/hr to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

City of Newcastle is delivering the Mitchell Street upgrade as part of its record \$116 million 2020-21 capital works program designed to support the local economy in response to COVID-19.

Suburban hubs across the local government area are being revitalised as part of City of Newcastle's Local Centres program, with Carrington and Beresfield completed while Joslin Street Kotara, Llewellyn Street Merewether and Orchardtown Road New Lambton are underway.

Visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay to have your say on the Mitchell Street upgrade.

Media coverage

Newcastle on Hunter



Flowers and Trees for Mitchell Street



7 December 2020

Stockton's Mitchell Street facelift imminent.

City of Newcastle will increase the number of street trees in Stockton's main street from three to 40 as part of a \$3.3 million upgrade to start in early 2021.



Appendix III – Verbatim open-ended comments

Trees and planting
There's lots to love about this plan. Mainly the scope for street markets/events and the new trees to provide more shade. The seating out the front of the Library will be valuable. And it's great to see safety as a priority with a speed hump and moving the crossing. Can't wait to see Stockton CBD transformed!
Please plant some attractive native flowering trees but not tuckeroos which are overused.
Palms would look great! it is a coastal town
I think it needs more trees
Gday, I'm a local and I do like a lot of the additions. Some suggestions: Chatting to a few locals we agree that some larger palm trees would be a better fit for a coastal suburb like Stockton. Charcoal is first pick for plantar boxes, 2nd is concrete grey. White would get dirty fast & the brown doesn't seem to be a colour that would go with the coastal theme of the town. Thankyou & looking forward to seeing the upgrades.
Hi, Overall looks good but would prefer large palm trees.
Perhaps trees and more nature for the plastic fantastic park might have been a good choice also.
I applaud the use of natives. however, Golden Penda and Broad Leafed Lilly Pilly are not endemic to this region.
I would prefer to see a more coastal plant scheme. This is an opportunity to stamp home Stockton's brand as a coastal haven, and the type of plant life will assist this. Pandanus and palm type trees would be preferable.
Please swap the trees for pandanus palm trees
We would love to see the existing trees on the plan swapped for pandanus palms. We would love to make this a more inviting place for holiday makers. Including more shopping facilities.
I think it looks fantastic. Love the additional tree cover and plantings. Any environmental improvements in capturing rain and improving shade are great.
Trees that flower much nicer than the ones planted now.
The major plants should be pandamis to give a real coastal look
I think it looks fantastic. Love the additional tree cover and plantings. Any environmental improvements in capturing rain and improving shade are great.
The plantings block the corners, to direct pedestrians away from the corners. People will take the most direct line, through the plantings.
Looking forward to some guerilla gardening.
I think the Main Street of Stockton and along the beach would really suit Pandanus Palm trees. It would give the town that coastal and holiday feel that it needs. Stockton has huge potential and it would be a shame to see it gone to waste

Looks promising but can you please confirm upgrade finishes at king st as was huge controversy several years ago when tree planting was taking place north of king st to the end of the beach area but stopped after urgent meetings between council & affected residents are there still any plans in existence or discussions more trees further north as residents such as I are concerned about a repeat.

Size of trees around General Washington Hotel and 7 Mitchell St. The exact tree location is not really understood from plan. It may block the morning light and only view east from 41A Maitland St which already has had views drastically reduced by the extension of General Washington.

I like trees but would like something lower such as along Maitland street to East now. Alternatively broadleaf Lily pilly (believe these are the ones along honey suckle) would be better on both sides of street to create 'avenue' look. or even better something pretty and deciduous such as frangipani or jacaranda.

Public domain and street improvements

Looks great. Could we consider installing a decorative water fountain in Mitchell Street and also some bubblers?

I suggest taking the new pavers down the walkway from Mitchell Street to IGA. It's a very grim looking walkway

Thanks. Mitchell Street needs an upgrade. I think some coastal images would be good if possible. In Penguin, Tasmania, they have penguin images or shapes on garbage bins, bollards etc which is quite effective and striking. Perhaps a coastal theme might work here or could be developed as time goes on.

Overall looks like a good plan, unsure why the footpaths need to be widened.

If you get an opportunity - have a look at what has been done to Greytown, New Zealand ... an hour north of Wellington and once a meh wee town - now a major art, organics and antiques hub. What I love is the consistent colour scheme, restrictions on the type of building for the main street and quality walkways and parking. Stockton has massive potential to become an art, food and boutique hub but requires physical and supportive foundations to be laid by the council

Provide street lighting over seating (fig 10) to potentially minimise group gatherings and congregations of noisy persons meeting after social events (pub closing) etc. Extra garbage bins for collection of rubbish from café.

Traffic, Parking, Transport and Access

There needs to be pedestrian crossings on western side of Mitchell Street from the shopping centre to the ferry as this is a major thoroughfare used all day and into the night. With lots of young children, prams and wheelchairs using the link to go to both the ferry and also the playground. The intersections with Hunter Street and Maitland Road are particularly dangerous with difficult visibility and high traffic flows. Can we choose a more vibrant colour please!

Won't the roots to the trees create further issues with the road deteriorating in the future?

I think there should be more than 2 disabled parks. Also I think a drop off zone near the Laverty blood collection as I know I find it very difficult to get my mother in as she cannot walk far and I am always double parking.

Safety concern southern end of Mitchell street. No safe pedestrian crossing to access ferry or park.

Leave the crossing where it is. It is too far to walk from the shopping centre car park to the King street corner when you have to visit the doctors if you are on a walker or use a stick. There also needs to be some disabled parking near doctors and chemist shop. A walk of 20 metres to a disabled person is like

a walk of 20 ks for a normal person. There are a lot of elderly and disabled people in Stockton who visit the doctors and chemist on a regular basis.

Please remove parking and replace with more garden beds. Perhaps cycle lanes too.

Safety concern southern end of Mitchell street. No safe pedestrian crossing to access ferry or park.

Car owners are obsessed about parking. This project does not provide yet more parking which they will not like. It introduces speed limits and traffic calming which they will not like. It will introduce trees which drop leaves and potentially bird droppings on their cars so they will not like that either. What car owners generally like is to drive from their garage to free parking - preferably another garage- and have little interest in what is between. Ignore them please.

It should be a one way (Northbound) mall between King and Crown St. This would open up areas for outdoor dining, car parking on one side of the road at 45' and stop the cars running late for the ferry, speeding through this area.

I don't like that aged people get off the bus at the GP and have to walk to the corner (away from IGA or Chemist) to use crossing then walk back to IGA. they are elderly and can't walk too far. Stockton has a lot of elderly who use the bus service to go to IGA.

I would suggest pedestrian crossings need to be across the side streets of Mitchell on the General Washington side. Hunter, Queen, Crown etc.

The second priority should be usability of Mitchell St. The Main Street is wide enough to have angled parking from Crown to King , (IGA side) to benefit the small retailers with a limited time (1-2 hours). Alot of space is actually lost having two crossings and two bus stops.

An electrical bike hire parking station would also be great for the area.

Only concern is with the widened footpath will there be sufficient room for two way traffic?

Please add a cycleway to this plan to avoid a disaster that happened after cycleways were "forgotten" with the installation/planning of Light Rail.

Cycling is extremely popular in Stockton both for locals and tourist. With the narrowing of the street , it will be impossible for cyclists to be safe. Surely this against the philosophy of NCC proposed cycling plan.

Add a pedestrian crossing from outside the Gladstone hotel across Hunter Street. Pedestrians disembarking the ferry terminal and usually off Mitchell street and across this road can suddenly have traffic from behind and turning into Hunter Street. This is an issue and maybe added a little cost.

Suggest speed limits from Mitchell Street, down Crown Street be reduced from 50 km to 40 km due to the speed as people exit the IGA car park, down alongside the school. Way in excess the speed limit. Very dangerous as they speed down, especially with the bend in Crown Street. Can see an accident happening not to far in the future. Would even like to see a speed hump in this street!.

A single crossing in the middle of the block, straight out of the arcade, rather than at each end of the block would make more practical sense.

I like the speed calming measures and relocated pedestrian crossings.

Can there also be a pedestrian crossing installed near Mitchell Park (cnr Clyde Street) or near the Bowling Club? Due to an increase in traffic and continue speeding, Mitchell Street is becoming a dangerous street to cross, particularly for the elderly and children going to tennis, cricket, football, the park or beach. Hopefully installing traffic control measures will assist with rectifying the speeding.

Markets is great, but will cause extra parking issues. Install an Electric parking point.

I think Mitchell St shopping area should be a one way street. Wyong Council have done this at The Entrance NSW very successfully. The benefits were that footpaths were widened to allow outdoor cafes and angled parking allowed more cars to park. Crossing the road became easier and the traffic has appropriately slowed down just in the shopping area.

Install pedestrian crossing (west end) across Crown Street as originally proposed February 2017. Bicycle racks installed generally.
The plan I believe will seriously impact the availability of parking in Maitland Street. Daytime parking in Maitland Street immediately to west of Mitchell St is largely used by Hardware employees, suppliers and customers. It looks like the plan will remove those spaces. I have only a single garage at XX which means I need to utilise 1 street car park. many of the houses in the street have no off-street parking. In addition ferry and park users frequently park on our street. We need a plan to maximise parking. perhaps even making the street narrower or one way to increase parking with angle parking at least on one side.
General comments
Looks ok to me
Looks good well done
How can you even consider spending 3mil on trees essentially!! Has anyone from Stockton even asked for this??? There is so much more that you could do to develop beach areas, sport and recreation fields! Trees in mainstreet??? Ridiculous!
Sure freshen up the street with some trees but do not spend 3mil doing so! What happened to the water park at the skatepark?? So much more could be done with that money in Stockton.
It appears that you are not doing anything about the drainage in the IGA carpark which floods and is dangerous. As the drainage issues impact the only grocery shopping in Stockton this plan appears piecemeal
XXXXXXXXXXXXX & his inside trading AGAIN at the forefront of (personally) owning mitchell st. The planter boxes & trees won't last a month if the Gladstone Hotel is allowed to continue with its friday night violence
Long overdue and this project will definitely brighten up the quality and feel of Mitchell Street. What a beautiful location to the city and local beaches. Stockton has so much potential to be a high end area of Newcastle.
Am pleased for this well thought out change
It is really unfortunate that more can't be done about the flooding that occurs in the IGA carpark. The outlet that is planned by CN will help but more pressure needs to be brought to bear on the private owners to solve the significant problem.
Will this be maintained to continue to look like this as the council seem to not up keep things in Stockton once in.
It's a long street. The plan only covers a small part of it. A more holistic approach accounting for the beach front promenade aspect of the street should be considered. Ideally, plans should work in with the sand replacement works to ensure that, the beachfront restored but also enhanced by additional works along the entire length of the street.
I am a strong supporter of this upgrade.
As one of a number of residences residing in a lane (with no name) between Ross and Pembroke streets, Stockton. We have been begging for almost 2 years to have this lane resurfaced and still waiting. So what council intends with Mitchell Street is of no consequence or priority. I am sure that many residences in Stockton that would prefer to have their immediate area upgraded than Mitchell St, which will be of no major benefit to them. Thank you.

I dislike the new pavement style and rounded edges.

Plan does not properly detail this southern area. It shows #7 on the corner and ignores the actual corner property at 41 Maitland St