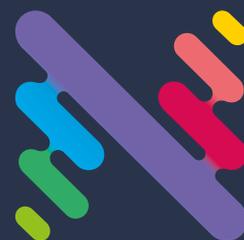




Quarterly Community Survey

WINTER 2019



Executive summary

The City of Newcastle (CN) undertakes a community survey on a quarterly (every three months) basis to better understand key issues, community needs and priorities regarding the services and facilities provided by the City.

The June 2019 autumn edition is the fourth survey in this program. A total of 891 people took part.

Results

Environmental issues

Respondents were asked to rank the top five issues that are most important to them in their local environment. They were also asked about their level of satisfaction with a range of aspects of the environment. Principal observations include:

- The issues that respondents ranked as most important to them (highest proportion ranked one or two) were *Protecting natural areas* and *Protecting the coastline*
- The issue with the lowest proportion ranking as one or two was *Land contamination*
- The aspect with the highest level of satisfaction was *The distance needed to travel to enjoy natural green space* (mean score of 3.7)
- The aspect with the lowest level of satisfaction was *The level of greening in new developments*. The mean score of 2.4 for this aspect indicates that, on balance, participants were dissatisfied with it.

Newcastle's liveability

Participants were asked how liveable they think Newcastle is and what aspects of the environment makes their neighbourhood more liveable. They were also asked what the five most important things CN should focus attention and resources on over the next five years in terms of the environment. Principal observations include:

- The mean score of 3.4 indicates that participants feel that Newcastle is between somewhat and very liveable
- Almost eight in ten participants (77%) selected *Local parks with shade trees* as an aspect of the environment that made their neighbourhood more liveable
- *Community gardens* was nominated by the lowest proportion of participants (33%) as contributing to the liveability of their neighbourhood
- More than seven in ten participants selected *Waste avoidance, reduction and recycling facilities or projects* and *Habitat protection and enhancement* (72% and 71% respectively) as things that CN should focus on over the next five years in terms of the environment
- The item that was selected by the lowest proportion of participants (31%) was *Education – environmental, climate change, sustainability*.

Climate change

Participants were asked how concerned they were about a range of potential impacts of climate change and how adequate the information provided by CN about projected issues with climate change is. They were also asked to rank in order of importance measures undertaken by CN in the delivery of its operations to reduce impacts on the environment, and how strongly they agreed that CN's operations should move to 100 per cent renewables. Principal observations include:

- The impacts that were most concerning for participants were *Drought* and *Loss of local plant and animal species* (both received a mean score of 4.1)
- The potential impact of *Bushfire* was least concerning to participants (mean score of 3.0 indicating that they were somewhat concerned about this impact)
- Almost half of participants (46%) stated that they did not feel that the information provided by CN about climate change was adequate. However, one-third (33%) could not provide a response, i.e. stated don't know
- The highest ranked measures (highest proportion of those ranked one or two) were *Increasing the use of renewable energy* and *Reducing waste going to landfill*
- Approximately seven in ten participants (69%) either agreed or strongly agreed that CN operations should move to 100% renewables.

Local environmental improvement/conservation projects

Participants were asked to indicate whether they, or a member of their family participate in, or are interested in participating in a range of environmental improvement/conservation projects. They were also asked how they would most like to find out about these activities and how satisfied they were with CN's performance regarding the environment. Principal observations include:

- The project the highest proportion of participants already participate in are *Litter clean up days* (36%)
- *Sustainable living days* and *Community open days and seminars* are the projects that the highest proportion of respondents are interested in taking part in (47% and 45% respectively)
- *City of Newcastle e-newsletters* is the method nominated by the highest proportion of participants (64%) as how they would like to find out about local environment improvement/conservation projects
- The mean score of 3.1 indicates that, on balance, participants were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with CN's environmental performance.

Sportsgrounds and recreational spaces

Participants were asked to list the top three things that could be done to improve CN's sportsgrounds and recreational parks. Principal observations include:

- *More shade* and *Improved amenity* blocks were nominated by the highest proportion of participants (61% each) as things that could improve CN's sportsgrounds

- *Improved shade and shelters* (65%) and *Provision of/improved public toilets* (62%) were nominated by the highest proportion of participants as ways to improve CN's recreational parks.

Favourite part of the Newcastle environment

Participants were asked drop a pin on a digital map of Newcastle to indicate where their favourite parts of the Newcastle environment are and explain why that is. Principal observations include:

- A total of 190 comments were left on the map. The five that received the most 'likes' relate to people enjoying outdoor pursuits
- A heat map was generated that shows that the most popular environmental places are along our coastal areas
- A word cloud was created that highlights the most common words that were left in comments; these were *beach*, *great*, *beautiful* and *Newcastle*.

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1 Introduction

The City of Newcastle (CN) undertakes a community survey on a quarterly (every three months) basis to better understand key issues, community needs and priorities regarding the services and facilities provided by the City.

The June 2019 winter edition of the survey is the fourth survey in this program.

2 Methodology

2.1 Data collection

The online survey was available to be undertaken from Monday 3 June to Monday 17 June 2019, inclusive.

In total, 891 participants took part in the survey.

2.2 Survey promotion

The survey was widely promoted through social and traditional media channels. Members of the City's community reference panel Newcastle Voice were also sent email invitations to take part in the survey.

2.3 Data handling

Data handling and analysis was carried out using the City's online survey software. All responses are de-identified to ensure the anonymity of respondents, and open-ended responses are edited only for grammar. If more than 100 open ended responses are submitted, they are coded by like theme. Please refer to Appendix II Verbatim Comments for verbatim responses.

2.4 Data weighting

The sampling process outlined herein is a self-selecting sample, which is a non-probability sampling technique. While this approach is more cost and time effective than a probability sampling (e.g. random sampling), there is likely to be a degree of self-selection bias in the results. This is especially true among broad community respondents who may choose to complete the survey because they have strong views on the topic one way or the other. Similarly, using a self-selection sampling technique may limit the representativeness of the sample. To help overcome this, the data has been weighted post-collection to reflect the distribution across the wards of the population (25% each ward).

2.5 How to read this report

2.5.1 Assessment scales

In the report and tables that follow a number of conventions have been established for the purpose of presenting the survey results.

In the survey respondents were presented with a five-point scale for the assessment of:

- Satisfaction with a range of aspects of the environment in Newcastle LGA and CN's performance regarding the environment
- How liveable Newcastle is
- How concerned participants are about the potential impacts of climate change
- Level of agreement that CN should move to 100 per cent renewable energy.

The scales were constructed as follows:

Table 1: Construction of scales

LIVEABILITY	CONCERN	SATISFACTION	AGREEMENT
1=Not at all liveable 2=Slightly liveable 3=Somewhat liveable 4= Very liveable 5=Extremely informative	1=Not at all concerned 2=Slightly concerned 3=Somewhat concerned 4=Moderately concerned 5=Extremely concerned	1=Very dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3=Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 4=Satisfied 5=Very satisfied	1= Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neither agree nor disagree 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree
Respondents could provide a response of don't know/NA if they could not rate a statement			

A neither score of 3 out of 5 suggests a neutral opinion, i.e. no strong feelings either way.

2.5.2 Mean scores

The numeric values from the scales (1 to 5) were converted to an overall average (mean) score. This scale is calculated only for those who responded using the 1 to 5 scale - it **does not** include non-scale responses. An example of the calculation of a satisfaction score follows. All scales outlined above follow the same method for calculating mean scores.

Table 2: Mean score calculation

Response Scale	Number of responses	Response scale x number of responses	Score
1=very dissatisfied	30	1x30	The score is calculated by dividing 1,470 by the number of responses uses (420 in this case): 1,470/420
2=dissatisfied	60	2x60	
3=neither	80	3x80	
4=satisfied	170	4x170	
5=very satisfied	80	5x80	
Don't know/NA	80	Not included in calculation	Score = 3.5
Total	500	1,470	

To obtain a score of 5.0 ALL respondents who gave them a rating would have to have answered '5', i.e. answered *strongly agree*, *very satisfied* etc. as applicable. Therefore, a higher rating represents a relatively more favourable response.

2.5.3 Interpretation

In interpreting the scores, it should be remembered that:

- The higher the score, the higher the level of agreement, satisfaction etc.
- A satisfaction score of greater than 3 indicates that, on balance, residents were satisfied (the same interpretation applies to the agreement scale).

When interpreting the results, the distribution of ratings and the score need to be considered together not individually. For example, ratings which are evenly spread over the 1 to 5 scale may yield the same mean score as those which are relatively polarised at either end of the scale. The policy implications for these contrasting distributions are very different, despite the fact that they received the same score.

3 Survey findings

3.1 Environmental issues

3.1.1 Top five environmental issues

Respondents were asked to rank the top five issues that are most important to them in their local environment. The results shown in Table 3 indicate that:

- The issues that respondents ranked as most important to them (highest proportion ranked one or two) were *Protecting natural areas* and *Protecting the coastline*
- The issue with the lowest proportion ranking one or two was *Land contamination*.

Table 3: Five environmental issues most important to you

Five environmental issues most important to you				
Protecting natural areas (waterways, bushland, native plants and animals)			Land contamination	
Rank	%		Rank	%
1	29%		1	1%
2	20%		2	2%
3	16%		3	4%
4	9%		4	6%
5	8%		5	7%
Protecting the coastline (beaches, dune systems and rock platforms)			Minimising waste (reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, single use plastic)	
Rank	%		Rank	%
1	12%		1	10%
2	20%		2	10%
3	14%		3	13%
4	11%		4	17%
5	7%		5	15%
Increasing urban density			Reduce energy and water use	
Rank	%		Rank	%
1	2%		1	3%
2	2%		2	5%
3	1%		3	6%
4	4%		4	7%
5	4%		5	10%
Expanding urban and street scale greening (provision of street & park trees, footpath gardens, green roofs and walls, community gardens)			Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	
Rank	%		Rank	%
1	13%		1	5%
2	11%		2	8%
3	13%		3	4%
4	10%		4	6%
5	9%		5	6%

Reduce water pollution (including litter and marine pollution)		Changes in climate	
Rank	%	Rank	%
1	5%	1	12%
2	12%	2	4%
3	15%	3	4%
4	16%	4	4%
5	14%	5	5%
Air pollution		Availability of locally grown produce (prawns; vegetables, fruit, fish etc.)	
Rank	%	Rank	%
1	5%	1	4%
2	3%	2	4%
3	5%	3	6%
4	5%	4	6%
5	6%	5	10%

3.1.2 Satisfaction with aspects of the environment

Respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with a range of aspects of the environment. As shown in Table 4:

- The aspect with the highest level of satisfaction was *The distance needed to travel to enjoy natural green space* (mean score of 3.7)
- The aspect with the lowest level of satisfaction was *The level of greening in new developments*. The mean score of 2.4 for this aspect indicates that, on balance, participants were dissatisfied with it.

Table 4: Satisfaction with aspects of the environment

Aspects	Very dis-satisfied	Dis-satisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know	Mean score
The distance you need to travel to enjoy a natural green space	3%	10%	22%	44%	20%	1%	3.7
The quality of our beaches and dunes (sand, water quality & vegetation)	3%	13%	20%	50%	10%	4%	3.5
The quality of our bushland (plants and wildlife)	3%	20%	26%	43%	4%	4%	3.3
The environmental regeneration works in our bushland, creek lines, wetlands, beaches & dunes	4%	17%	33%	35%	5%	5%	3.2
The water quality in our harbour and Hunter river	4%	19%	29%	35%	4%	8%	3.2

The amount of natural green space in your neighbourhood	10%	25%	19%	36%	10%	1%	3.1
Newcastle's air quality	10%	24%	25%	31%	9%	2%	3.0
The water quality in our local waterways and wetlands	4%	27%	29%	30%	1%	9%	3.0
The level of greening in new developments (e.g. trees, green walls/roofs)	20%	34%	24%	14%	3%	4%	2.4

3.2 Newcastle's liveability

3.2.1 How liveable is Newcastle

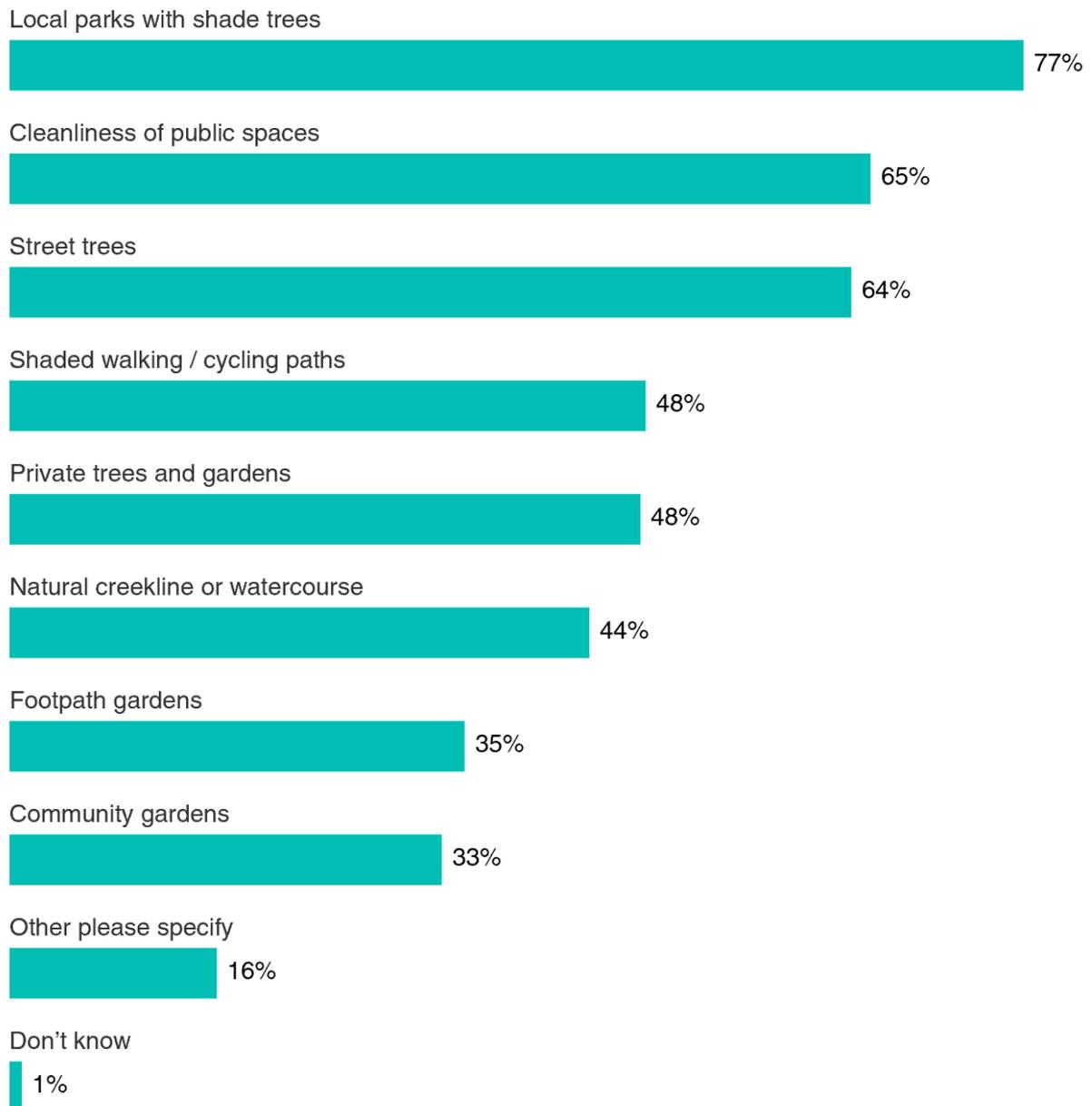
Participants were asked how liveable they think Newcastle is and what aspects of the environment makes their neighbourhood more liveable. As shown in Table 5 and Figure 1:

- The mean score of 3.4 indicates that participants feel that Newcastle is between somewhat and very liveable
- Almost eight in ten participants (77%) selected *Local parks with shade trees* as an aspect of the environment that made their neighbourhood more liveable
- *Community gardens* was nominated by the lowest proportion of participants (33%) as contributing to the liveability of their neighbourhood.

Table 5: How liveable is Newcastle

How liveable is Newcastle	
Not at all liveable	2%
Slightly liveable	11%
Somewhat liveable	37%
Very liveable	44%
Extremely liveable	6%
Don't know	1%
Mean score	3.4

Figure 1: Aspects of environment that make neighbourhood more liveable



Note: as respondents could provide multiple responses, total exceed 100%

A total of 117 'other' responses were received and were grouped into like themes that are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Aspects that make more liveable - Other

Aspect	%
Active transport options	17%
Community	16%
Greenspaces	14%
Public transport	12%
Beach	8%
Parking	5%
Look of properties	3%
Heritage buildings	2%
responsible dog ownership	1%
Misc.	25%

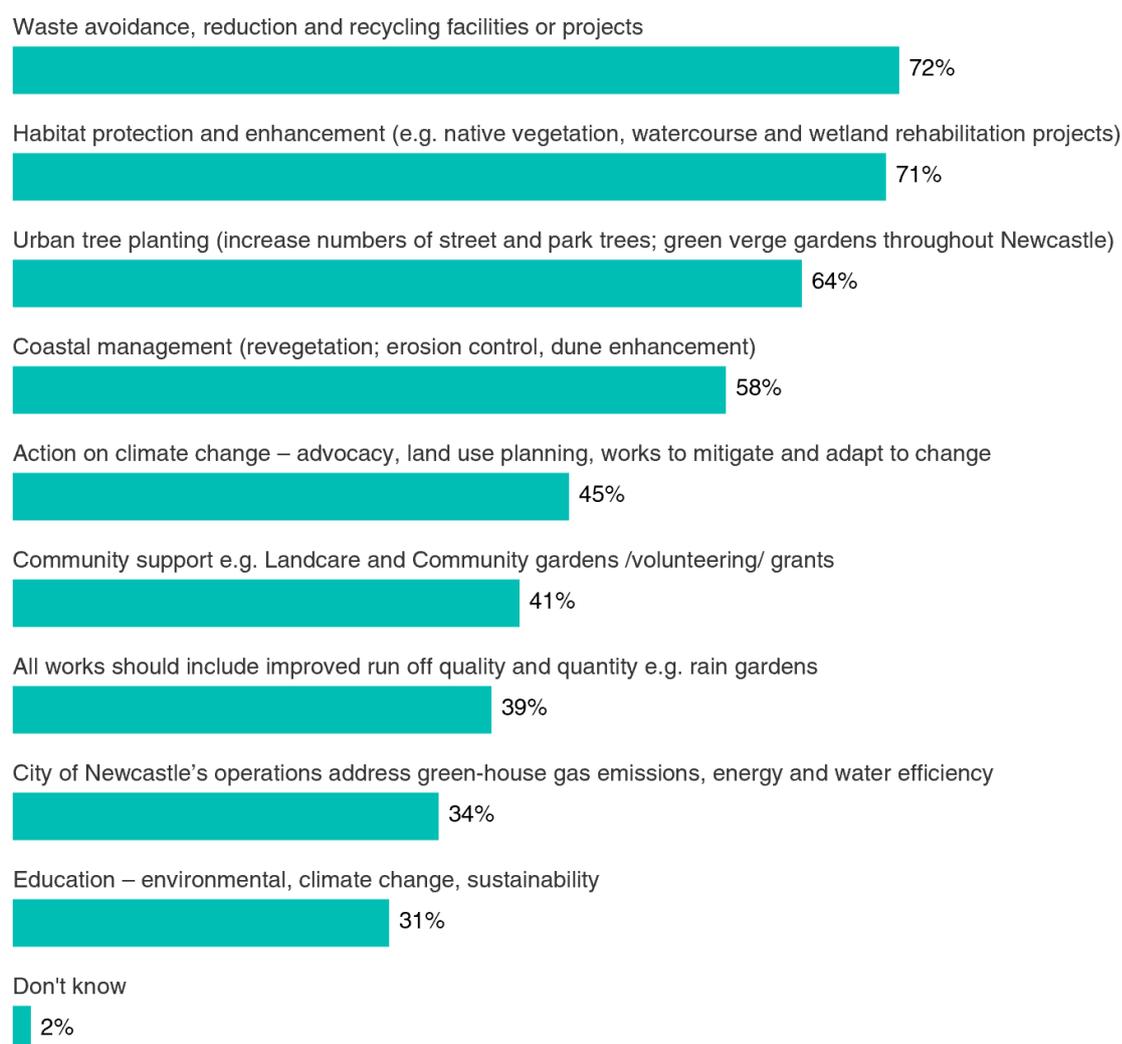
A full accounting of these responses can be found in Appendix II Verbatim Comments.

3.2.2 Environmental priorities for CN

Participants were asked what the five most important things CN should focus attention and resources on over the next five years in terms of the environment. As shown in Figure 2 **Error! Reference source not found.:**

- More than seven in ten participants selected *Waste avoidance, reduction and recycling facilities or projects* and *Habitat protection and enhancement* (72% and 71% respectively) as things that CN should focus on
- The item that was selected by the lowest proportion of participants (31%) was *Education – environmental, climate change, sustainability*.

Figure 2: Five most important environmental things CN should focus attention on



Note: as respondents could provide up to five responses, total exceeds 100%

3.3 Climate change

3.3.1 Concern about potential impact of climate change

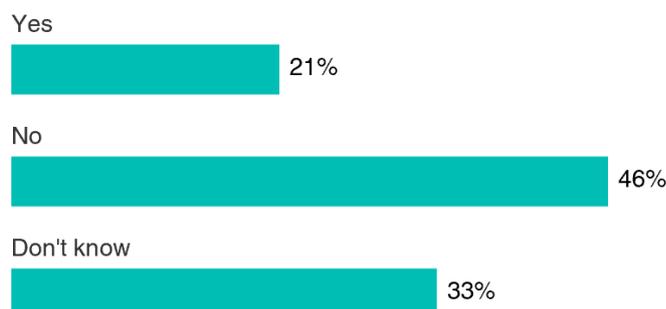
Participants were asked how concerned they were about a range of potential impacts of climate change and how adequate the information provided by CN about projected issues with climate change is. As shown in Table 7 and Figure 3:

- The impacts that were most concerning for participants were *Drought* and *Loss of local plant and animal species* (both received a mean score of 4.1)
- The potential impact of *Bushfire* was least concerning to participants (mean score of 3.0 indicating that they were somewhat concerned about this impact)
- Almost half of participants (46%) stated that they did not feel that the information provided by CN about climate change was adequate. However, one-third (33%) could not provide a response, i.e. stated don't know.

Table 7: Level of concern about impacts of climate change

	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Extremely concerned	Don't know	Mean score
Drought	4%	6%	10%	27%	51%	1%	4.1
Loss of local plant and animal species	5%	6%	12%	28%	48%	1%	4.1
Increased temperatures	11%	11%	14%	25%	39%	1%	3.7
Coastal erosion	7%	14%	18%	30%	30%	1%	3.6
Severe storms and hail	8%	14%	18%	32%	28%	1%	3.6
Flooding	12%	17%	20%	28%	22%	0%	3.3
Sea level rise	18%	16%	19%	23%	24%	1%	3.2
Bushfire	19%	21%	20%	22%	17%	0%	3.0

Figure 3: Adequacy of information provided by CN about climate change



3.3.2 Importance of measures by CN to reduce impacts on environment

Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance measures undertaken by CN in the delivery of its operations to reduce impacts on the environment. They were also asked how strongly they agreed that CN’s operations should move to 100 per cent renewables. As shown in Table 8 and Table 9:

- The highest ranked measures (highest proportion ranked one or two) were *Increasing the use of renewable energy* and *Reducing waste going to landfill*
- Approximately seven in ten participants (69%) either agreed or strongly agreed that CN operations should move to 100% renewables.

Table 8: Importance of measures to reduce impacts on the environment

Reducing carbon emissions		Reducing usage of fossil-based liquid fuels	
Rank	%	Rank	%
1	18%	1	10%
2	13%	2	16%
3	17%	3	17%
4	16%	4	18%
5	17%	5	18%
6	20%	6	21%
Reducing water use		Reducing waste going to landfill	
Rank	%	Rank	%
1	10%	1	27%
2	17%	2	17%
3	15%	3	18%
4	19%	4	15%
5	24%	5	12%
6	16%	6	10%
Reducing electricity use		Increasing the use of renewable energy	
Rank	%	Rank	%
1	5%	1	30%
2	12%	2	26%
3	18%	3	16%
4	16%	4	15%
5	22%	5	8%
6	27%	6	6%

Table 9: Level of agreement that CN should move to 100% renewables

Agreement that CN should move to 100% renewables	
Strongly disagree	8%
Disagree	9%
Neither agree nor disagree	13%
Agree	28%
Strongly agree	41%
Don't know	2%
Mean score	3.9

3.4 Local environment improvement/conservation projects

3.4.1 Participation in projects

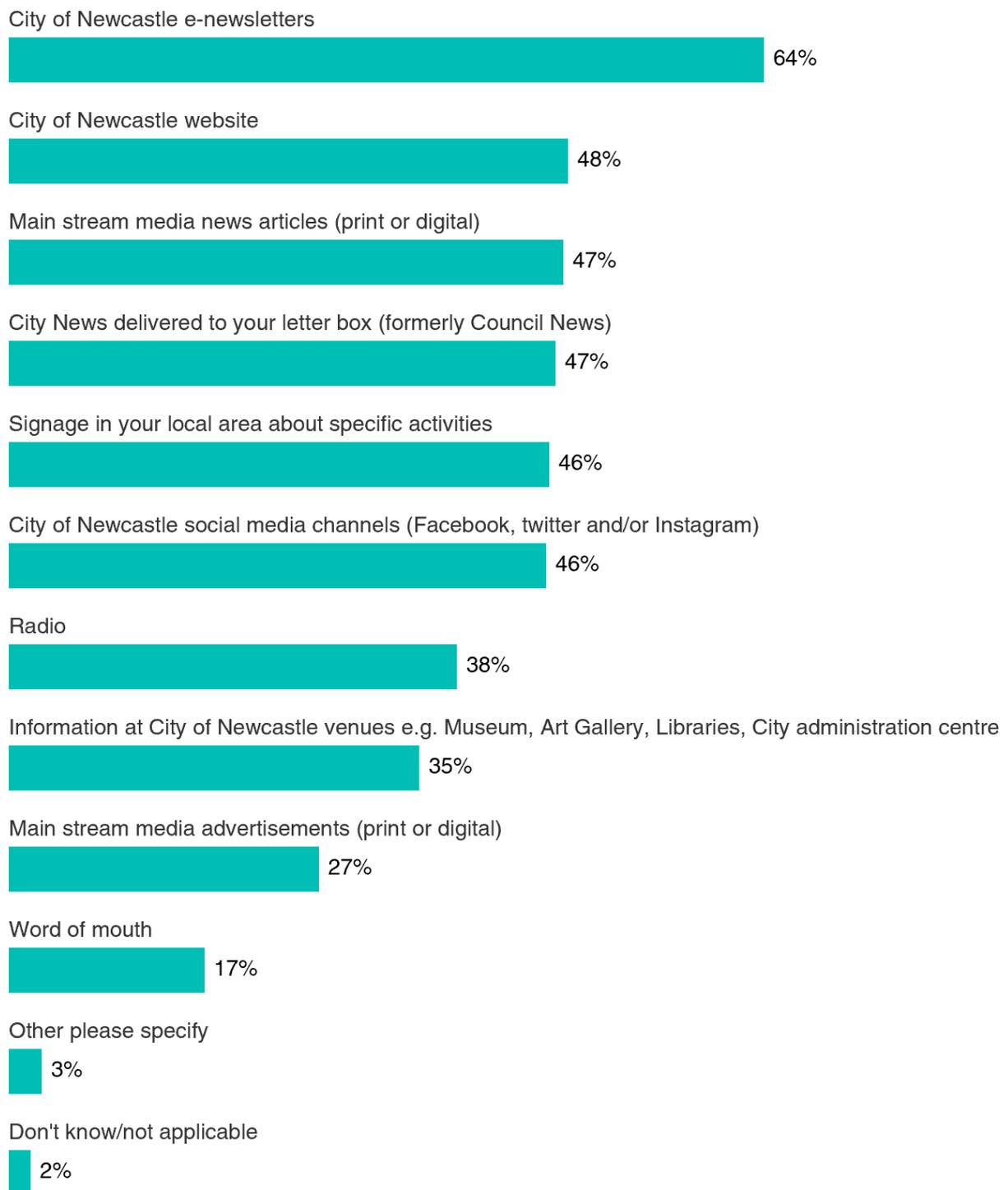
Participants were asked to indicate whether they, or a member of their family participate in, or are interested in participating in, a range of environmental improvement/conservation projects. They were also asked how they would most like to find out about these activities. As shown in Table 10 and Figure 4:

- The project the highest proportion of participants already participate in are *Litter clean up days* (36%)
- *Sustainable living days* and *Community open days and seminars* are the projects that the highest proportion of respondents are interested in taking part in (47% and 45% respectively)
- *City of Newcastle e-newsletters* is the method nominated by the highest proportion of participants (64%) as how they would like to find out about local environment improvement/conservation projects.

Table 10: Participation in local projects

Activity	Interested in participating	Already participate/have participated	Not interested in participating
Litter clean up days	33%	36%	31%
Composting activities	33%	31%	36%
Bush walking, orienteering	33%	28%	39%
Tree planting	40%	24%	36%
Community gardens	41%	20%	39%
Landcare, Dunecare, Bushcare, Adopt a Park	34%	19%	47%
Community open days and seminars e.g. microplastics, frog ponds, nest boxes, bee keeping	45%	16%	39%
Rescuing wildlife	27%	14%	59%
Replanting native areas e.g. creeklines	41%	14%	45%
Sustainable living workshops	47%	13%	39%
Good bushland neighbours	40%	10%	51%
Coastal education program	34%	10%	56%
Citizen science e.g. Creek water bug and water sampling, bat and bird counts	30%	9%	61%
Themed environmental movie nights	27%	7%	66%
Catchment tours	34%	6%	60%
Group bird watching	21%	6%	73%

Figure 4: How would like to find out about local projects



There were 20 'other' responses provided, these can be found in Appendix II Verbatim Comments.

3.4.2 Satisfaction with CN's environmental performance

Participants were asked how satisfied they were with CN's performance regarding the environment. The results in Table 11 indicate that:

- The mean score of 3.1 indicates that, on balance, participants were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with CN's environmental performance.

Table 11: Satisfaction with CN's environmental performance

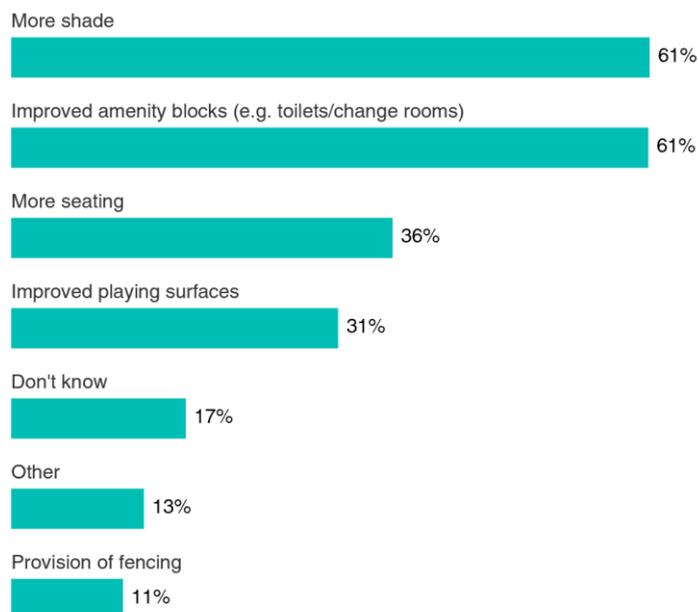
Satisfaction with CN's environmental performance	
Very dissatisfied	6%
Dissatisfied	17%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	43%
Satisfied	28%
Very satisfied	4%
Don't know	3%
Mean score	3.1

3.5 Sportsgrounds and recreational spaces

Participants were asked to list the top three things that could be done to improve CN's sportsgrounds and recreational parks. The responses in Figure 5 and Figure 6 indicate that:

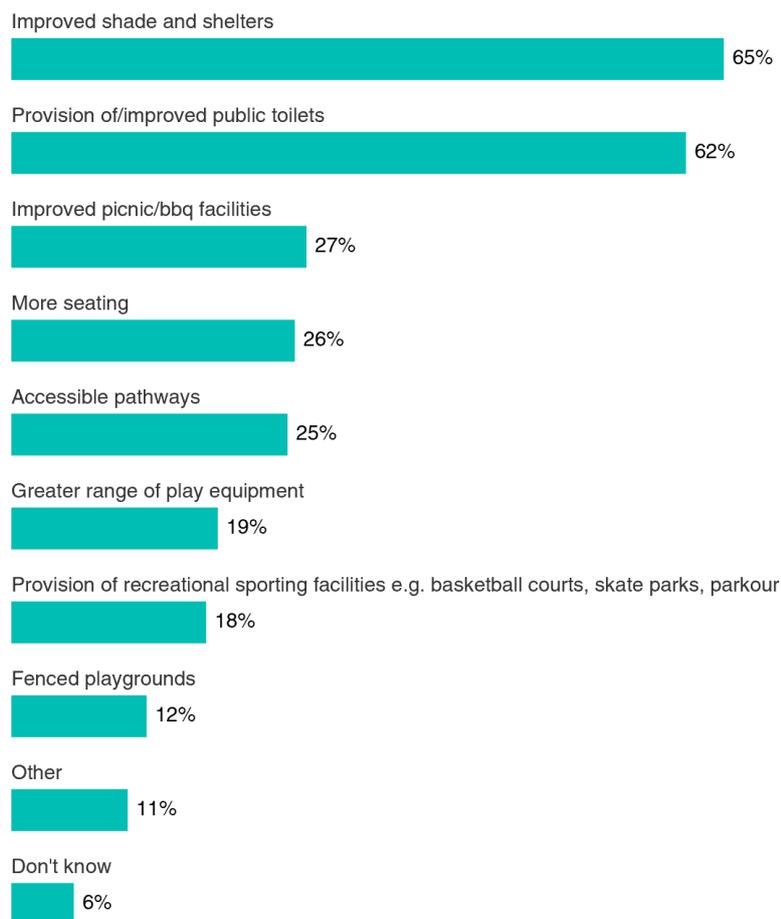
- *More shade* and *Improved amenity blocks* were nominated by the highest proportion of participants (61% each) as things that could improve CN's sportsgrounds
- *Improved shade and shelters* (65%) and *Provision of/improved public toilets* (62%) were nominated by the highest proportion of participants as ways to improve CN's recreational parks.

Figure 5: Top three things to improve sportsgrounds



There were 93 'other' responses provided, these can be found in Appendix II Verbatim Comments.

Figure 6: Top three things to improve recreational spaces



There were 76 'other' responses provided, these can be found in Appendix II Verbatim Comments.

3.6 Favourite part of the Newcastle environment

Participants were asked to drop a pin on a digital map of Newcastle to indicate where their favourite parts of the Newcastle environment are and explain why that is. Principal observations include:

- A total of 190 comments were left on the map. The five that received the most 'likes' are shown in Figure 7, Figure 8, Figure 9, Figure 10 and Figure 11 and relate to people enjoying outdoor pursuits
- The heat map shown in Figure 12 and the number of comments left shown in Figure 13 show that the most popular environmental places are along our coastal areas
- The word cloud shown in Figure 13 indicates that the most commonly used words in the comments left were *beach*, *great*, *beautiful* and *Newcastle*.

Figure 7: Top comment 1



My favourite place

Rock platforms - Newcastle Beaches hours of fun for kids, exploring nature that is always changing

Jun 03 2019 08:34 | Like (29) Dislike (0)

Figure 8: Top comment 2



My favourite place

Walking, mountain biking, rock climbing, beach, swimming, whale watching.....it has everything we love

Jun 03 2019 08:32 | Like (29) Dislike (0)

Figure 9: Top comment 3



My favourite place

Wildlife & walking tracks with public facilities

Jun 03 2019 08:45 | Like (24) Dislike (0)

Figure 10: Top comment 4



My favourite place

Ocean baths free & accessible

Jun 03 2019 08:43 | Like (20) Dislike (2)

Figure 11: Top comment 5



My favourite place

Bar Beach to Merewether is my favourite beach location

Jun 03 2019 10:35 | Like (18) Dislike (0)

Figure 12: Heat map most popular places

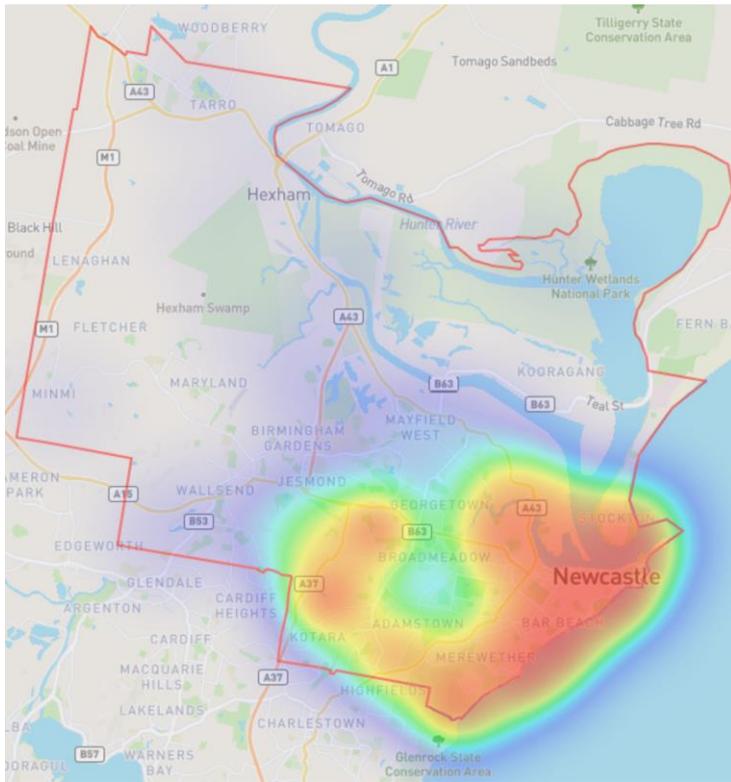


Figure 13: Number of pins dropped where

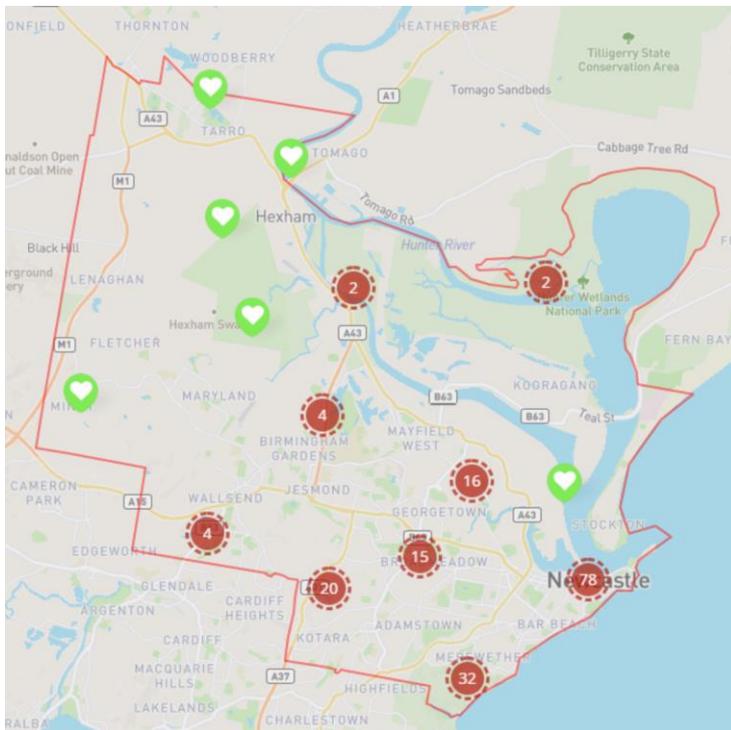


Figure 14: Word cloud of comments



Participants had the opportunity to provide an open response to the question 'please provide any other comment regarding how we can improve our facilities and services'. Due to the disparate nature of these comments and the fact that many of them refer to issues that are beyond the scope of City of Newcastle's purview, e.g. provision of public transport, they have not been coded and are provided in Appendix II Verbatim Comments.

3.7 Demographics

The tables below show the demographic breakdown of the survey sample.

Figure 15: Gender

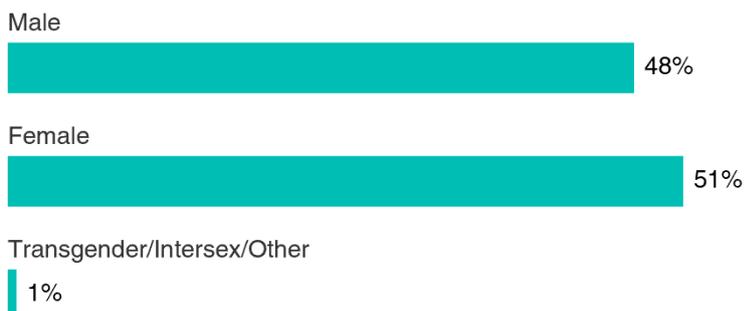


Table 12: Age range

Age range	%
20-24	1%
25-29	2%
30-34	4%
35-39	8%
40-44	9%
45-49	10%
50-54	9%
55-59	12%
60-64	11%
65-69	13%
70-74	13%
75+	6%
Prefer not to answer	3%

Figure 16: Location

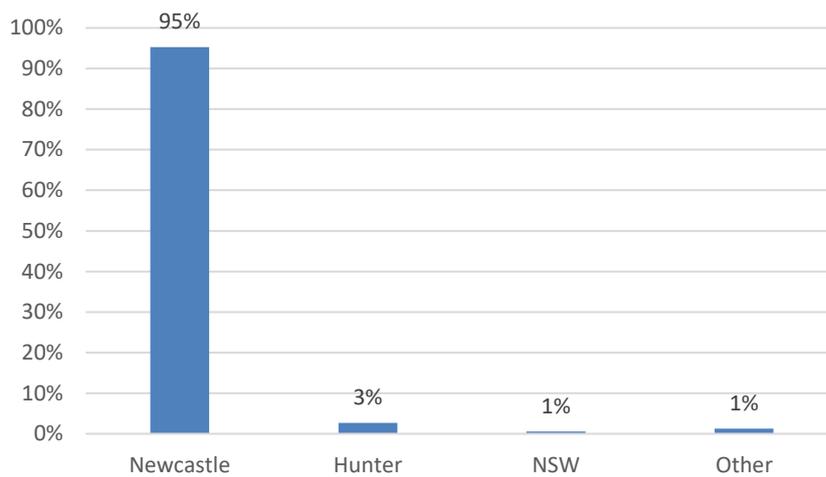
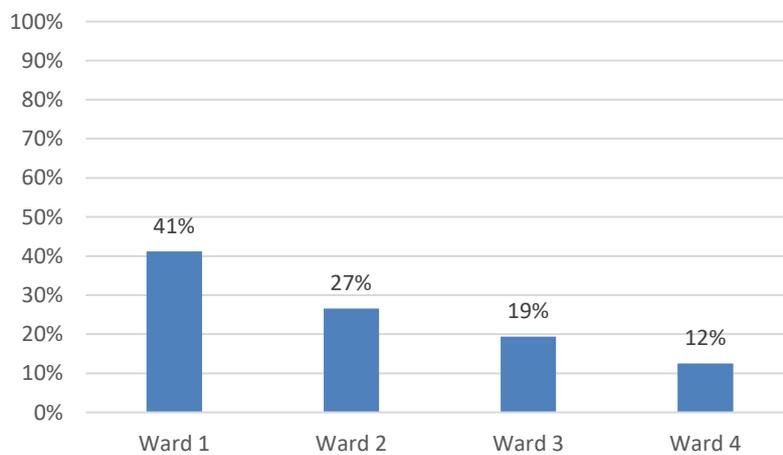


Figure 17: Ward



Note: Data was weighted so that each ward's results are equally represented (25% per ward).

Appendix I Questionnaire

Welcome to City of Newcastle's (CN) community survey program. We go out to the community with a unique survey every three months to seek feedback on a range of City initiatives, facilities and services. The results from this survey will help inform decision making now and in the future. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

We're going to ask you some questions to understand your views on Newcastle's environment – what's important to you and your family, your neighbourhood, the City and what are the key actions needed to protect, promote and enhance our environment.

Q. Thinking broadly about your local environment, please rank the top 5 issues that are most important to you? *Select up to five issues*

- Protecting natural areas (waterways, bushland, native plants and animals)
- Protecting the coastline (beaches, dune systems and rock platforms)
- Increasing urban density
- Expanding urban and street scale greening (provision of street & park trees, footpath gardens, green roofs and walls, community gardens)
- Reduce water pollution (including litter and marine pollution)
- Air pollution
- Land contamination
- Minimising waste (reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, single use plastic)
- Reduce energy and water use
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Changes in climate
- Availability of locally grown produce (prawns; vegetables, fruit, fish etc)
- Don't know

Q. Can you please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following?

- The water quality in our harbour and Hunter river
- The water quality in our local waterways and wetlands
- The quality of our beaches and dunes (sand, water quality & vegetation)
- The quality of our bushland (plants and wildlife)
- Newcastle's air quality
- The environmental regeneration works in our bushland, creek lines, wetlands, beaches & dunes
- The amount of natural green space in your neighbourhood
- The distance you need to travel to enjoy a natural green space.
- The level of greening in new developments (e.g. trees, green walls/roofs).

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Don't know

Q. Newcastle's vision is to create a smart, liveable and sustainable, global city. How liveable do you think Newcastle is now?

Not at all liveable and sustainable

Slightly liveable and sustainable

Somewhat liveable and sustainable

Very liveable and sustainable

Extremely liveable and sustainable

Don't know

Q. Which of the following aspects of the environment makes **your neighbourhood** more liveable? *Select all that apply*

- Street trees
- Local parks with shade trees
- Private trees and gardens
- Natural creekline or watercourse
- Footpath gardens
- Community gardens
- Shaded walking / cycling paths
- Cleanliness of public spaces;
- Other please specify
- Don't know

Q. Of the following, what are the five most important things that CN should focus attention and resources on over the next five years. *Select up to five issues*

- Habitat protection and enhancement (e.g. native vegetation, watercourse and wetland rehabilitation projects)
- Urban tree planting (increase numbers of street and park trees; green verge gardens throughout the City)
- Coastal management (revegetation; erosion control, dune enhancement)
- Education – environmental, climate change, sustainability
- Community support e.g. Landcare and Community gardens /volunteering/ grants
- Waste avoidance, reduction and recycling facilities or projects
- Action on climate change – advocacy, land use planning, works to mitigate and adapt to change
- City of Newcastle's operations address green-house gas emissions, energy and water efficiency
- All works should include improved run off quality and quantity e.g. rain gardens

Q. How concerned are you about the impact on you and your family of the future projected changes in our climate that might include:

- Bushfire
- Severe storms and hail
- Flooding
- Sea level rise
- Coastal erosion
- Increased temperatures
- Drought
- Loss of local plant and animal species

Not at all concerned

Slightly concerned

Somewhat concerned

Moderately concerned

Extremely concerned

Don't know

Q. Do you think that the level of information provide by CN about projected issues with climate change for the Newcastle area is adequate?

- Yes / No

Q. In the delivery of CN's operations, please rank in order of importance to you the following issues:

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Reducing water use
- Reducing electricity use
- Reducing usage of fossil-based liquid fuels
- Reducing waste going to landfill
- Increasing the use of Renewable Energy

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that City of Newcastle's operations should move to 100% renewable energy?

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Don't know

Thinking about the community's role in protecting and enhancing our local environment. We are interested to know whether you feel you have been encouraged or supported to participate in local environmental improvement / conservation projects.

Q. Please tell us if you or a member of your family already participate in, or are interested in participating in any of the following activities:

- Rescuing wildlife
- Landcare, Dunecare, Bushcare, Adopt a Park
- Community gardens
- Community open days and seminars eg microplastics, frog ponds, nest boxes, bee keeping
- Coastal education program
- Bush walking, orienteering
- Group bird watching
- Catchment tours
- Good bushland neighbours
- Sustainable living workshops
- Tree planting
- Citizen science e.g. Creek water bug and water sampling, bat and bird counts
- Litter clean up days
- Themed environmental movie nights
- Composting activities
- Replanting native areas e.g. creeklines

Interested in participating

Already participate/have participated in

Not interested in participating

Q. How would you like to find out about these activities? *Select all that apply*

- City of Newcastle social media channels (Facebook, twitter and/or Instagram)
- Main stream media news articles (print or digital)
- Main stream media advertisements (print or digital)
- City News delivered to your letter box (formerly Council News)
- City of Newcastle e-newsletters
- Signage in your local area about specific activities
- City of Newcastle website
- Information at City of Newcastle venues e.g. Museum, Art Gallery, Libraries, City administration centre
- Word of mouth
- Radio
- Other *please specify*

Q Overall, how satisfied are you with CN's performance regarding environment?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Don't know

We're now going to ask you a couple of questions about CN's sportsgrounds and recreational parks.

Q. What do you think are the top three things that need to be done to improve our sportsgrounds or facilities? *Select up to three responses*

- More seating
- Improved amenity blocks (e.g. toilets/change rooms)
- More shade
- Provision of fencing
- Improved playing surfaces
- Other *please specify*
- Don't know

What do you think are the top three things that need to be done to improve our recreational parks? *Select up to three responses.*

- Improved shade and shelters
- More seating
- Accessible pathways
- Greater range of play equipment
- Fenced playgrounds
- Improved picnic/BBQ facilities
- Provision of/improved public toilets
- Provision of recreational sporting facilities e.g. basketball courts, skate parks, parkour
- Other *please specify*
- Don't know

Q. If you have any other comment regarding how we can improve our services and facilities, please provide it below. [Open ended]

Q What is your gender?

Male

Female

Transgender/Intersex/Other

Q What is your age?

16-19

20-24

25-29

30-34

35-39

40-44

45-49

50-54

55-59

60-64

65-69

70-74

75+

Q Where do you live?

Newcastle

Hunter

NSW

Other

If live in Newcastle

Q Which of the four Newcastle LGA wards do you live in?

Ward 1: Carrington, Cooks Hill, Bar Beach, Fern Bay, Islington, Kooragang, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Newcastle, Newcastle East, Newcastle West, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham

Ward 2: Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Hamilton North, Hamilton South, Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction

Ward 3: Georgetown, Jesmond, Kotara, Lambton, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights, North Lambton, Waratah, Waratah West

Ward 4: Beresfield, Birmingham Gardens, Blackhill, Lenaghan, Callaghan, Elmore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Maryland, Minmi, Rankin Park, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro, Wallsend

Other

Appendix II Verbatim Comments

All verbatim responses are provided in Tables 13-17. Responses have not been edited in any way apart from profanities or naming of individuals (either Council staff or members of the public).

Table 13: Aspects that make neighbourhood more liveable - Other

Water/bubbler on walkways to encourage public use
Replace Canary Island Date Palms and Norfolk Island Pines with selected bio-regional natives
Removal of heavy freight from train line
Access to public transport
Inclusive areas for play
High quality common spaces
Street parking
Short commute to work
security and more street lighting
Lack of foot paths
Access to public transport
Local park (no shade trees)
Places for people to congregate safely
foot paths to walk on so we don't walk on the road
This is an ambiguous question.
Foot and road maintenance
Less buildings - more sun. these huge building around honeysuckle make cold wind tunnels in here walking & riding tracks that cut through between streets
close to natural environment
community volunteering for environment /groups in the street
location
Local amenities and events
Opportunities and support from council for volunteer rehab vegetation works
Despite inappropriate over development, Newcastle remains a good place to live
Human connection. Places to congregate and chat with the neighbours. Small scale community activities e.g. street party, small markets or food events. To meet, know faces for connectivity and safety
Location
More access for people with disability. Can't get around almost at all in suburbs as no foot paths!
Sense of community
More focus on the transition from personal vehicles to public transport
Footpaths that you can push a pram on, not like the corner of Howe and Moorhead, Lambton
more auto parking
proximity to city an, shopping centres, beaches and harbour
public transport, residents caring for their area's people and place
Community involvement
proximity to coast beaches and esplanade (shamefully unshaded though it is)
Walkways protected from rain. Stop cars parked all day on street
Ability to get around without a car
Safety

Bulk Waste Collection to Reduce Urban Rubbish
Closeness to Blackbutt
Water bowls at taps on dog walking paths
connectivity of shared paths
Lack of traffic congestion....
Good Neighbours
NO SUPERCARS ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS!!!
Walk ability,
local village shops
greenery
Wide, quality walk ways near the beach
? as in liveable now or could be? Q badly worded
Bushland areas (eg Jesmond, Merewether, Blackbutt, Wallsend)
Strategic population density planning. ie preventing everyone building large houses on their block of land and leaving no green space. It would be much better to have a high rise with a large community green space surrounding it. Think about smart urban density increase.
Functionality.. Transport, shops, walking space, traffic issues
local parks / ovals (no shade trees but)
Protect Heritage buildings
Beaches
Own the house
30km/hr speed limits
Less concrete which has replaced a lot of grass
Access to public transport, no through traffic in street, not overdeveloped (yet)
It's beauty, space and heritage
Better public transport
Less noise by cars idling cars people at nights pub music
is this question relating to existing things or things I expect??
Accessibility
people/residents
Ability to walk to amenities and entertainment for children
Community
Sustainable and easy to access public transport and cycleways
Available arts and culture
need more dedicated, separate bike paths; cycling is dangerous along Stewart and Parkway Avenues
URBAN SAFETY
Easy access to open areas/parks - parking, reliable public transport
you mean currently or what you'd like to see? Going for 'currently'
More places to go that don't cost money
Clean beaches
Proximity to public transport and to libraries and pool
Less people, lower density
Provision of non-fragmented habitat for native fauna
people out enjoying public spaces
Parks with free sporting facilities (basketball especially)
Need more seats along bathers way
More seating and tables-public areas

Bicycle paths through out city

Reduction in the number of cars.

A feeling of a safe community

Public transport access

Linking natural areas, eg. Fernleigh track, ANZAC walkway

The maintaining of council areas is substandard

Stockton Beach

Easy access to the harbour and river

Cycle ways

Walking around the harbour with uninterrupted access and views

accessibility. If you can't access the city/neighbourhood the rest is irrelevant

Affordable/public housing. Good, frequent transit options. Density and destinations around transit stations.

Better traffic control - stop putting in lights and then making same intersection one way.

Safe bicycle paths

Access - very poor public access, parking and support for people coming into Newcastle - either residents, guests or general visitors.

Merewether beach, although POORLY maintained

Well maintained! street and amenity trees

Maintenance to ensure safe footpaths and local streets to ensure a safe environment

Human scale development, and urban character

Proximity to the beach

Available parking

Access to the beach or lake

ticks in hope more than reality

None of the above. Mayfield really needs improvement.

Generally a very safe community

Community

Trees that DO NOT affect private property (eg, lifting fences and driveways)

Better bike infrastructure would be good

What is with all the environmental questions?? Is this the only priority of council?

Nothing of this kind

Need Better quality road and pavement repair

Effective bike paths and lighting to feel safe

Some freedom from constant construction disruption including loss of parking

Beach Proximity

fining dog owners for pooing everywhere

Medium density development with plenty of open sky and sunlight

Qn.is unclear - is it what we have or would like?

Better clean up of streets

Community run spaces

Beach

Examination of parking in narrow streets in old suburbs where footpath parking is a hazard and trees should be planted on one side and parking only on one side. people should be made to garage their cars when they have them and not park on the streets

Access to public transport

Parking , need more

Parking restrictions

Other things WOULD make my neighbourhood more liveable if they were more prominent .So would street trees etc - we have lost many of these, especially with the supercars.

Very dissatisfied with the unkept gardens in King Edward park. It was always such a lovely place to walk through, it is very unkept and a disgrace to our city.

Highest priority should be free parking for the first four hours all over Newcastle ! Why go into NEWCASTLE when you can get everything you want in Kotara and Charlestown and get the first four hours!

STOP cutting down mature trees.

ACTION ON SEWAGE BIOGAS IN MARKET TOWN

Fruit trees in community spaces and a better public transport system linking with SAFE cycle ways

Council-supported climate action plans

cycleways, cycleways, cycleways etc

I read this as would make more liveable?

Urban bushland; shaded and safe walk and cycle safe streets/paths; local centres to walk to; local bushland to visit

park and ride, better bus service

the people wanting continued improvement

Cycling paths

Lack of large concrete fences at the front of properties.

Public transport

It is unclear if you are asking about existing aspects, or what is needed more.

Heritage Buildings

Better cycleways across the whole city (this could reduce traffic for everyone). Public transport that connects the suburbs. Good parks and playgrounds, skateparks.

The CoN's Council decision to have a Supercars race right through the City Of Newcastle's historic precinct has caused continuing harm to the environment, noise pollution and air pollution. We need a change of culture at the CoN City Council

Beach proximity

access to public transportation and the option to cycle and walk to where I need to go

Table 14: How find out about activities

By walking around a corner & noticing the actual change

Information at social events and markets

Specific email with appropriate heading, so not lost in clutter

Work related interests

Local meetings with el

Tv

Email

Hunterhunter

Sms

Billboards

Community group facebook pages

Via this format

By my own private investigation

The what's happening on Facebook

email to interested people who register is my first preference

News Paper

via key community and environment groups

Newcastle Herald

Local schools engagement and or newsletter
Social media
Email notification
Community notice boards and local notice boards and signage and info at sites where events are to be held with schedule of activities in local area and surrounds
email
Text

Table 15: Other things to improve sportsgrounds

Turn them into gardens/parks
Keep basketball at Broadmeadow but definitely need new stadium
Eliminate environmental weeds, alien trees in particular
Trees/Plants and safe, lit access
Policing of dog/animal defecation
Car Parking Facilities.
Better access for all
Less sportsgrounds
I think they are adequate
Parking due to poor public transport
Install AFL goal posts on more cricket grounds. Pat Jordan and No1 are the only options for the whole city. Lots of kids play but there is very limited facility to practice goal kicking.
Improved landscaping.
shade areas and seating at the beaches
Parking
Improved lighting
Adequate Parking
Fencing, activities and shaded seating at dog parks
another vote for improved toilet blocks
ground vegetation - native turfs/gardens
water reclamation
more basketball courts locally for residents
parking control
development of first class cricket ground to attract big matches
More Public transport with less car spaces made available
More rubbish bins. Fenced dog areas
Fencing the storm drains
undesirables in the area
A scoreboard at number one and two sportsgrounds. Improving the watering of the grounds by pressuring Hunter Waterto proceed with their grey water program from Burwood through the pipe that exits near Merewether GC.
I think they're ok
Dog water bowls at unlocked taps (why lock the taps?)
Return all trees and grass that were removed for Supercars
Car Parking near the recreational areas
I really don't care because I don't use them
what about facilities for community use?

Cleaning up these facilities occasionally
provide parking
Improved passive recreation and children's playgrounds.
Better maintenance of outer ground surfaces. Eg: more regular mowing and weeding
Upgrade Number 1 Sportsground for First Class Cricket
More regular maintenance for all facilities, not just specific areas
Accessibility
Ensure there are enough bins for rubbish & recyclables
Additional amenities blocks
Get rid of supercars
more parking
Improved parking near the playing fields
parking
Parking
Actively ban smoking with fines
More parking
more free parking not in suburban streets
More shade trees around perimeters to watch from under.
parking - INCLUDING disability parks
More shade at Newcastle and Bar Beach
Entry fees charged
Greater access for public activity - not just for recognised sporting events
off leash dog areas
More free basketball courts!! There isn't many at all
security
Don't go to sporting grounds so not interested - but lighting and noise of ground made me more
away from a facility
More trees
this sporting obsession is so -----
Parking for disabled
All children's playgrounds need to have toilets
The maintenance of the grounds are mostly substandard
Especially at Dangar Park
More young children's recreation areas
Improved accessibility eg accessible toilets, footpaths, signage
waste bins on the sight
Stop sporting bodies thinking they own all parks. Also stop fencing parks.
Adapting buildings used for sports for more multi-functional community access and uses
ALREADY DO A GOOD JOB WITH GROUNDS
Public Transport access to sportsgrounds and recreational parks
more trees
More fenced dog parks
More water stations bubblers, covered picnic tables Improved cleaner public toilet and shower
facilities at ocean baths beaches & parks
Mow the lawns and weed the fields. Additionally, design for and target international events (ie. Big
bash cricket)
Areas for young children to play

Stop bogans parking all over it and compacting the surface would be a start!!!

restricted parking so that parks like Nesca and King Edward can be accessed on weekdays

Parking

more green spaces

More trees

More natural tree coverage, especially old trees, to keep the grounds cooler and retain soil

More variety of spaces dedicated to different uses

Help the development of the Hockey Centre. It is one of the most used recreational facilities yet relies mostly on member's to pay for anything.

I think that council needs to considering funding our struggling arts community that gives so much to the local community but is in danger of collapsing.

Too much spent on sports fields and not enough hard flat surfaces to roller skate on

Public transport to and from

kids playground in the city - not stuck out at blackbutt

parking space

Separate play areas for children

Stopping people using the playing fields as leash free areas for their dogs, the dogs urinate and defecate on fields that plays have contact with.

More fields at Corroba Oval Stockton

in my area streets are choked by cars parking.

Car parking

More trees

Stop cancelling games whenever it looks like raining Increase AFL game and training use of No 1 sportsground

More parking spaces

use of pesticides kill soil and water flora and fauna leading to soil degradation and less water holding capacity. compromising to wildlife and humans

Drinking Water Supply in Bray Park. Large climbing net for kids in Braye Park to increase family usage

More car parking

Provide for homeless folk to use amenity blocks with safety and dignity. Employ carbon sequestering, regenerative land practices.

Better access, parking

upgrade the toilet paper from box sheets

Controlling dogs and getting owners to pick up their dog poo at these places

Access and parking

More Garbage Bins & emptied more frequently

There is a difference between sportsgrounds & Recreational Parks. It is the 20/80% share that goes to sporting ground. This needs to be reversed. More people use recreational Parks.

More trees

More litter bins

Fenced dog parks

more trees where there are none and more rubbish bins

Table 16: Other things to improve recreational parks

Bins!
More plants
Accessible play equipment that children with sensory/autistic traits can enjoy
Where feasible, replace high-maintenance grasses with low-maintenance native ground cover plants
more parking spaces or better access by public transport
Removal of skate parks
Pat Jordan oval needs fencing. Balls are currently rolling out into traffic on Cowper Street which is very unsafe.
More fenced dog parks and offleash dog areas
Maintenance of the recreational park facilities
Adequate Parking
Fencing and activity stations at dog parks.
more greening / native vegetation /natural play areas
In general they are great
Keep all unnecessary vehicles off the grassed area to reduce solid compaction and deterioration of parks
Shared use with dog owners when no events are on
Mak8ng it easier, less red tape, for small scale community activities
MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK TOILETS SIGNAGE AND TAP WATER FACILITIES GLENROCK
More trees
More native plants and less formal gardens
Mire rubbish bins
Tree replacement and increase. Passive areas. Increased gardens
Safe cycle access, especially for young
More Garbage Bins
more parks
Dog water bowls, showers at cowrie hole
Fenced off dog parks, more cycleways
Perimeter fencing and garbage's
Car Parking spaces near the recreational areas
Stop cutting down the trees in Newcastle, plant the trees that were promised after the destruction of the Foreshore park.
level grounds with good water runoff
Once again I don't use them so I don't care
Cleanliness. Some pens are known for needles and broken glass
Yore lease free
PARKING NEAR FACILITIES.
more trees
Replacing the beautiful mature trees shrubs and undergrowth at foreshore park. Regressing the Stupidcars road
Better ground maintenance eg: more regular mowing and weeding
Garbage bins or similar
More Trees and Shade and seats
Adults like games too
More trees especially after the ones removed for Supercars event
Planting of edible fruit trees

Stop giving away public space to private companies

Lighting is woefully inadequate restriction participation after sunset and before first light. This disproportionately affects women and children who should have equal access to recreational areas

More enclosed dog parks

Give the homeless people an adequate place to live!

Bike paths connecting recreational parks

mass low plantings that are child friendly spaces

More dog friendly

FREE parking (to encourage more people to use them - I'm thinking Blackbutt)

Upgrade Civic park toilets. That toilet block on the corner of Darby and Laman street

Dog access and biodegradable poo collection bags

Seating and furniture made from recycled materials.

Improved surface management on sporting fields.

More gardens

Fenced dog parks

more trees

No more concrete and Hunan development prefer green spaces

Small kiosks (timber design sensitive to setting) selling healthy food & drinks

more trees

Connected footpaths from public transport stops to facility eg Orchardtown Road to Richley Reserve - there are no footpaths you have to walk on the road. Fail.

reduce the cost of parking at Blackbutt

The lawns and other vegetation need to be cared for more professionally done

Regular rubbish clean ups.

More dog friendly areas are needed,

Better parking for private vehicles. How do people bring picnic equipment chairs etc without their cars.

Accessible toilets, signage etc

fenced dog parks

have no complaints.

Keep dogs away, they should be fenced in. Dixon park is dangerous area for all dog owners have zero consideration for others

More trees that are all maintained to a high standard. Park exercise equipment.

Public Transport/bike paths to recreational parks; improved cleanliness of recreational parks

more bike paths

More leash free dog areas in parks

More fenced dog ground

Mowing and weeding of ovals.

Work with YS or other to remove the antisocial element on Hudson Park!!! Then I might feel like I can allow my children to use it

Fenced off leash dog park

more natural coverage, especially older trees, to keep cool and retain soil

Better provisions for dogs

More native plantings

Council is doing a great job now.

Remove supacars

Natural playgrounds

Build it and they will come (look at how popular Stockton Skate park is!)

More trees

more parking spaces

More mature trees

TREES

less chemical use, bush tucker plants, less plastic structures and more natural timber structures, community gardens and info signage

Provide for homeless folk to use amenity blocks with safety and dignity. Employ carbon sequestering, regenerative land practices.

native vegetation to provide for urban ecology

outdoor exercise equipment for adults, not just focused on children's play equipment

Mote garbage bins and emptied more frequently

Table 17: CN overall comment

You included verge gardens in this survey but i have been waiting about 6 years for release of promised verge planting guidelines. First councillor said next year, next one said no we changed our mind, last year i was told definite maybe. It cant be that hard when other councils are already doing it

When returning to Newcastle after being on holiday the absence of trees and a feeling of barrenness is very apparent. There is a great need for more street planting and in parks the planting of large growing trees. Annual Council organised free trees for home gardeners would be a good idea. Whenever trees are planted the need for adequate water until they are established is essential, often the trees are left without water to die; a totally wasted effort.

Shade trees especially at beach for people and cars.

Water freely available bubblers or refill drink bottles at parks & sports venues

As previously stated, rid the place of prominent trees that don't belong here. Replace with a selection of our sadly neglected wildlife-friendly natives. Examples include *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Syzygium australe*, *Angophora costata*, *Melicope elleryana* and, depending on situation, many others.

- Where the council owns small park areas that are not that popular, they should be targeted for partial conversion to bird & bee friendly lots. This will also reduce the use of the mowers and other petrol based equipment.

- The red bin sizes need to be reduced further, to force people to consider their waste. Alternatively, make a smaller bin available, with a rate reduction as a reward for use.

- CON needs to work with the Port Corp to turn that vacant lot into a recycled product manufacturing centre, to show we can make & use products within the region (road base, outdoor furniture etc)

- Push for more regular train services from say, Fassifern to Newcastle, to encourage us. Weekend services are so infrequent that it discourages patrons.

- Keep working on path widening, to encourage skating, cycling use.

Basketball is gaining popularity and more courts/hoops would be helpful. Think empire park, national park, etc.

Since Supercars, the streetscape in the city is almost devoid of trees. CoN's policy to tar and concrete everything has created a city heat-sink. Not at all conducive to a 'sustainable' city. Foreshore planting falls far short of the promised plan pre-supercars. Bathers Way gardens (Newcastle section) are pig face and weed only. CoN has not tended to shrubs and trees and most have died.

Monoculture of 'Tuckaroos' is counter to diversity of planting advised in CoN urban greening strategies/policies. Opening streets to through traffic and removing trees and gardens is a backward step.

Have an aggressive public campaign to address dog owners who do NOT clean up their dogs droppings. It is difficult walking on paths and for people who use mobile seats. Get your rangers out to police this. It is no good having laws if they are not enforced. Also, task your garbage truck drivers to identify, while on their rounds, unregistered cars parked in the streets. There are so many of them. Launch a public campaign encouraging citizens what to do about these cars parked in streets near where they live.

Children's play equipment was so poor in my suburb, my children didn't have a chance to use it before they were grown up. I think there needs to be recognition that waiting 10 years for upgrades is just too long for young children.

100% renewable energy by 2030 + Newcastle container terminal

More tree planting.

Bring back quarterly kerbside clean up which gives opportunity for items to be reused rather than going straight to tip.

Be more like Lake Macquarie council in terms of driving and supporting environmental and sustainability programs.

More off road cycling paths to encourage safe cycling.

Encourage verge gardens.

Get rid of ugly useless skate parks

More inclusive, play-based facilities for children. Refer to reserach on 'Cities for play' and accessible cities that focus on 'kind cities' rather than so-called 'smart cities'.

Around Newcastle East area a lot more could be done to improve the ocean baths and park near the light rail stop as these are both areas that tourists visit. The change room facilities are appalling. There is no hygienic way to wash your hands and that is definitely a health risk especially with small children and overseas visitors, There is a significant lack of street maintenance. Safety issues in the cbd for pedestrians and cyclists. There has already been a death in King St because of the lack of supervision of trucks etc in areas of development. Lack of parking in the cbd is extremely poor and for someone my age parking is important as walking is difficult. This is also affecting businesses in the city as is expensive rents of buildings sometimes owned by Sydneysiders. Many businesses in Darby St and Beaumont Street have ceased operation. What is the council doing to help local small businesses which are the lifeblood of Newcastle. Newcastle Art Gallery needs to be expanded to attract more people to Newcastle. Rather than big buses small buses would be better like they have in most European cities.

Commercial fitness operators dominate many of our common spaces, particularly in the mornings. They are often inconsiderate - taking up pathways, blocking access to e.g. toilet blocks, and playing loud music that not everyone wants to hear. These are commercial businesses. They should pay a licence fee to use the common areas that are maintained by our Council; there should be a maximum number issued in any given period; and licence holders should be performance monitored to maintain the licence. This a revenue generating opportunity for the Council, and the fees could go back into improving those spaces.

Re. Rec parks: More inclusive for all abilities, e.g. rubber matting instead of woodchip to allow mobility walkers and chairs to get to equipment, sensory equipment, not just rope ladder access but actual steps, multi level play so children sitting on ground still have something to play with, fencing to help disabled children which tend to run when sensory overwhelmed.

Thank you for thinking to get people's opinions on these important matters to create a greener, more inclusive Newcastle.

Make it easier for the community to access funds for itself.

More bins in beach car parks to reduce littering Merewether does not have any. Plant more trees please.

Concentrate on core business and stay out of international, federal and state politics. Less focus on publicity for the mayor and ceo and more for the city. Reduce the rates. Encourage activities that create more jobs. Seperate walkways from cycleways. More parking. More free short stay parking

spots. Move the light rail back onto the railway corridor. Halve the elected councillors. Make all council business and financial information publicly available. Get rid of the Supercars. Encourage the cruise terminal and other job and wealth creating projects. Encourage painting of murals on the ugly silos and other large industrial buildings.

sack the CEO and vote out the Mayor

Pat Jordan oval is in need of more grass as it is mainly dirt. Some Fencing is needed to stop balls rolling into traffic on Cower Street and also to keep the hoons from driving their cars on the oval.

stop putting in speed humps and roundabouts

You have a responsibility to provide a safe footpath area for residents. We live in Allan Street New Lambton and have no footpaths at all which makes it very unsafe for the elderly and students walking. I urge the council to inspect this area and install footpaths. I have written previously and all I get is a negative response. Please heed this call. It is a dangerous area for walking.

Please work on restoration of some of our beautiful inner city parks eg Pacific Park. It is routinely cleaned, mowed and weeded but it has been at least 5 years since any replanting or reassessment (as far as I can see) has been undertaken. Foreshore park lost a lot of large trees in the last reworking, I'd like to see more large trees planted to provide not only shade but habitat that was lost for birds etc when many of these trees (in the hundreds) were removed and replaced with other lesser sized/quality trees. Many thanks, appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

Clean the facilities more often

No - there is very little evidence that Council uses this information

as we are pretty much the melanoma capital of the known universe there needs to be more shaded areas, particularly at the beaches (eg Newcastle) that can be beautiful nods to our heritage - the way other cities celebrate their history, not ugly modern development that won't stand the test of time.

Less about climate change and more about essential services including better transport options

It is our understanding that Council is responsible for roads, footpaths and waste management. Our area doesn't have foot paths that make it safe for pedestrians to walk. The council seem to be more interested in issues that are not within their purview and as far as I am concerned are not delivering to the suburbs surrounding Newcastle the basics that they are responsible for.

We have had an increase in rates with no increase in capital works done in our street. Which has become a major thoroughfare for traffic on their way to Lookout road. Your solution was to install speed humps which we know would aggravate the residents but have little effect on traffic.

Newcastle LGA has noticeably terrible footpaths compared to everywhere else I've lived. Any improvement to paths (or putting them in!) is good

Stop wasting ratepayer money on frivolous rubbish like this. Concentrate on core business as required under the Local Government Act and get rid of the rest of the nonsense. Downsize NCC by at least 25% - that will reduce your carbon footprint!

Is there an opportunity in this survey to comment on halls and libraries? If not, I would have appreciated this opportunity.

Council has an immediate necessity to uphold its basic facilities. Roads, Garbage and waste collection. Council has not mandate to promote social engineering.

More footpaths, especially going away from schools or parks. (Eg Henry St (Pilkington Park) to Jesmond Primary.)

More structures in parks. (Eg Pilkington Park could have a walking/bike path around it (inside), or cricket nets.

Maintain and improve graffiti removal services

Find ways to catch graffiti-ists, perhaps using secret cameras. Same for legal dumping.

Provide maps showing where all the recreational parks are, and indicate their special features and facilities.

It would be great to have a map of the walking and riding trails in Murdering Gully/Burwood

Beach/Glenrock State Conservation Area, Blackbutt Reserve, and similar large parks.

Would like adequate parking at Stockton's Corroba Oval and Ferry Wharf.

The poor cleanliness of our major shopping streets eg Beaumont St is a disgraceful example of a city that claims to want improved livability

25 years ago, before the words 'climate change' and appeared in the media, I published a report to major insurers predicting temperature rises over the next 25 years. Nothing to do with carbon, but rather solar activity. The current research funding-motivated climate change industry is disgraceful. Starting in about 2 years' time, temperatures will drop over the following 10 years, by the end of which they will be the coldest since 1850. Will you still be pushing the renewable's barrow then? How long will it take you to work out what is really driving the current senseless panic? Stop wasting our money on this fad and concentrate on real ecological environmentalism. John Loiterton 0438 523610

there are lots of great improvements - bathers way, Lambton park, blackbutt -but (with the exception of blackbutt) the toilet blocks are revolting (or non existent) - its horrible to have to take children into them.

loss of public toilets seems to be a big issue. Love to see more natural playgrounds and naturalisation of the concrete/creeklines that run through our open spaces - bring more animal life back to suburbs and parks

In general the green space and parks are well looked after, well done. Improved view corridors/green space access between the city and the harbour would be ideal. It would be a shame to see shady, windy, lifeless brick corridors as a result of too much development around the ex-train line in the city and the west end

There appears to be a lot of effort to prepare reports, however if council wants to make a large contribution to environmental wellbeing why is it that there a few or no gross pollutant traps on storm water exit points to the creeks, harbour and ocean.

Monitor and enforce pollution controls from all building sites.

Enforce littering regulations.

Good luck and thank you

I notice that some council laws are cut very short, revealing dust and oil and increasing the need for water e.g., opposite Great Northern Hotel. Please instruct mowers to leave a certain height of grass.

Replace the trees, and grass removed for Supercars.

Ban Supercars.

Improved safety and policing to combat anti social behaviour, graffiti, dogs off leash etc in public areas playgrounds etc

The question regarding rank in order of importance to you the delivery of CN's operations had 6 choices. Unlike the previous question, which allowed the respondent to make a choice of " not important", this question denied the respondent that option. Thus the respondent was required to list in order those choices, so making the response, to some degree, a foregone conclusion. That is, "these options are all important because they have been ranked". Disappointingly, there was no choice regarding being more careful with spending ratepayers' money. As to the question, while the options of reducing water and electricity use and waste to landfill may have a cost benefit, the remaining three do not. Increasing the use of renewable energy is expensive as is reducing carbon emissions. While reducing the usage of fossil-based liquid fuels would either suggest doing less work out in the community - i.e. not using council vehicles? or moving to electric vehicles, which are very expensive. Ratepayers want Council to fulfil core services at the least cost possible. However, it is very easy to spend other people's money. We've just had a federal election where the majority of the population voted against moving to a higher percentage of electricity generation from renewal energy because of the higher costs associated with these changes to the consumer and to the economy, the burden on business and the loss of jobs. Before implementing any of these options, it

would be appreciated if Council also examined by how much a redirection of our monies to these nebulous activities would cost. Included in such an analysis should be the resultant reduction in core basic services because of that redirection of resources. And no we don't want to pay anymore in Council Rates!

It would be great if there was more focus on opportunities for the creative industries rather than a focus on sports and their facilities.

Provide shade at Dixon Park playground. It is unusable for most of the year.

Gentrify Stockton's Main Street ; provide lighting at our only pedestrian crossing (it is pitch black at night) ; provide solar lighting in Stockton's Hub area ; increase the ferry to include Wickham & Carrington ; reseal Little Maitland St which is now dangerous due to extreme potholes . Thank you

The playground at Hudson Park needs updating and expanding and moving further away from Westfield. Also more seating and a BBQ area. It also needs to be cleaned up more regularly as the High School Students leave rubbish everywhere. The trees that were planted in Hudson Park recently have been vandalised and need to be replaced. Bollards need to be installed to stop vehicles parking on the park when football etc are on. There are usually more then 20 cars parked up on the surface of the park and over the footpath - makes it scary to walk through there as you feel you are going to get run over.

Don't just talk about all this action it. Let's look at Sweden are having to import landfill as they are so good at reusing, recycling etc. What is wrong with Australian councils not stepping up? It's not hard. They done it for over 30 years!!! Shame on us Newcastle! More education and training in to our schools as this is where we will have our future generations learning g what to do when to do how to do! We are running out of excuses! Just do it or there be nothing g left for our great grandchildren! Also make more foot paths in the suburbs as you can't even see your own neighbour hood. If you are in a wheel chair or Walker. Now inclusion is not on NC agenda?? So let's make some plans and do it! It's discrimination against disabled people. Stuck I. Their houses or have to take a car some where to enjoy the out doors. Now that is not sustainable!

i WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK WITH SIMILAR FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT LOCAL CYCLISTS AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO USE THE GLENROCK FACILITIES TRACK MAINTENANCE WATER OR TAP OUTLET TOILETS OR UPGRADE THE MOUNT SUGARLOAF TRACK SIMILAR TO MOUNT STROMLO IN CANBERRA

Provide more fenced, lead free dog areas and biodegradable poo bags. These can be shared areas for sporting activities as well. Provision of bags will ensure dog owners pick up droppings.

Don't build a skate bowl on the beach at South Newcastle Beach

More trees.

Makes home owners remove plants obstructing pathways. The house at the corner of xxx and xxx only ever cuts back their trees beside the path to the path edge. They immediately grow over it. They even have understorey plants growing in dirt on top of the path! If they want big trees to block noise they should be on their land, not ours. Other houses in xxx St also have impinging trees but they are not quite as bad.

protect what we have from developers. increase short term parking if you expect to draw people from a distance. try alternate side of the street parking to facilitate things like leaf clean up. consider personnel reductions when technology is introduced. improve care and pruning of trees we have instead of just adding more trees. start construction for an attraction like our art gallery expansion.

Ensure that there is a fair distribution of facilities and services in the out suburbs of Newcastle not just the inner city area. We like to walk and exercise in the suburbs as well without having to travel into city area using a vehicle/parking etc.

Why don't you fine Woolworths, Coles and ALDI for letting trolleys out of the shopping complexes?

Good response to resident's reports of vandalism with repairs. Better selection of street tree species so native species have priority, and some follow up of streets that trees have not flourished by asking locals, and more sensible location of street trees. The replacement of mature native trees in

Wallsend shopping centre car park with exotic little shrubs was bad for customers and the environment, and not asked for by residents.

I enjoy great public spaces including beaches and parks and consider myself privileged to be able to do so. As urban density increases, so does the need for open space and low-key places to run, train, picnic, play family or group games, not necessarily with spectator seating or other formal structures. Street trees are of huge importance as foils against overheating in cities, as a refuge for wildlife, and by providing a connection, however imperfect, with the natural world.

Remove supercars access to Foreshore Park, Shortland lawn.

More effort needs to be made, by CoN, to maintain existing infrastructure and urban environment. There are many locations around the city where trees have been damaged or removed and the space is just filled with asphalt.

There are high traffic roads in the inner city which at best goat tracks, please fix them.

CoN has little interest with communicating with ratepayers. More than one letter is usually needed to CoN before an appropriate reply is received.

Address issue of shading on coastal esplanades where most people walk and relax. Send planners to talk to city planners where these issues have been creatively addressed - like Brisbane's river and bayside facilities.

Newcastle need the Art Gallery expanded

More trees to park areas such as fort scratchly playground and Newcastle east streets.

Free parking at all Blackbutt reserve car parks. It's very discouraging to go to have to pay to go to such a wonderful reserve. Free parking would make the whole visit better.

Better access and availability of public toilets

I think the council should be paying more attention to the needs of the outer suburbs not just looking after the foreshore in providing beautiful spaces for only a select few people who live there. We pay our rates too and deserve to have more done for our suburbs. The Lord Mayor should take a good hard look at what's being done for us in the western suburbs. Absolutely nothing.

Increased urban density has to be a target for our city but with that comes the need for more outdoor areas for families. Apartment living as a family is possible (speaking from experience) but having access to a range of outdoor spaces, easily accessible by foot, is imperative. School playgrounds should all be made safe and open for the public (currently this is decided on a school-by-school basis). We need to make better use of our outdoor spaces and also the transport to get to them.

Tidying up skate parks & providing more garbage bins in parks.

More trees please I have watched trees taken out for units over the road from me and none planted to replace them. I live near the uni and don't like what I am seeing. Big yellow taxi syndrome I think you can never have too many trees. The birds are going to no habitat which is very bad.

Get the gardeners and lawn mowing section to do more regular mowing and gardens to be looked after more often

Act to remove bindis from parks and sports ground BEFORE they get so bad that you can't walk the dog on them. Spraying occurs too late in the season. Start bindi control in winter. Improve footpath and cycle access to parks.

Please save runoff water... not easy to do but we see all our water wasted.... newcastle council surveyed about five years ago asking if it was important... of course it is a preference To water restrictions...why can't council catch water with efficiency..... also the pollution and rubbish which goes down the street drains is to improve ... people as well as council should be encouraged to keep drains healthy.

Always think of sustainable options. Try to source furniture or equipment via bags to benches program is one example.

I'd like to see more cycleways and more done to make Newcastle a cycling friendly community

you guys are doing a good job

Recommence regular community engagement meetings with ward councillors - not the Lord Mayor or Ceo!

We are getting there, but still a long way to go. Keep it as our main focus. Look globally to what is working, Denmark, Sweden ... those guys!

Many answers depend on the age group or interest in Sport. I'm in the older age group and have never been interested in Team Sports

Get rid of the Lord Mayor and the Council General Manager, they are only there to support the top end of town with their approval of high density housing which in turn is destroying the environment and community lifestyles.

Plant more trees, especially after storm damage and Supercars. Council gardens are deteriorating. Employ more people to maintain public areas.

Be prudent in the councillors spending. Remember we pay large rates for the council to provide facilities for rate payers. Do not increase salaries to councillors.

Provide more litter bins .

Increase green space

Not so much development at cost of environment

Continue to improve connections between existing cycle and walking facilities.

This is currently in very poor shape along the sections of Honeysuckle Drive which are blocked by building developments.

NC could do more instead of placing the burden on sporting groups

There is a general lack of garbage bins in the city streets. I often see bottles, paper etc that I would pick up and put in a bin if one were available but mostly they are conspicuous by their absence.

There is a huge need for isolated cycle paths.

Open a community garden on the corner of Parry street and Smith.

Definitely need more shade and fence the playgrounds

I go putting dog bowls in parks under taps. So many of the taps are locked... why? For example where in lambton park walkway can we give a dog a drink? Only two taps and one is locked

NC IS NOT AS ADVANCED IN GREEN WASTE USES AS LMCC.

As for recycling it really is shameful as to what really goes on with it after the public have carefully sorted it into specific bins. Even worse we have paid for it to go to Malaysia who don't want it and are now returning it to Australia. This is an urgent, worldwide problem.

In the recent Federal elections very little was on offer for our drought stricken farmers, another shameful situation across Australia. Is the Government just going to look way until they are again in dire straights and expect the public to help out? WATER NEEDS TO BE AT THE TOP OF THEIR LISTS.

Integrated network of cycleways.

High/medium density house developments to be required to have green space included in plan.

Lack of prevision of safe walking tracks; none in Mayfield East

Upkeep and erosion control of our beaches....being pro active not reactive.

Bike paths should be more continuous and not disappear... and then reappear a few km. later.

Hunter st is now very dangerous to cycle along

City regions need more trees to provide a barrier for our increasing temperatures. Newcastle council appear to me making improvements in this area but need more trees along the coastline to provide shade in Summer. I know this can be an issue with the peoples that think view is more important than the environment but more education may prevail.....

Council is responsible to ratepayers for spending our rates contributions wisely.

Please do not increase capital cost of our councils plant by selecting electric over diesel or petrol, unless you can justify and then demonstrate a lower life cycle cost!

Your primary role is to cost effectively improve and maintain local government services.

Please buy some decent plant to keep footpaths and pavers cleaned regularly. Suggest motorised

footpath clever/sweepers.

More lighting on streets and paths

Please provide more garbages in parks and particularly at Horseshoe Beach Newcastle. Also more frequent garbage removal is needed at Horseshoe Beach. Also seating and shelter at that beach would be appreciated. More seating around playing ovals would be good too. More street trees are needed in ALL suburbs and all green areas to help with the increasing heat of summers. As well, ALL buildings, unit blocks and commercial need much more greenery surrounding them to provide natural photosynthesis thus providing more oxygen into the atmosphere. Otherwise reduce population to make up for the bare concrete and tar.

CoN should NOT allow the private company Supercars to close and use residential streets for their own financial gain. This is the single most abhorrent action this council has EVER allowed.

Generally, in Newcastle City, the inner suburban shopping areas, and near sporting and recreational areas car parking is woefully inadequate. The beautiful waterfront area from Wickham to Nobbys, with its many excellent food and drink establishments, is virtually inaccessible since public transport from outer suburbs and parking areas in the city are both non-existent at weekends of in the evenings.

To encourage walking and riding in and around the city we need more drinking water fountains and toilets. It would be useful to have safer cycleways. Some extra shade and seating with more greenery and some sculptures around the harbour would make it more appealing.

The Foreshore park was a great legacy left by previous councils for the enjoyment of all Novocastrians. This council has destroyed it by allowing a private company to cut down trees and lock up the park for three months of the year. Get Supercars out of residential areas and replant the Foreshore park so that ALL residents can enjoy the space. Council should hang their heads in shame over what they have allowed to happen to our premier park.

Llewellyn St Merewether desperately needs a carpark at the shops. This could easily be achieved by using the grassed area in the middle of Merewether St between Llewellyn St and Berner St.

Public toilets need to be available and accessible. Council seems to be taking them away more than you are putting them in. Or you do a nice park and the toilets are nearly 500 m away too far for a nana or a 2 yr old to get there with dignity intact. Also, make your parks affordable. The bookings fees really disadvantage people who don't have much money this is most of us!

Hamilton's Gregson park is a credit too the people who work there and maintain the whole park but I would like to see some action on the old Hamilton bowling club eye sore that puts a lovely park to shame

The environment team needs to actually listen to feedback, not just ask for feedback and then ignore it by saying they are following procedure. Not good enough NCC. Need more focus on good engineering and less on environmental outcomes.

Forget about the smart city rubbish and get back to basics. Fix the drainage in the park behind my house so the run off doesn't end up in my yard. This survey has been quite annoying because it does not cover basics.

The above stupid logo indicates to me that Newcastle City Council has totally lost any contact with reality. \$50000 for that rubbish is a disgraceful waste of money.

Urgently need to address the coastal erosion in Stockton

More shade in kids play areas would be great along with fenced parks for security of younger kids + to keep dogs away.

More outdoor basketball court spaces would be super. Replace one of the tennis walls at Bar beach with a basketball half court.

Put the tram on the old rail corridor. Give back lanes and parking spaces. (One lane Newcastle) people want Newcastle to be a world city, what word city makes everything smaller, and goes out of

its way to increased congestion.

libraries and community halls are not looked after well - more of each, please

I appreciate what the NC has done to improve ratepayer-used amenities. The Bathers Way is terrific. The cleaning of Ocean Baths is well done. The soldier walkover on Strezlecki is good. The Dixon Park BBQ and dog area are great. The improvements at the Clocktower Mall will be very exciting(I live near there). But it seems there is always something to do and more claims on the Council's time and money. I don't like too much NC control to deter use of quality facilities but at the same time citizens have to be educated about the need for not littering for example. in Japan you never see any litter in their parks or streets. We could copy how they do that?

Bike pathways and foot paths for commuting and recreational walking/running etc.

When I sent a query to the CN about what was required to start a community garden I was told by xxx to go to the website and follow the links. I had already tried that and couldn't find one. I asked for him to send me the link. Strangely enough he could not find the link either. He then passed me on to xxx. I tried to call her a couple of times but she did not return my call. Sadly I gave up. I don't really think the CN is interested in creating community gardens. If they were they would be encouraging them.

I love the some of the facilities that Newcastle has to offer. My favourite one is the Merewether baths which I visit all year round. I love the facility and the vibe people have at the baths. Even the open communal shower room strangely enough is a place to meet people. I fear that one day the change rooms will be changed to ones similar to the surf house where they are dark dingy, cramped and stink. Or they will be like the ones now at Newcastle beach where they are cramped and tiny cubicles. Keeping open plan change rooms especially when you have kids is important. Fitting 3 kids and yourself in one of those change rooms is not exactly easy.

If NC was even just a tiny bit serious about the environment there would be solar hot water at the baths.

If NC was serious about the environment they would need to make some radical step changes. For instance - ban cars in the city or toll them to supplement public transport. Why can it take me 15 minutes to drive to work and 45 minutes by public transport. or 30 minutes if I ride? Leading cities around the world have superior public transport to the point where private cars are not needed. Things like the Fernleigh track are fantastic but pavement is deteriorating and has tree roots lifting the track and fences decayed and falling over. At times it can be quite congested and a widening of the track would be appreciated. More tracks like this would be fantastic.

Maybe some workshops around what could be done could elicit more ideas from the community. Thanks for providing the opportunity for feedback

Better publicity - I don't use social media very frequently, and I don't look at the website, so I'm not sure how I'll find out about participating in community activities such as the ones described in this survey. Email or texts usually work best for me.

Council needs to increase focus and investment in local grassroots sporting facilities, having lived in Lake Macquarie the quality of sporting fields and facility is far superior.

Collect rubbish, Mow parks, Provide lighting, This is what we pay council rates for and not for ideological causes.

Power points near BBQ. Parking near picnic facilities.. Not a walk to them. Windbreaks for some picnic facilities

Protect heritage suburbs and buildings. Don't allow modern brick and tile homes to be built in older suburbs such as Mayfield, Lambton, Hamilton, Adamstown, Tighes Hill, Maryville etc. Preserve and protect before they are all gone.

Toilet facilities are hard to find in the Newcastle CBD. The new ones in the old railway track land opposite Queen's Wharf are daunting, as are the ones at the bus stop at the junction of Scott and Hunter Street. The ones in the Senior Citizens Centre close early as do the ones on the upper level of

the Hunter Street Mall. Since the loss of David Jones there are no store toilets available. Newcastle Station toilets are not available to the public. There is a big concern about flammable wall panels on new buildings in Newcastle, eg on the recently completed apartment building on the corner of King and Newcomen Streets. How did that happen? Also the panels on the Scenic Tours building at 25 Watt St; they are Alucobond panels known to be flammable. There are other buildings with these panels. What is the City of Newcastle's policy about these flammable building panels?

Don't give our public parks to a private company for 3 months every year, denying people access, and for parks to be ruined. Repairs are then at rate payers expense. Parks are for people to use and should not be fenced off for exclusive use by a private for profit organisation.

First of all release the cost of Supercars to ratepayers. Second, the cost to ratepayers of the cost to the west end. Third rehabilitating the Foreshore Park and publicly apologise for lying about the actual number of people who attended the supercars events and for lying about the economic, environmental and social impacts that bringing Supercars to a residential area, caused. Then, we might start to understand that there are people in Council who are honest and not driven by ego

A bubbler on Gun Club Road at the Glenrock entry for hikers, runners, mountainbikers etc.

Keep on asking the community

Better / shading at ocean pools

CycleSafeNetwork to get to them

Do not attend sporting matches or go to parks but when I have attended, I have noticed that there is not a lot of shade around, especially now that the sun seems to be hotter.

Don't allow developments with inadequate or inaccessible parking (e.g. corner of Fern and Beaumont St - used by B&B people, tricky access. Or Lifestyle solutions in Fern St who said in their DA they would provide parking for clients but don't. Or flats on Maitland Rd with no parking). Also consider in DAs where bins will be picked up - do a follow up the day after bin day and see the bins still on the footpath. You talk in this survey about 'Newcastle' - presumably the LGA which covers farmland to heritage inner city to high rise to suburban sprawl. Difficult to answer a question considering all the different contexts.

Increase sealed pathways within park and sports ground areas

Need better shade at playgrounds. Stop cutting down neighborhood trees. More shade on footpaths to reduce heat and make it nicer to walk around the neighborhood and the city.

If you have a street tree planting program I would like to know what it is. The trees in my street have reduced by over half in the last three years but I have been told that there will be no replacement program because of projected roadworks which a budget still has not apparently been allocated.

Most Public Toilets leave a lot to be desired. As the Newcastle living areas increase, Sporting facilities move backwards!

Reintroduce regular bulk waste collection to reduce all the dumping.

Check noise levels from venues and the outdoor performances. Especially after dark. It seems to be getting louder and more frequent especially in last summer.

Newcastle deserves to host First Class cricket eg Big Bash, Sheffield Shield. Number 1 Sportsground needs to be upgraded.

Newcastle has so many opportunities but shows little progress and perhaps is going backwards. My ideas for improvement and the best directions are given below

PLANNING (developments and public spaces):

Firstly have a town plan that is clear, strategic and that puts people at its forefront. The most liveable cities in the world do that. A great example is the manner in which Melbourne suburbs have been developed in the past few decades. They use a balance of housing and business development that actually harmonises with public spaces and public transport, while having "village centres" at a number of suburbs or precincts. They actively focus on how a place feels not merely how high a high-rise should be to benefit a developer. Clearly the Newcastle City Mall is a horror stretch with

many buildings unused with no incentives to revive them - keeping old buildings in cities is a sure way to create a wonderful texture of people, housing, small business and tourists. Renegotiating set planning limits of building heights in the city or elsewhere should not occur. Stick to the town planning guidelines - the long term livability of the City depends on it.

PARKS & GARDENS (public space):

Do not overuse parks and gardens for commercial events - especially the Supercars events. Get rid of it. World's Best Practice is to NOT remove trees, encourage places where people can walk in nature, do not crowd out open spaces for people by encroaching high rise near to the coast or to the parks and gardens, or to the dead city mall that has seen NO improvement in over a decade and probably more.

TRANSPORT:

Remove petrol cars, enable and encourage electric vehicles, bicycles and small commuter vehicles, build separate cycle paths and lanes for them. Extend the single tram route to other sensible parts of the City of Newcastle: Junction, Kotara, John Hunter Hospital - more or less replace the old tram network. Do not build on the old rail corridor - Melbourne does not do that at all - it may be needed in the future and will cost a fortune to remove all the proposed uses on it - such uses were promised to NEVER occur by NSW Minister Brad Hazzard. Do not kowtow to developers who have a short term agenda of their current project. Do not build any more high-rise along the Newcastle beaches. They should be built at least 50-100 metres from the current shoreline - remember the dire predictions of sea level rise from climate change - ignoring them is folly will cost heaps.

Thank you !

More parking in the west end of Newcastle to allow park and ride at the light rail station

I would like to see Council provide basic neighbourhood amenities such as footpaths and safe pedestrian crossings

Newcastle transport system is a first class joke particularly for pensioner, handicapped and those who rely on public transport. Newcastle being a smart city is xxx like it or not Newcastle needs more access to parking. Far too much money has been wasted by not utilising the original rail line and the secret service car racing costs are a bloody inconvenience to many residents let alone the damage likely caused to heritage buildings.

Parks and recreational areas in the CBD receive much more maintenance and effort than those facilities outside the CBD. Increase staff to maintain these areas

fenced dog parks

toilets and bins along walkways

better information on bushwalks in the area (long and short)

CN staff to get off their butts and do something in the outer suburbs rather than just looking after yuppies

Ensure there are bin for rubbish and recyclables at all parks. No bins at park cnr Scenic Drive & Hickson Street, Merewether Heights.

Have clean toilets that are open to the public early mornings.

The toilets and change rooms at the beaches are a disgrace.

Turn off the lights in a building that you don't even occupy yet

Newcastle needs more public toilets and would also be a nicer city if it had some edible fruit trees in its parks.

I would love to see a gated dog run park in the Newcastle Foreshore area and an upgrade of Nesca Park; fenced playground, basketball or batball courts etc. make it more family and teenage friendly. At the moment it seems to be dominated by housing commission residents who walk their dogs or park their cars on.

Provide information via print, your communication is poor unless to regularly visit your website.

More dog rangers in public parks on weekends.

The new park at Stockton is a good example, parks that are inclusive of different ages and skill levels are good. It would be nice if there were more climbing structures available for older children (like in

darling harbour) at some parks.

Fencing playgrounds near roads or water should be default option when doing maintenance and upgrades.

Where is the repair of foreshore park after supercars. All the events that where local community generated in the East End have virtually disappeared because of this private company feeding of public funds. Step up like Canberra and Hamilton and buy the community out of this disaster

Do not build the Newcastle skate bowl, spend the money on increase to funding on braye park to create a more accessable and less creepy local natural area, parkland and Lookout :)!

Ensure spaces can be used by multiple types of users.

Myer Park Lane (alongside Myers Park in B'm) is a quagmire that cars regularly get bogged in. It needs to be resurfaced and parking needs to be 90 degree angle parking all the way along (move the park boundary in just a few metres to fit 90deg parking at the Melville Rd end).

The brick tunnel near Broadmeadow Station (the overpass of Lambton Rd) is disgusting and very embarrassing when picking up visitors to our city from the Station and having to park near it in Graham Rd. It is overrun by pigeons & the footpath under it is ankle deep in crud. Its a lovely brick architectural tunnel but please can NCC clean it up.

Lighting of streets and bike paths is not satisfactory and is simply and cheaply solved with stand alone led systems, as seen in low-middle income countries. If they can do it, Newcastle City can. Impacts are on crime, health, gender, safety, economy, tourism, education and sport. It's really not a question of utilities, but Civil Society.

The council have consistently failed to consult with the relevant local communities about any of the changes in their neighbourhoods. A recent meeting I attended that was organised for the local businesses in the area of Hunter Street mall were told point blank, by the council's presenter, when asked what community consultation they had done that they had dropped the ball on that aspect. Says it all.

The people who live, work and use the local areas can tell the council quite constructively what is needed to change or improve, it must be time for the council to listen.

The top down approach is not working.

It would be very exciting if the council actually wanted to lead the way and be progressive with climate action and help educate their jurisdiction about the changes and be innovative and inclusive.

Respond to requests when submitted to council.

I would like to see Newcastle City start collection of food waste for composting, as in Lake Macquarie and other council areas.

Paths and enclosed dog parks. Replanting of trees that will survive climate change

The gardens at The Junction are a disgrace and need to be removed,

Toilet facilities in Pacific park!!!

More public toilets in the city

Update renew the pavilions and public toilets,

Make it easier to get to them. Parking needs to be considered, because the public transport options are not adequate. The bus timetables are rubbish, buses are always late (even during peak use times - to and from work), recent timetable changes reduce the number of buses, and no one knows how to "order" a bus specifically for them. In short, buses are too hard to figure out, so people want to drive. Example: No facilities are provided for families/kids to get their bikes to the skateparks and other similar facilities unless they drive.

More bike pathways that are interconnected. e.g. segregated paths next to main road corridors that are safe. Not just line markings next to main roads that include hazards such as parked cars and narrow markings where cars are able to travel at speed e.g. 70km per hour. There was no provision made in the recent upgrade to the Pacific Highway at Merewether where a separate bike/foot path

Let dogs be welcome in more places

Footpaths kept in good condition would make my life a lot safer than it is now.

Provide more rubbish bins when you have picnic tables. At present there will be tables with no bins nearby and humans being what they are sometimes, just throw their rubbish on the ground to blow into the ocean ultimately. If you have places for people to sit and consume then you also need to have rubbish receptacles.

Over the past few years I have seen a rapid increase in environmental weeds, such as Privet (narrow & large leaf), Lantana, Cassia, and Jacaranda across Newcastle. Most noticeably in the areas I travel along Carnley Ave, City Rd/Pacific Hwy, and Scenic Drive. They seem to be taking over our indigenous plants in these areas.

Always keep roads, rubbish collection and street cleaning as your first responsibility.

Fix Stockton beach and do not allow a major development There without infrastructure.

The decision of certain councillors to politicise the declaration of a climate emergency by amending it to include instances of external blame for a federal election loss was a juvenile error, and a clear indication that many councillors aren't taking the threat of climate change seriously. I believe that the engagement of the citizens of Newcastle, and thus the success of this endeavour, is directly relative to how serious and focused they perceive the council to be on the importance of doing the utmost to avert climate change. So instead of trying to profit off an existential issue with political point-scoring, I believe that it is of fundamental importance to ensure that the city council maintains an objective, apolitical, goal-oriented focus in their decision-making when it comes to instigating measures to avert environmental decline. Without it, this program will fail.

Tidying up and repairing existing facilities and infrastructure should be completed before commencing new works.!!

Please don't use up green space for other forms of recreation, e.g. basketball courts, etc. It is important that green space not be confused with recreational space.

New toilet blocks on either end of civic park would be a good start and someone to clean them every day!

While Newcastle has a lot of outside areas most of these places are not inviting. There is not even shade or places to sit. I would love to see more local areas have seating. For example nesbit park in Kotara has no seating at all and no shade area. I would love to be able to take a book and sit in the park to read during the week when no one is there. As a community we need more places that do not cost the locals money to visit.

Information packs online about community gardening.

Parking surrounds and ease of access

Improving footpaths in suburbs

More off-road shared pathways

I attended the council meeting when the climate emergency was declared. I would like to be involved in transitioning our community to 100% renewables and educating the community on the truth of the climate crisis. I am inspired that NCC will make changes necessary however we must act faster and not politicise the issue, we must have a bipartisan approach and all work together in addressing the Emergency and making necessary changes

I'm already pleased with the work done at Lambton Park, Fletcher and Stockton. Please keep up the good work.

By pressuring the major supermarkets to do something about their shopping trolleys littered around the city areas start issuing fines they are a blight especially in the Newcastle West area.

More basketball courts, Newcastle desperately needs more, especially closer to the coast!

I do not believe we are causing climate change. I believe we are polluting the environment so cleaning up and plastics are more concerning. I am dismayed that council is spending money on a new logo and replacing street signs when there are no decent dog parks, sub standard beach toilets and change rooms for example. Climate change is a natural phenomenon and I would think spending money on it when there are so many more needs in our community would be irresponsible.

Lots of bins, especially recycling bins in public spaces and compulsory recycling for all commercial services.

Work to prevent fossil fuel mining off our coast..

Outdoor rec areas and educational classes

Stop over developing green and coastal spaces so they just look like outside shopping malls full of fat humans eating and drinking and lounging around like obese seals

I Want natural green and coastal spaces within a city unspoilt by cars, seating, buildings and concrete

More trees more bins more

You need to sort out with the police the homeless people problem at South Newcastle Beach. They have set up a shantytown. Council property is being destroyed down there and their anti social behaviour is frightening people away from the skate park.

I would like to see a lot more activity towards helping residents become greener and doing their part towards climate change. More education to inspire people.

More signs in Parks "Ring bike bell when approaching..eg, bike riders on Pathways....

Bike riders should ring their bell to tell people who are walking, or walking their dogs there's a bike coming behind them doing 30-40km/PH.. You cant hear the bike riders sometimes & your dog decides he wants to sniff the other side of the park you nilly get side swiped, then you get abused by the bike riders..

Could you please keep costs in mind, and relative values, ie not building EXPENSIVE bike paths in Stockton, where there are few users, while eg HAMILTON (central, lots of users!) languishes in neglect and ugliness.

Keep up the good work. Continue to keep community engagement as an important part of any process. As you'll know most people do care but they are often reluctant to speak up.

Improve shade trees on streetscapes rather than removing them as you have been doing

more public transport to get rid of the car

Connected footpaths and shared pathways especially at Blackburn Reserve - there are no footpaths from the surrounding suburbs. If you walk to Richley Reserve you have to walk along the road then through a busy car park which is lunacy for people with prams, people with limited mobility or just your average Joe Blogge.

Put the \$17,000,000 you used into facilities not moving from a perfectly adequate building into rented premises. Absolutely the biggest waste of ratepayers money. Provide green spaces for Newcastle West residents to make up for the concrete jungle you have created. Provide street bins to prevent waste ending up in the creek. Restore access to Honeysuckle for bike riders instead of developers hil ding fences. Why has access been taken over by the Honeysuckle Hotel of the wharf pathway. Why are you moving Honeysuckle Drive for overdevelopment of the waterfront.

Adding garbage bins to all parks.

The toilets next to the clock tower in Beaumont street are awful. Tourists must be horrified.

Council should listen to there rate payers.

Lots more cycleways looking at and encouraging cycles as a means of transport not just recreation.

The use of slashers is totally unprofessional in my view

Please don't waste money on Nuatali's and Jeremy's penthouse 😞

Make it more 'liveable' for disabled people. Disabled available parking facilities are atrocious, no consideration for the visually impaired, and generally the 'liveable' city focuses purely on mobile youth and has forced disabled, aging and aged out of the city.

Clean up derelict areas

Not to have asphalt footpaths as this retains the heat and cracks quickly making it unsafe. Need more trees and or kerbside garden on streets . Water runoff from rain should be collected and stored. More bins especially around bus stops. Swings etc at all parks eg civic park. Foreshore park should have a big swing area like speeds point park and maybe a cafe for parents . TAFE could help

run this with there students doing a barrista course(community involvement). More seating in parks scattered around for privacy , eg kids birthday party. Free plastic bags for owners of dogs to collect their pets waste and bins to put their rubbish in or dog poo composting bins. To improve footpath safety as my children and I have been hit by unsafe bike riders in town.

Appreciate the fact that your sending this out. Good to have a say

I would like council to make it easier to recycle / reuse everything. Could we have permanent city drop off points for items, rather than having to go to summerhill? Could we try to do more with bulk waste before it goes to landfill? Could we be given more detailed information about what can go in our recycle bins and how to prepare it for recycling? Could council find more uses for recyclable material? Also, I would like to see us try harder to tackle bitou bush on the coast.

Love the cycle network. Please keep delivering. Street trees would be good too.

NCC should stay with repairing streets, footpaths and parks. They should not get involved in other areas unless they give the tax payer a reduction in rates. When I moved to Merewether from Cardiff my new rates were double that of Cardiff. I believe it is now 5 times.

Dogs should've allowed on public transport and more beaches should've open for dogs, even if this was time restricted.

More should be done to protect our coast from seismic testing and to prevent oil and gas rigs being built there.

We need more cycle ways to enable us to get to parks and beaches.

Most of the cities public toilets are a disgrace (especially at popular beaches), not cleaned often enough and rarely any type of soap. Metal toilets never look clean and need toilet seats. Our facilities are poor compared to other areas and other western countries. Sorry I am unable to volunteer in any outdoor activities due to health issues.

1. stop taxing me to use my city.
 2. accessibility
 3. vision and focus that extends beyond a term
-

Please insist on the use of solar panels on all council buildings. Please ensure all toilets and ocean pools are kept really clean. Merewether baths area has really gone downhill while Newcastle baths area has undergone massive change for the better in . the past two years in cleanliness - clearly cleanliness in these areas depends on the supervision of staff and the attitude of staff. Sand all over the place at Merewether. Use the rangers to issue fines to dog owners disobeying regulations on the Merewether to Newcastle walk. Education is not resulting in high levels of compliance. Dogs at both baths and off-leashes on same walk.

Better public transport links, working in conjunction with state government. Access to all foreshores is still limited, with paid parking also a deterrent.

I found this surveys questions completely biased to providing for climate change under the guise of a community survey. Not very honest.

Move the super race from Newcastle East

Improved accessible street parking for local and neighbourhood precincts.

dog watering bowls (that tip) attached to EVERY bubblers on promenade and walking tracks.

Please replace the King Edward Park Toilet Facilities, they are a disgrace with so many people including visitors to this historic park these facilities must be replaced, this should be priority.

Linked safe cycleways.

You should be ashamed for wasting so much public money on the move to the west end.

I am very disappointed with the council, it seems to have lost it's way and is now concerned with things that are in the State Government or Federal Govts field. Take your head our of the sand and fix Stocktons beach and parking at the wharf. The money wasted on the skate park could have provided heaps of parking at the ferry. The Mayor seems to be on the lookout for any photo opportunities and while the city looks better it's been choked out of parking. The city is spoilt without adequate parking and people won't go there. I don't see that many more people wandering

around on a normal day than pre trams. The trams should have run on the railway easement and this would have eased congestion for the cars and parking Congestion is why trams were removed in the 50's. Bring on the elections to hopefully have councillors who are interested in the city and not the petty nonsense and alignments with political factions that seems the norm

My replies have been dictated by my age (85 years) especially in commenting on outdoor activities which I can no longer participate in. Newcastle City Council is doing a good job in providing a great living environment so I can't think of anything that I feel needs improvement.

a fish cleaning table is badly needed on the southern side of the harbour.

Improve the Adamstown railway crossing by way of bridge or overpath. I can't see how the projected traffic light system is going to help.

Just the basic cleanliness and presentation, we are a disgrace to other towns - not even other cities

More footpaths and bike paths

Be open, be honest and serve the community with the best you can give. Communicate with your colleagues to work together to make the most positive influences you can on the community, NC and yourselves. If you can work as a team, the improvement will be significant across the community. Bring the right attitude, look, listen, think and communicate. Please look after the amenity street and park trees, they show obvious signs of negligence and abuse. It is sad and embarrassing that we cannot skill fully maintain our street trees in the centre of Newcastle.

Fencing at Novocastrian Park, New Lambton to prevent a potential fatality with children running onto the road to get a ball.

Upgrade Regent Park's play equipment and any other park that has equipment as bad as this park. Stop sporting bodies such as soccer clubs annexing all parks in a suburb assuming they belong to said club.

Do not fence Regent Park!

Wallsend skate park....STOP using my rate \$\$\$ to continually clean up this area for the pigs that use it & dump their rubbish where they eat & drink!!! OR just sweep the rubbish into the middle & LEAVE IT!! It's about time cameras were installed & dumpers fined, Heavily!

Work more with local communities in these projects (the recent work with community consultation in Carrington has been excellent, as was the work with Islington Park). More of this.

Beach amenities need to be improved in terms of cleanliness and quality - especially Bar beach!

Improve inner city parking so more people can enjoy the coastal area

More control of Incitec discharges, provision of increased parking facilities at Stockton ferry and business area - both are totally inadequate and offer poor tourist parking let alone local residents and is often congested leading to illegal parking and double parked customer stops.

There's only about 6 parking spaces near the newsagent which is totally inadequate.

Provide more parking near newsagent which acts as post office after Stocktons Post Office was closed and the property sold off - three public phone boxes were removed from old Post Office site and not replaced or relocated.

Move bus stop from opposite newsagent for more parking.

Move pedestrian crossing to near Shopping Centre entrance - the main doctors' surgery near the current pharmacy has been closed and repurposed for 20 years and current crossing position is totally misplaced.

Purchase property for provision of more public car parking near the shopping centre - the shopping centre's parking is inadequate for it's own customers let alone for other businesses in the main shopping area.

Do not waste any more money on ludicrous "rebranding" of the city. The new logo looks like the work of a 2 year old. Also the transport (bus) system is appalling, shortage of carparking, no trees in Hunter St where the tram runs. NCC oh sorry CN must stand up and speak out to the state gov about the appalling transport strategy.

Better provision for cyclists eg bike paths

Address Stockton Beach erosion urgently and high priority

You need to look at the issues arising from increased apartment living that increases the amount of cars parked on the street. Over crowding of driveways is causing poor visibility for cars to exit properties that are leading to near misses or actual collisions with street traffic. Also Harris Farm Market pedestrian traffic in Darby Street needs lights or zebra crossing. At least a reduction in speed to 40 kms. Have seen some very close calls especially with the elderly!

More advertised CCTV in areas where the elderly would visit for night time entertainment e.g. Civic area, museums, art gallery and library and the harbour area (moving from parking areas to the venues).

Planning the future for established public parks and reserves needs attention. What succession vegetation is being done to eventually replace mature/aging trees? For every street tree removed does NCC have a set policy of 'two for one' replacement?

More access to garbage and recycling bins at parks and facilities

Better quality footpaths and walkways. That is, no asphalt to be used as a material for paths. It's toxic and cracks and looks ugly.

Our open space areas are vital for this City, both now and in the future.

THE HARBOUR FRESHORE PARK. Stop removing or reducing the grassed/natural areas in our parks by replacing these natural areas with concreted car parking. The Harbour Foreshore Park at the eastern end has been trashed by Council. It is public park not the property of outside interests.

NATIONAL PARK. In the same way the open space area at National Park around No.2 Sportsground has been turned into a car park for local commerce and administrative services. The road through the park (a continuation of Smith Street) has been turned a car parking space for city workers. The state of the area of National Park which was given to Life Without Barriers on a peppercorn rent is a disgrace and reflects very poorly on Council. After this business occupation ended, a fortuitous fire occurred in the former bowling club building, and the excellent landscaping established and maintained by Life Without Barriers has been totally neglected by Council. This part of National Park is an eyesore at present.

I always fill these out and never get feedback. I often feel this whole process is just a tick a box process

Overall, I think NCC is doing a good job around the beaches. The inner city is yet to pick up. Mayfield needs revamping. That site on Maitland Road that was going to be a Coles complex is a disgrace and is bringing Mayfield down. It is an eyesore. Also, the shopping area is dying. If we were to lose our Post Office I dread to think what would happen. The main street looks dirty. So sad.

Thank you for the massive improvements around Stockton with the playgrounds and the exercise stations. Too much emphasis in this survey on the cult of climate 'emergency'. CO2 is essential for our existence, mans' contribution is minimal and Australia's is miniscule at worst. Aust going 100% renewable will do nothing to change our climate.

Please carry on your role of making this a beautiful, great modern city.

Council does a good job of providing facilities for families (my main concern), however some neighborhoods lack playgrounds and park space and most are not fenced areas. Fenced areas are much safer for children and provide more security for parents who like to let their kids play freely and not have to worry about them wandering off into the street. Newcastle is a beautiful city to live in, but we are always able to improve!

I am impressed with the efforts of the council in dealing with the issues of the inner city. I encourage and expect the council to continue working through the existing challenges especially the provision of cycle ways which in itself would contribute positively to some of the Issues raised in this survey.

Live within your means and don't overspend!

be more consistent with regard to the use of parks as a community asset, not an asset for business - for example can Supercars, plant more trees and focus on sustainable activities

Improved lighting of public areas and footpaths

This is a poorly developed survey. My biggest concern in Newcastle is the woeful standard of local road and footpath infrastructure, which is hazardous to both cars and cyclists. Councils rate increases were linked to reducing the backlog of infrastructure maintenance, I see no evidence this is being addressed in the short term, so notionally this cost will be borne by others into the future.

Such narrowly focussed surveys are a disingenuous attempt to seek community feedback

I note that beach side facilities are not mentioned, despite the fact that in general the facilities(toilets, changing rooms, showers are below acceptable standard.

Any improvements should have site activation at the forefront of decision making with the objective of an active and connected local community through to regional communities.

Parking in the CBD. Such a ridiculous shortage of places to park and such a problem for anyone living just outside the meter area. Why aren't there parking stations for people who work in, or shop in town????????????????

Remove or remediate trees on footpaths that are damaging and/or adversely affecting residents' private (roots and plumbing and house damage; lifting/damaging property fences and driveways).

Better and safe cycling infrastructure. More trees - open green spaces in new developments eg foreshore and honeysuckle.

Please help with funding for the Newcastle all breeds dog school we need help with clearing of the creek that runs through our park.

Rangers patrolling Newcastle walk ways fining people who don't pick up there dogs poo. THEY are the early morning runners or late night walkers.

Please keep smaller pool at Merewether ocean baths full during winter as it is used for rehabilitation activities & swimming during winter & is dangerous left empty without a fence to stop children and adults falling into the empty pool

Re-align council's focus - away from trying to impress global citizens to concentrating on the needs of citizens who live here. New sensors and wi-fi ?

Many suburbs are being parked out because of an ineffective transport network - people drive to catch a bus. See Lambton, New Lambton. Council has been silent on this issue for a very long time.

More public toilets would be lovely

Please ensure lawns get mowed and weeding. Many areas look overgrown with weeds and unmanned lawns.

Repair and maintain existing facilities as many have deteriorated to disgusting states.

Stop stabilising the sand dunes at Nobbys etc as they are meant to migrate and it is making the beaches less user friendly on the high tides

I am very disappointed in CN's communication and action regarding Hudson Park. This is two fold usage and safety. Over the last twelve months apart from a handful of trees and a mass vegetation clean up nothing has been done to engage the local community improve play facilities or make us feel like its safe to allow our children to walk to or from school or the bus to school from Westfield. All the trees planted have been vandalized and we have a continual antisocial presence by the old and uninspiring play equipment. This presence is now being monitored daily by Westfield security between 2-5. As a member of the local community I find this all very disconcerting. As far as I'm concerned Newcastle City council doesn't give a stuff about the people that live in Adamstown Heights/Kotara . Yet it continues to allow subdivisions for duplex / units changing our streetscape infrastructure pressure on roads etc....

remove or limit precinct parking in inner city areas so we can shop and visit council facilities in Newcastle again

Because of rising crime perhaps phones or signal mechanisms to send to a police station or an ambulance station for anyone injured or had a sudden illness or had been attacked or you feel threatened by suspicious behaviour.

Keep the green spaces and stop high rise/density developments.

Repair potholes in roads and pavements

Forget about the climate (it's going to change whatever) and 'live in the now' for ratepayers, things that you can have REAL control over.

Keep your 'eye on the prize' and that is a better place / 'cultural' environment for Novocastrians .. just 'stick to your knitting' in providing us quality services, which we pay our rates to receive. Don't spend your time and money worrying about the environment ... that's NOT why we placed you in residence!!

More trees planted in the city and suburbs and more suitable trees/shade provided particularly at the city beaches (eg. Bar beach and Dixon beach) and the car park on Bar beach relocated !!!! Bar beach is a beautiful beach with the Heritage walk etc but the car park is a sad eyesore.

Yes, NCC spends lots of money on projects that are uncoordinated with the greater future and utility providers that are working in the same area. A good example of this would be Stockton Skate Park . NCC spent 30 plus years chasing skaters out of town and then advertise 3 skaters in one 30 second ad break for the city's revival. You choose to do no work for 30 years and I watched the city go to ruins. Then you choose or State Government choose to rebuild the same time as Tourle Street bridge and NACC WILLIAMTOWN. The workforce was from out of town. You do nothing and then do it all together so contractors are tied up on other projects and cannot provide the manpower due to the inefficient nature of the way you operate. I have so much Knowledge of wasted money not just NCC but rife throughout the industry including Utilities that install underground assets in dumb locations. There are so many ways to improve the situation, instead of treating tradespeople like members of the general public. We are the ones " sorting the xxx out " excuse the French. We like to work in and coordinate with other trades, just like it works in the building game. Some of your personal are great but are bound by a system that is designed fail

Listen to the people who use them!

Please improve graffiti removal and maintain lawns etc

A children's play area on the old rail corridor near Harry's pies eg climbing frame and slide

More education on what is an isn't recyclable eg drawings on new bins

Botanical garden? Maybe more can be done with Kind Edward Park.

More BBQ covered areas in parks eg Tighes Hill park needs a lot more near the play area.

Lighting so people can go out and exercise in safety at night. Eg. lighting around river path at Carrington

Investment in community activities eg community garden in Carrington doesn't seem very well known/attended

Approaching workplaces to educate them about simple steps to reduce waste

Advocating for no plastic to be used in shopping malls, grocers or markets

Play equipment upgrade at Carrington Park - currently woeful.

More promotion of clean up days - I never know when they are on.

Maybe promote your initiatives and activities better through social media and more e-newsletters

Keep up with mowing and trimming of plants

Insert little pockets of garden throughout suburbs

Better and bigger parking areas

Maintenance is required around the run-off pond on Birchgrove Drive. Currently there are "casteroil" (unsure of correct botanical name) around the pond. These are poisonous I believe and need to be removed. We have a good variety of birdlife in this pond but the area definitely needs cleaning up on the perimeter of the pond. Thank you

I would love for the recent declaration of a climate emergency to be a leading factor in determining all decisions of council including the provision of facilities and services.

Introduce DNA testing when dogs are micro-chipped, add the cost to dog poo fines and start issuing dog poo fines. DNA testing is now very very cheap and the improvement in local facilities and services, and their useability, will be fabulous.

Also, start fining people who walk their dogs without leashes. There is enough CCTV to pick this up. We need to stop empowering lazy, irresponsible dog owners, who ruin it for responsible dog owners, and everyone else trying to enjoy the outdoors.

Once you talk to someone who has been attacked by a dog who "would never hurt a fly" (according to their owners), you realise that the mental scars never go away.

In Islington the trees planted on the sidewalk were a bad choice.. My neighbor slipped on the berries that fall from the trees and the bats that live in them put droppings all over our cars and the road

Management plan for Nesca Park, redesign dog area more shade and planting

Improved maintenance and cleanliness, which could involve more community ownership

There's a huge number of community organisations doing great things for Newcastle that get very little support from council, this is a relatively easy win.

Improve the surface quality of lanes containing residences and give lanes a name.

Encourage the state government to provide a ferry terminal at Wickham interchange.

Encourage the state government to provide a light rail from Stockton ferry wharf to Williamtown and eventually beyond

Newcastle has a plethora of street furniture - long wedges of concrete jutting out at crossings, corners and intersections. Very few concrete edges are painted, hence they are not clearly visible at night. Unemployed could be given jobs maintaining these concrete kerbs through painting. ALSO, there is a total lack of street signage and attractive street signage. The town needs BRIGHTENING.

Fenced dog parks would be great. Especially near a BBQ area.

Support the development of the hockey centre. It has received little support over the years, yet it is one of the busiest recreational facilities - it is used everyday, often until 10:30pm at night. If it were to have appropriate seating and change rooms, we could host national, international tournaments that would draw large tourist dollars.

On the whole I think Newcastle does quite well, but living in the inner city we are very much affected by Sporting events of all kinds and there appear to be no extra methods taken during these high usage periods to protect and inform local residents re high usage times and what we can do to get in and out of the area. I think there needs to be more info re the New West End Traffic/Train plan because currently there are few directions as to how to drop off and pick up travellers from there.

Too much money is spent on fields when what Newcastle needs is some large flat concrete surfaces specifically for roller skating. These are minimal maintenance areas that can be used socially or even for roller derby events if marked out. These could be lit and used all through the night.

Stop paying lip service to ratepayers as your agenda differs from ratepayers. Cut the crap and spin.

Dont depend on American spellcheck.

Learn to spell "programme", not program.

Shows your lack of language skills.

One of the things that I think could be improved is the maintenance of median strips/islands there doesn't appear to be any maintenance done anymore and they always look overgrown with weeds and grasses. I just think it looks untidy and makes our city look neglected.

More public transport and more Dedicated Bike routes

I use the Dixon Park dog park regularly - 5 days a week - to exercise and socialise my dog. I would really like the Council to fence in the toddler's playground so the parents can relax, knowing their children are contained in a safe space and so that we dog owners can relax knowing the dogs can't go in. Win-win.

Encourage dog users to pick up poo. I am quite sick of standing in it.

A lot of the council building could have more water tanks and solar panels for keeping costs down dn helping the environment. Recycled water can be utilised. Wild flowers could grown on medium strips instead of mowing.

more bins, emptied regularly, and toilet facilities along walking tracks - eg Fernleigh track and the honeysuckle / harbour-front walkway - these are quite long walkways with no public facilities for

many kilometres

Fencing dog parks as they are usually next to pathways, cycling lanes etc.

Trees ripped out of Hunter St not replaced as promised, like many other things, NCC talks about it and does the opposite.

Get on with finishing the Newcastle beach upgrade, allow private operators (cafes, restaurants, accommodation) at Newcastle and Merewether ocean baths provided they supply and maintain 5 star public amenities - just get on it do it, stop dawdling.

make sure ncc staff are qualified and capable to do their jobs

waste disposal plan needs to improve

Vegetable gardens fruit trees etc what you call community gardens should be everywhere. Instead of just normal gardens & trees, on medium strips & sidewalks & in parks have veggie gardens fruit trees also rooftop green areas & like in Mexico vertical gardens for flowers & plants etc

Need more trees, not less. Gum trees especially, & eucalypts.

Need safe bike tracks; bikes & cars don't mix.

Parks should be green & beautiful - look at Adelaide's parks - ours are often very disappointing, with few scrubby trees only.

Newcastle could be beautiful - it's not, & greening the city would go a long way to enhance its attraction.

Supercars have diminished our city & quality of life - it shouldn't be held in the old inner city, which is ill-equipped to tolerate the demands of this sort of race, & appeals to the minority.

Need good lighting - women don't tend to travel alone at night, especially on foot, because it's unsafe. We all know this. Security could be enhanced by having patrolling security people in popular streets at night, as well as better lighting.

King Edward park needs to be preserved, & not threatened by developers who want to build on areas owned by us all. Same with the one pretty park, Arcadia, on Wolfe St, which is also publicly owned, but threatened by a developer who shouldn't have any rights over it for his commercial business.

Newcastle will be diminished forever if we turn into another ugly Gold Coast, but I fear this is happening.

We need to revamp/ upgrade the childrens play area in harbour foreshore park near The railway sheds.

Take the original Climate Emergency motion seriously. The revisions were terrible

I have recently visited King Edward Park and was very disappointed with the state of the gardens and toilet blocks. Unkept standard for both of these areas so close to and our city and once a beautiful place where people often celebrated their marriage ceremony. We are regular walkers from Nobbys to King Edward Park and have seen so much dog waste on the footpaths between Nobbys and Newcastle Beach.

Stop selling of our assets, more parking to encourage people into the CBD, public transport is always filthy and smells, and most people put their dirty feet all over the seats so why would anyone want to use it. The streets need to be cleaner, bus shelters are too small or none existent for the poor people that are forced to use them and they are filthy. Children's parks have no sun shade. We need heated pools that offer water aerobic classes and hydro services for disabled.

Corroba oval needs a new toilet block immediately & a safe way to cross Fullerton Street. CN should be negotiating now to buy the Hunter Water Land north of Corroba Oval so that the purchase occurs immediately after the remediation works are finished. Corroba Oval will need more playing surfaces in the next 2-3 years.

Continue development of footpaths and cycleways in already developed areas. Eg I live in Hannah St Wallsend and cannot safely walk on footpaths down to Wallsend business district due to a significant lack of footpaths.

Despite some initial reservations, I have to say that NCC is going pretty good. I am now confident of continual improvement in its facilities and services.

Better Parking in Newcastle precinct since the rail line was close and the implementation of light rail total waste of money has lost businesses \$\$\$ plus made it not only difficult but quite expensive to attend newcastle hub and take your compliance officers out of residential areas revenue raising for people parking outside their residences otherwise allow rate payers to gain approved resident parking permits

Improving public transport using smarter processes, linking, parking stations and hubs. No point having even reasonable public transport in the city if you can't even get to the city properly with public transport or be hindered by no parking in outer suburbs.

Several of the first questions were loaded with issues that were all important, otherwise why were the issues in the questions to start with. Sometimes you just can't prioritise all the important issues, so they all need to be worked on.

More urban shade. Over the last ten years we have noticed an gradual decline of trees in our suburb or New Lambton.

Getting the coal trains covered would really improve the air quality in our city. It's unfathomable to me that these trains are still allowed to travel through suburbia uncovered.

More street trees would be great, and more community gardens with neighbourhood composting and recycling facilities. It would be great to have local tree planting events so we can get to know our neighbours.

I would like to know when internet speed and phone reception will be improved in Caves Beach, Telstra is my provider but they tell me that there is a lot of objections to installing another tower even though approval has been granted to build another one.

Contact Newcastle Climate Change Reponse (NCCRs) and Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) Newcastle, who are looking at start a Zero Emissions Newcastle project

Please keep existing reserves and bushland. Encourage local residents living close to reserves and parks to participate in clean-up operations, tree planting etc.

STOP REMOVING MATURE TREES from our streets and suburbs. You are turning our suburbs into concrete and stone jungles.

2. Need to massively improve road surfaces.

3. Improve traffic flow from Centre of Newcastle out to the freeway, and push for rapid rail from Centre of Newcastle to Centre of Sydney.

4. Investigate train down Centre of freeway (or beside) to Centre of Sydney.

5. 3 hours from Centre of Newcastle to southern edge of Sydney enroute to South Coast is ridiculously long, when in off peak traffic. Average speed is approx 63 km per hour by car!! And train is way way too slow.

COUNCIL OPPOSITION TO THE BIG DIVIDENDS (\$100m EXTRA THIS YEAR) FROM HUNTER WATER PAID TO THE STATE GOVT WHICH AMOUNTS TO A TAX ON NEWCASTLE PEOPLE

Please stop eliminating parking spaces around public streets and facilities.

Council approvals for DA need to be based on guidelines for solar orientation and minimal energy input with green spaces specified for thermal regulation. Too many DA's get approved for housing with no attention paid to solar orientation and energy conservation. All train stations and main bus stops need to have proper shelters and be well lit to encourage safe public use. Why is Kotara train station in the bush? Why is it not close to the shopping centre. Pedestrian tracks and bike tracks take secondary priority to roads and cars. This discourages people from using public transport. Pet friendly public transport would also expand public transport use. Electric buses would have been more cost effective and less disruptive to infrastructure and business survival when the light rail was planned through roads that are shared with regular traffic.

Provide more parks and outdoor recreational areas for the use of people living in units.

Stop Supercars

Stop harbourside overdevelopment

Open Nobby's

BRING THE TRAINS BACK!

More cycleways will have a profound effect on the use of active transport and engagement with our natural environment, and peoples sense of community and connectedness

Education and competitions e.g. Hawkesbury Council run a Waste2Art Comp for the kids to create something from waste products.

More dog friendly areas for example off leash when sporting field not in use

Regenerative land practices. Glyphosate ONLY by cut and paint. Community gardens established and supported in all spaces

We need more parking and a decent park and ride system integrated with the new light rail. The park and ride to the hospital should be reinstated.

There are too many high rise developments being allowed in the CBD.

We need more green space at the foreshore and properly pruned trees on the footpaths.

More preservation of our heritage buildings like the Civic Theatre.

Supercars in the CBD are not appropriate for a Council serious about pollution.

The growth of the cycle network is very slow. Allowing people to switch journeys from a car to a bike allows people to reduce their emission footprints.

Newcastle could be a cycle city but the infrastructure is severely lacking. Creating shared pedestrian and cycle paths does not provide for a safe use for either pedestrians or cyclists. in order to improve our air quality as well as our access to council facilities via active transport the council needs to prioritise dedicated, separate, safe bicycle lanes.

Also- NCC needs to start being vocal about the fact that much of our precious city will be under water unless we all take action together now to stop polluting and draw down greenhouse gasses.

Provide more shade shelters on Newcastle beach

Manage weeds, e.g. comply with Biosecurity Act, especially in areas that the council has spent recent money restoring the vegetation e.g. newcastle to nobbys beach areas.

Hold events accountable for their contractual agreements e.g. supercars and revegetation of parks with local native flora and restore grass and pickup after themselves.

Provide innovative recreational options rather than just skate parks i.e. MTB trails, pump track etc.

There are enough skate parks already.

Many more tables as on nice days there's never enough and we have more than enough space

I live in Merewether and I am very disappointed in the type of development allowed in our suburb. It is destroying it. People are building giant concrete boxes that need to be air conditioned and cause enormous waste when you consider the resources involved in a new build - not just materials, but carbon footprint. They are also really ugly and diminish the feel of the suburb. They are not necessarily improving urban density, they are just building giant homes, cutting down mature trees and reducing green space on their property. They make the suburb feel antisocial, particularly those with huge concrete walls at the front. This also makes the suburb hotter in Summer as there is so much concrete and so little green. I cannot believe how much green space is being lost in Merewether (and surrounding suburbs) to these monstrosities. I feel really upset as I travel around the suburb I have spent almost my entire life in and I see the thoughtless development that Council and State Government has allowed. And for all the loss of green space, we are not gaining any elsewhere in the suburb.

There is still a huge problem with dogs and many of them off-leash at Merewether Ocean Baths. I understand that you employ 4 rangers for the entire CN area. This is not enough. The last two Sundays in particular there have been so many dogs there it is ridiculous. Indeed, there was even one going for a swim in the baths. I have been informed by the rangers that when this is happening you can call CN, but what are you meant to do on a Sunday when there is no one to call?

Finally, the provision of lifeguards into the Winter at local beaches has been wonderful. I would love to see this continue for future years. My friends, family and I continue to swim into this time of year and it is great to have patrolled beaches. Thank you.

Stop removing trees.

Do not place so much emphasis on sporting and/or children's activities. I am one of a large number of residents whose children have grown up and left home and whose sporting activities are adequately catered for. As a group, we are looking for more of a community and environmental focus than a personal/family oriented focus.

More bus stop shelters

More recycling facilities (one in the CBD would be good!)

Better planning to minimise future costs, re: local works i.e. footpaths, drainage. More efficient time management re: local works are taking too long and having an adverse impact on the local community. If you are going to continue outsourcing local works, better supervision from council is required.

Public facilities are lacking character and resemble every other newly urbanised city landscape I've come across.

Please do not spend any further \$\$ on the coast. Think about the rest of the city that does not have footpaths or street tree plantings. The inner City is now dead & finished. Where are your Landscape Architects responsible for Public Space? Council needs to embrace honest discussions & not supply "Spin" Council has had a long history of innovative & edge cutting design - well ahead of all other cities. Now all we have is the "Smart" city ie we can go into town and connect to WiFi & CCTV. People do not wish to go into town anymore.

The other issue is the sale of the City Building within the Civic Precinct & moving to rented premises. Have a look at the Case study in San Diego where they did the same. It was a miserable failure & required the Local Government to Purchase Land back in the CBD & construct a new Building. This will happen to Newcastle within the Next 20 years at such a large cost to the City. And as already happened the decision makers will have run away.

There has not been a satisfactory & open Business case to justify the sale or re-location.

The people & Community is why Local Government exists. Please ensure that all decisions & expenditure of funds take heed of the Local Government Act.

Amenities blocks in Newcastle are very few and far between, and the ones that do exist require better lighting for safety.

We need a green space audit. From verges, to little lost pieces of Council owned land, to under utilised parks. For instance, is Jefferson Park in Merewether dedicated as an informal parking lot for a few weeks a year, or can it be planted for carbon capture and enriching biodiversity and other human pleasures.

Please protect the remaining fig trees, paperbarks and other beautiful old trees that make our city pleasant to be in as well as providing habitat for birds and other species that live in or pass through our city environment.

More fenced dog park areas where dogs can freely run without worry they are going to run onto roads as most dog parks are bounded by busy roads.

Rid the CoN of the Supercars Event and focus on the city's environment, heritage and history. Give the City of Newcastle its Foreshore Park back, get rid of the race track, make The Foreshore Park the premier cultural / historic and environmental venue of the City of Newcastle. Thank you for the opportunity to voice an opinion.

better and greener access to the parks from surrounding areas

We desperately need fenced dog parks. Improved Merewether Baths facilities, dog parks, roads and drainage would be a far better use of limited council resources than changing the logo and all that ensues, including new street signs!

NCC needs to immediately implement a climate emergency response plan, including: 1. Letter & leaflet to all residences & businesses about the climate emergency and 2. set up information evenings & a free hotline where families can find out what they need to do to devise their own personal Family Climate Change Prevention Plan (like a bushfire prevention plan) & 3. apply to the State and/or Federal government for funding that families can apply for to offset costs in

implementing their Plan 4. a proposal to partner with industry & worker groups to facilitate the fast & fair transition away from coal mining & exports by 2030.

More trees in our streets



For enquiries please call **4974 2000**

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**City of
Newcastle**