

# TRAMWAY TRACK

This shared cycle/pedestrian path is 3.9km long and it provides a western link between the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie council areas. The track heads are located at Frederick St Glendale (next to TAFE) and Cowper St Wallsend (cnr Lake Rd). Allow approx 40 minutes walking or 15-20 minutes cycling time, each way.

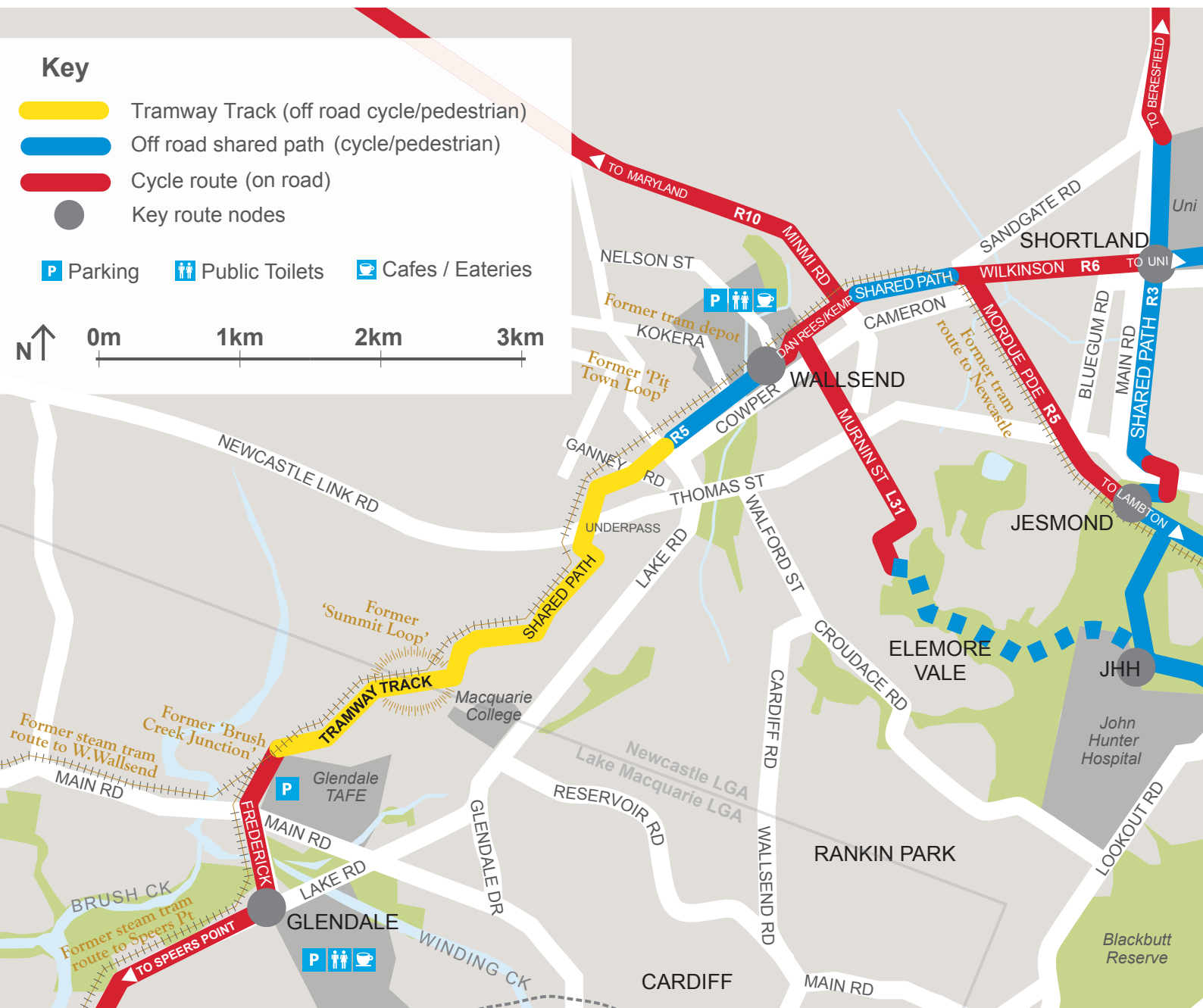
It was formerly a steam tram route from Wallsend to West Wallsend and Speers Point. This was a 1910 extension of Newcastle's first tram route, the Newcastle to Wallsend line built in 1887, and reportedly made it the longest tram route in NSW.

The West Wallsend branch serviced the coal mining community and the Speers Point branch connected the popular picnic destination by the Lake. The two branch lines

were never electrified and services were always steam driven. 1912 to 1921 was a 'Golden Decade' for this tram route but declining patronage led to the cessation of regular services in 1930 and dismantling of the branch lines in 1937.

The pathway was opened 1st June 2012, funded 50% by the Roads and Maritime Services and the remainder jointly by Lake Macquarie City Council and The City of Newcastle.

From each end the path winds up through attractive bushland cuttings and embankments to a summit. The steady shallow 3% gradient required for steam trams is ideal for walkers and cyclists of all abilities and a basic level of fitness. The off-road route provides a safe environment for family groups and beginners.



This is a guide to shared pathways and on road connections. On road routes are generally low traffic with no separation from vehicles. Ride with care and wear bright clothing. Be aware of car doors near parked cars. Cyclists can take a whole traffic lane.

For detailed maps of current and future network visit:  
[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/transport/cycling\\_strategy](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/transport/cycling_strategy)  
 or [www.newcastlecycleways.org.au](http://www.newcastlecycleways.org.au)