

Frequently Asked Questions: Stockton Public Domain Plan and Traffic Plan

Why has this plan been developed?

- In 2016 Council audited all of the Local Centres within Newcastle LGA. Through this process Stockton was prioritised for infrastructure renewal.

What is the scope of the plan?

- The plan includes public land including streets and public open spaces within Stockton Local Centre, which is zoned B2 in the Newcastle LEP 2012.

What is out of scope?

- Privately owned land - Council cannot make improvements to privately owned land, although it can make recommendations and work with owners, particularly when land is redeveloped.

What is the purpose of the plan?

- The purpose of the plan is to identify and resolve public domain issues within Stockton Local Centre.

What are public domain issues?

The public domain issues dealt with include:

- transport safety, access and parking (vehicle, cycle, pedestrian, buses and taxis),
- infrastructure (roads, drainage, trees, street furniture, lighting and public utilities),
- legibility, way finding and useability (connectivity, signage, landmarks, design cues, opportunities for place making and outdoor dining)
- aesthetics and environment (trees, mass planting, public art, heritage interpretation, quality of design)
- crime (graffiti, vandalism, theft etc)

How will road safety be improved?

- The speed limit on Mitchell St between King St and Hunter St will be reduced from 50km/h to a 40km/h High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA).
- Slower traffic and kerb extensions at intersections will make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road and easier for traffic to enter Mitchell St from side streets.
- Three pedestrian crossings are proposed to cater for the main pedestrian flows, with one located at the King St/ Mitchell St intersection and two located at the Crown St/Mitchell St intersection.
- At the King St/Mitchell St intersection kerb extensions and traffic calming devices will slow traffic and allow better visibility for drivers turning right from King St into Mitchell St.
- Footpath paving will be continued across laneway entries, giving pedestrians right of way.

How will gateways into Stockton Local Centre be improved?

Stockton Local Centre has a gateway at each end - at the King St/ Mitchell St intersection to the north and at the Hunter St/Mitchell St intersection to the south. These will be accentuated as follows:

- The gateways will form entries to the 40km/h High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) and will have signage, kerb extensions and tree planting.
- The King St gateway will continue to be signposted as the main entry into the Local Centre from Fullerton St.
- The Hunter St gateway will continue to be signposted as the main entry into the Local Centre from the ferry terminal and will be accentuated by future improvements to the ferry terminal and adjacent foreshore.
- Concrete ashlar pattern footpath extending along the western side of Mitchell St will act as a design cue drawing people from the Hunter St gateway into the main shopping area.
- The main shopping area on Mitchell St will be defined by a pedestrian crossing at each end.

How will the aesthetic appeal of Stockton Local Centre be improved?

- Shade trees will be planted in the footpath where possible and in the parking lane where there are overhead awnings.
- Gateways to the Local Centre will receive special treatment - see gateways question above.
- Footpaths within the local centre will be plain concrete with an ashlar pattern which reflects the age of the buildings.
- New street furniture will be installed.
- Barriers associated with traffic devices will be custom designed to incorporate Stockton signage.
- Kerb extensions will include ground cover planting to green the street.

Will planting trees in the parking lane reduce the number of parking spaces?

- No. By removing the existing mid-block pedestrian crossing it has been possible to free up space for trees, without reducing the quantity of parking spaces.

How will Stockton Local Centre be made more user friendly?

- The speed limit on Mitchell St will be reduced from 50km/h to a 40km/h High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) to make it safer for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
- Bus stops will be retained in their current locations for easy access to the shops.
- A disabled parking space will be provided close to the Senior Citizen's Centre and GP clinic.
- Street furniture will be upgraded throughout the Local Centre.
- Footpaths in poor condition will be replaced.

- Ashlar pattern concrete paving will be used in the core Local Centre area and along the western side of Mitchell St from Crown St to Hunter St.
- Footpath paving will be continued across laneway entries, giving pedestrians right of way.
- Shade trees will be planted in the footpath where possible and in the parking lane where there are shop awnings.
- Gateways to the Local Centre will be highlighted with design cues
- The number of parking spaces will be maintained.
- Crime will be discouraged through good environmental design.

How will crime prevention be addressed through design?

- Street lighting will be improved throughout Stockton Local Centre.
- Council has written to the private owners of the IGA shopping complex regarding a number of community concerns regarding the design, lighting, maintenance and overall safety of the shops and car park. Council cannot make changes on private land but it can work with private land owners when the site is redeveloped.

How will wayfinding be improved?

- Way finding between Mitchell St and the IGA car park, and between Fullerton St and Mitchell St can be improved with better signage.

How will drainage issues in Mitchell St and the IGA car park be addressed?

- Mitchell St currently lacks drainage between King St and Crown St and there is no outlet for the natural low point in the IGA car park.
- Council proposes to construct missing sections of drainage and to provide the IGA car park with an outlet.
- The IGA car park is privately owned and it will be up to the owners to make drainage improvements on their land which connect to the outlet Council provides.

Will a public toilet be provided within the Local Centre?

- Council will investigate the future provision of a public toilet when the Council owned library and Senior Citizen's Centres are next upgraded.

When will all this occur?

- Improvements to Stockton Local Centre will be broken up into stages which will be integrated into Council's infrastructure renewal program.
- Detailed design of the first stage is programmed to take place this year subject to Council resourcing.
- The delivery of staged on ground works is subject to funding and future programming.
- Council will come back to the community with more information when detailed design and planning for on ground works has been undertaken.