



Bathers Way – Newcastle Beach

Engagement report

January 2019

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Executive Summary

City of Newcastle (CN) is implementing the largest and most complex stage of the Bathers Way project – Newcastle Beach. The Bathers Way – Newcastle Beach project is divided into two stages and in late 2018 CN conducted drop-in sessions and an associated survey to present updated design plans and seek community feedback on the draft plans.

The plans for this stage cover land between King Edward Park and Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club. It includes a new skate park and bowl, exercise equipment, access improvements, new amenities, a kiosk and inclusion of a community hub in the redevelopment of the Newcastle beach pavilion.

The proposed concept plans intend to transform this section of coastline into an appealing area for the community and tourists. Detailed design for Stage 2 (subject to funding) will commence following the 2018 consultation.

In order to facilitate community engagement for this stage in the project, four drop-in sessions occurred between Thursday 6 December and Wednesday 12 December 2018. Over 70 people attended the sessions where they had the opportunity to review updated concept plans, artist impressions and speak directly with content experts.

The majority of people who attended the drop-in sessions were broadly supportive of the project as a whole. Concerns that were raised by attendees were predominantly focussed on the inclusion of the skate bowl, specifically that it is proposed to be located on the beach.

Supporting these face-to-face sessions was an online survey that was completed by 335 participants, 132 of these respondents supported the overall plans. The most supported elements were shade and seating (71%), community/recreation facilities (66%) and wider shared pathways. The skate bowl was supported (51%).

Overall the aspects that were met with opposition included the skate bowl (188 of those who opposed the overall plan) and skate park (96 respondents who opposed the overall plan).

The proposed extent to which the skate bowl extends onto the sand was considered the most concerning aspect of the design (182 respondents indicated that the skate bowl/skate park was a concern for them).

The results related to the surf pavilion show public amenities including toilets, showers and bubblers ranked as the most important to participants.

Overall, 191 responses (57%) indicated that they either strongly opposed or somewhat opposed the updated draft plan for the Newcastle Beach stage of the Bathers Way.

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1 Introduction

City of Newcastle (CN) is implementing the largest and most complex stage of the Bathers Way project. This stage intends to transform this section of coastline into an appealing area for the community and tourists.

The proposed stretch between King Edward Park and Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club includes a new skate bowl, exercise equipment, access improvements, new amenities, a kiosk and inclusion of a community hub in the redevelopment of the Newcastle beach pavilion.

In order to facilitate community engagement and support for this stage in the project, four drop-in sessions occurred between Thursday 6 December and Wednesday 12 December 2018. Over 70 people attended the face-to-face sessions and over 330 participated in an online survey. The drop-in sessions were promoted through print advertising, social media channels, outdoor signage, and promotion on CN's web homepage slider, a dedicated Have Your Say engagement webpage, media release, animation and digital invite to key stakeholders.

In total, over 70 people attended the drop-in sessions and 335 people participated in the online survey.

1.1 Objectives

To:

- Gauge support for the current Bathers Way Stage 1 design
- Increase awareness, inform and provide mechanisms for people to have their say.

2 Methodology

2.1 Research approach

LGA wide print and digital advertising provided a wide reach.

This activities fall under within the ***inform to consult*** levels of the IAP2 spectrum endorsed in CN's [Community Engagement Commitment](#).

Figure 1 Public Participation Spectrum, International Association of Public Participation

		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION				
		INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL		To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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The survey questions can be found in Appendix I.

2.2 Data collection

The online survey was conducted between 28 November and Friday 14 December 2018. It was made available online and also accessible at drop-in session through CN iPads.

2.3 Statistical accuracy

The statistical accuracy for a sample of this size is $\pm 5.8\%$ for a prevalence of 50 per cent at a confidence level of 95 per cent.

Example: If 50 per cent of respondents said ‘yes’ to a question that required a yes/no response, the true proportion of people in Newcastle who would give the same answer (if all participated) would be between 44.2 per cent and 55.8 per cent, 95 times out of 100 (see right hand column of table 1 for 50%-50%).

If 30 per cent of respondents said ‘yes’, the true proportion of people in Newcastle who would give the same answer would be between 24.7 per cent and 35.3 per cent, 95 times out of 100 (see 7th column of table 1 below for 30%-70%, $\pm 5.3\%$ for a sample size of 300).

Table 1: Precision of estimates for various sample sizes and prevalence levels

PREVALENCE FOR A 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL										
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%
100	4.4	6.0	7.1	8.0	8.7	9.2	9.5	9.8	9.9	10.0
200	3.1	4.2	5.0	5.7	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1
300	2.5	3.5	4.1	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.8
400	2.2	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0
500	1.9	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5
600	1.8	2.4	2.9	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1
800	1.5	2.1	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
1,000	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
1,500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6
2,000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2
3,000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8

2.4 Drop-in session and survey promotion

The drop-in sessions and online survey were promoted via a paid advertisement in the Newcastle Herald and supported by a digital advertisement. A media release was distributed with information on the drop-in session locations, including session times and dates with links to a dedicated Have Your Say engagement webpage. Social media occurred reaching an over 14,500. Signage was also placed at several locations throughout the Newcastle local government area (LGA). An electronic invite was also sent to key stakeholder groups and promotion on CN's website homepage.

The majority of people who attended the drop-in sessions were broadly supportive of the project as a whole. Concerns that were raised by attendees were predominantly focussed on the inclusion of the skate bowl, specifically that it is proposed to be located on the beach.

Figure 2 Drop-in sessions and number of attendees

Suburb	Venue	Date	Time	Attendee Tally
Mayfield	Seniors Centre	Tues 4 December 2018	5:30 - 7:30	3
Newcastle	City Hall	Thurs 6 December 2018	5:30-7:30	40
Wallsend	Wallsend library	Tues 11 December 2018	5:30 - 7:30	12
Adamstown	Adamstown Bowling Club	Wed 12 December 2018	5:30 - 7:30	15

2.5 Data handling

Data handling and analysis was carried out using Sparq software by CN's Community Engagement team.

2.6 Respondents

In total, 335 people completed the online survey.

3 Survey Findings

3.1 Overall support

The table below outlines how supportive survey respondents were towards the proposed plans for stage one of Bathers Way Newcastle project which included a wider shared pathway, new kiosk and amenities, progressive skate park and bowl, and a new community/recreational facility. The highest proportion of respondents 191 (57%) indicated that they opposed the proposed overall plans. A total of 139 participants (42%) indicated overall support.

Table 2 How supportive

Level of support	Response
Strongly support	99 (30%)
Somewhat support	40 (12%)
Neither oppose or support	4 (1%)
Somewhat oppose	59 (18%)
Strongly oppose	132 (39%)
Don't know	1 (0%)
Total	335

3.2 Which aspects most strongly supportive

Participants who indicated that they either supported, or neither supported or opposed, the plans were asked to indicate what aspects they were most strongly supported (n=143). These results are provided in figure 1.

Participants could also nominate an 'other' open ended response. These are provided verbatim in Table 3.

Note: participants could select more than one option, therefore the results do not add to 100%.

Figure 1 Aspects most strongly support (multiple-choice)

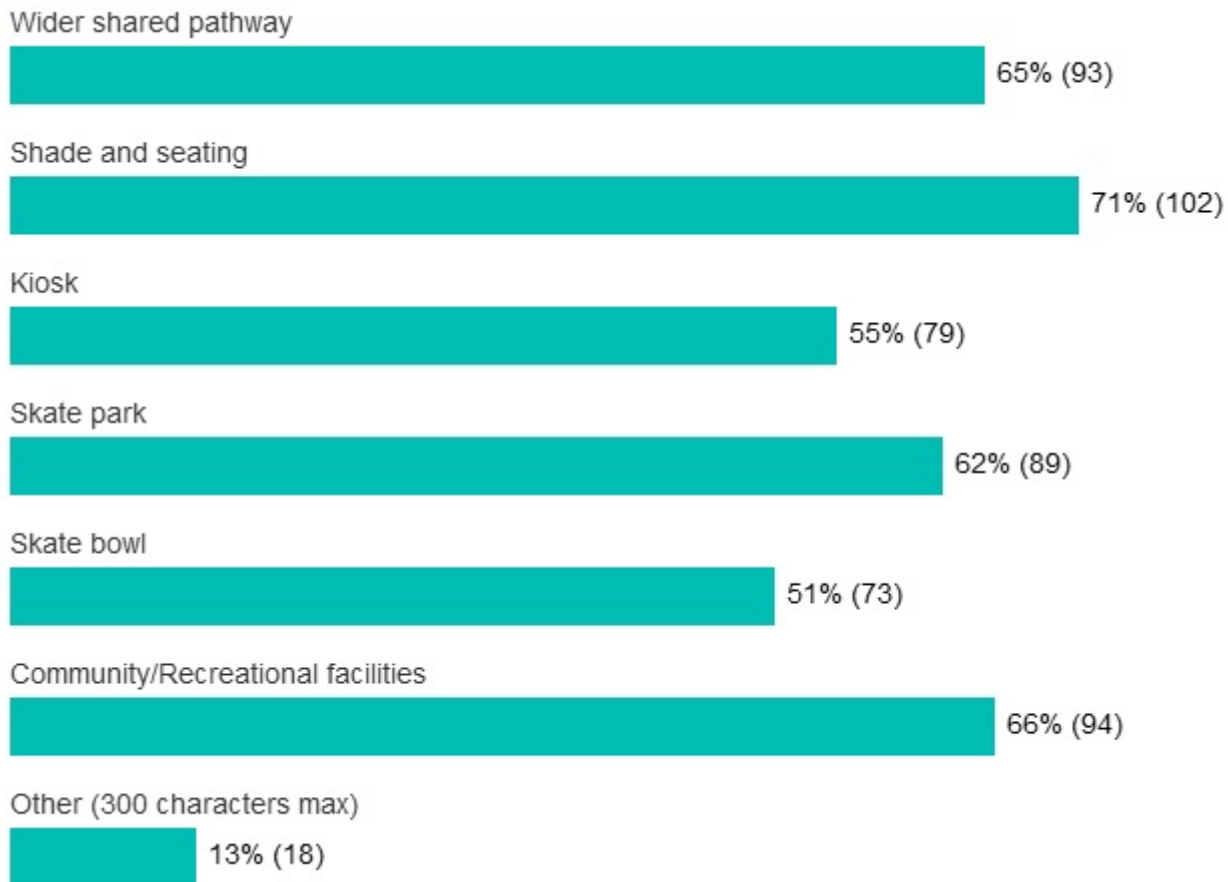


Table 3: Other aspects strongly support

Facilities to support the local surfing communities
hopefully there will be toilets
New amenities
Provides a great community asset in a fantastic location that will likely have photos of events posted worldwide.
changing room
Exercise Equipment
Greater activation
open public space where existing surf club sits. new buildings tucked into hillside.
A Clubhouse for our Board riders club, the SLSC has one and board riders clubs are just as if not more important.
No Skate bowl. It is a corrupt plan and an unhinged decision
Please protect the Baths
We don't need a skate park or bowl right near the beach
Support the Skate bowl but oppose it being built on the beach
New surf club facilities suited to life saving within the community facilities
New surf lifesaving club facilities
Surf Club facilities very important

I would like to see the most used part of the precinct rejuvenated first. Newcastle surf club is the flagship for the area and quick redevelopment would benefit the most users as well as being a huge benefit to the struggling membership of the oldest surf club in this beautiful coastal city.

New building for Newcastle SLSC should be prioritised over skate park/bowl.

3.3 Which aspects most strongly oppose

Participants who indicated opposition, or neither supported or opposed the plans were asked to indicate what aspects they were most strongly opposed (n=195). These responses are provided in Figure 2.

Participants could also nominate an 'other' open ended response. These are provided verbatim in Table 4.

Note: participants could select more than one option, therefore the results do not add to 100%.

Figure 2 Aspects most strongly opposed (multiple-choice)

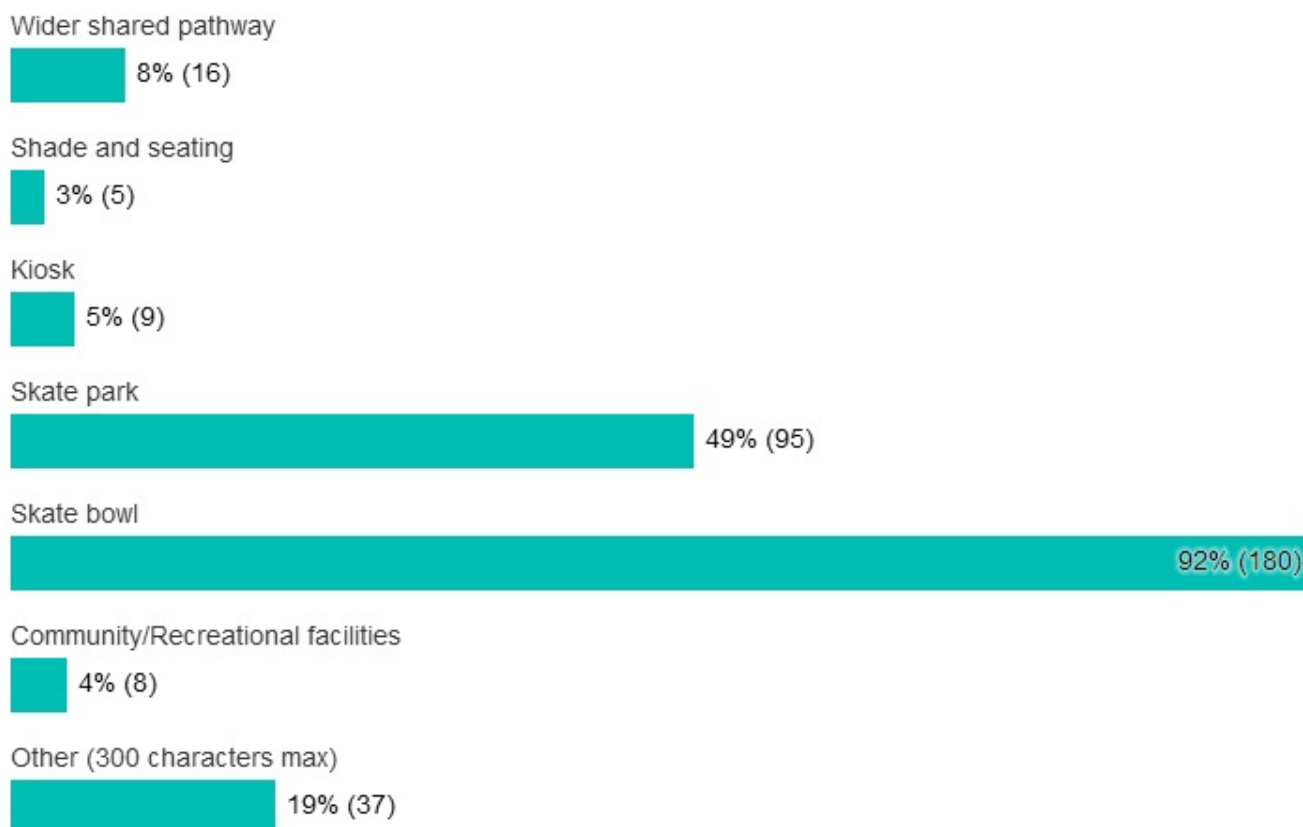


Table 4: Other aspects oppose

VC Support
Skate bowl on the beach
I'm pro skate park but not on the beach!
Ingress of yet more concrete onto the beach; The Bather's Way project is already a huge concrete carbon footprint upon the coast. The on beach skate bowl etc. is just ludicrous and offensive to the environment
Pavilion Design

Building structures on the beach taking away the natural coastline
It going out onto the beach. I object strongly to cementing the beach. The council will not maintain it
I'm opposed to so much Concrete being used to cover& reduce the actual size of the Beach. The Beach is a natural Environment and needs to remain as such
To build closer to the water's edge is ridiculous. Look what history tells us about erosion and manmade structures near the water line.
encroachment on beach space
Jutting into the beach
Blue light unhealthy (see medical articles); cement on beach not OK nowadays
not on the beach - anywhere else is fine
extending beyond the existing edge onto the sand
Replacement of surf club, as I think other similar work (e.g. Bar Beach surf club building addition) has been poorly designed/ constructed. Also think design of skate bowl is ugly, but am not against the idea of a bowl, I just think its design could be better and more integrated with terrace seating.
The skate park was initially planned as a large facility at Broadmeadow in past strategic plans. That would not destroy a natural community asset.
I'm worried exclusively about the impact of the skate park and bowl on the surf. The area could use an update -- especially to the pathway -- but don't ruin the surf in providing it.
Not on the beach
Construction on south newcastle beach. Reuse the existing skate park
The design should not go across the sand. It should not include a bar or restaurant. It should be smaller
against Skate Bowl because it will go onto the sand.
I disagree with covering the sand with a concrete bowl
The 700sq m of concrete on the sand is an absurdity given the myriad of other locations for such a structure - just NOT ON THE SAND!
Already has a skate park could be renovated but not extended into beach
You can easily update the current skate without encroaching on the beach.
Skate bowl could ruin the surf with backwash.
Any building that extends past the current promenade
Building over the beach
Concrete on the sand Just plain stupid! All for everything else. Please don't ruin our coastline.
Any encroachment onto sand
All renderings show low tide which is dishonest. Strongly oppose building on sand. More people less beach is mad. Won't be able to walk beach at high tide. more people less beach is crazy.
The plans are deceptive as low tide is only shown, rather than the tidal range. Construction of any building on the beach is inappropriate and destructive to our natural beautiful our city's highlight. The environmental risk to the coastal foreshore is too high. Beware of the coastal Low storms.
The amount of concrete that looks like what comes off the skate park, onto the sand
Can't see any details of change sheds. excessive concrete will be very hot and glary in summer and is not sustainable either environmentally or maintenance wise
Projecting the skate bowl onto South Newcastle Beach will lead to erosion of the beach, from deflection of wave energy on the hard structure, and will require greater maintenance caused by overtopping
No concrete bowl on the beach

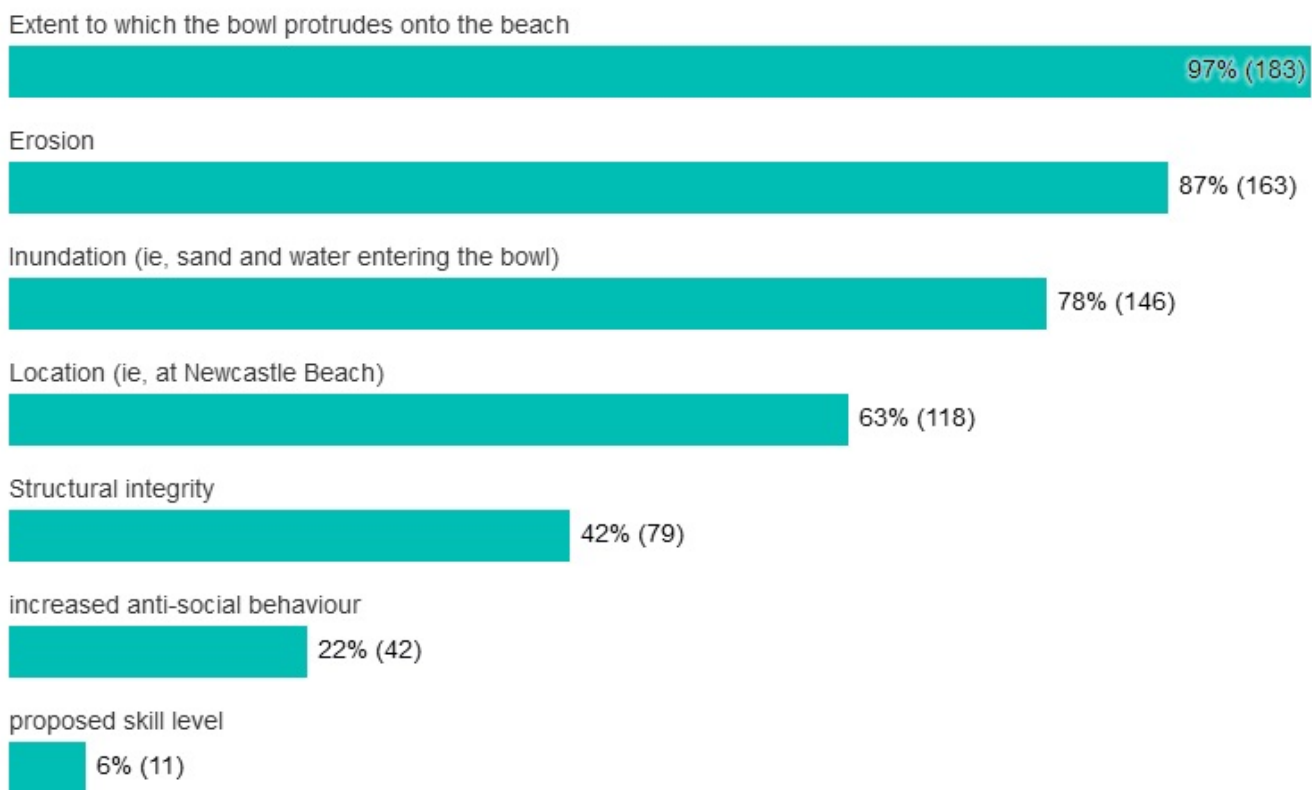
Bringing a wall closer to the waterline can result in the loss of beach sand as evidenced on the wall of Stockton (beach less)! Further referenced in the saving of Wonoona beach in Wollongong!

3.4 Skate park concerns

The survey participants who stated they opposed the skate bowl and/or skate park (n=188), were asked what aspects of the skate park/bowl they were most concerned about. These results are provided in Figure 3.

Note: participants could select more than one option, therefore the results do not add to 100%.

Figure 3 Design aspects most concerned about



3.5 Aspects of surf pavilion

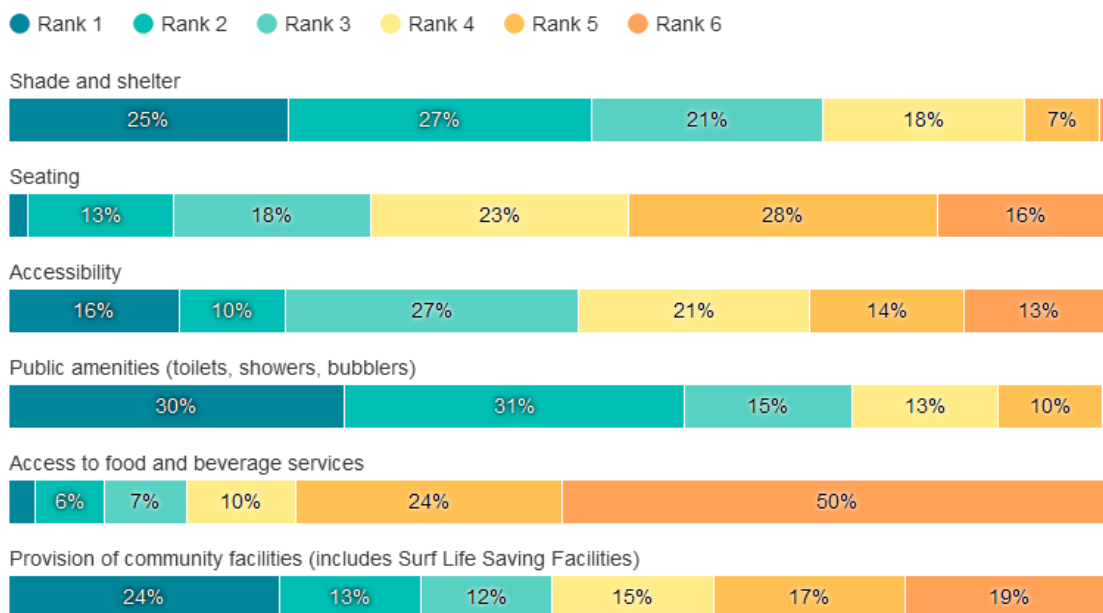
Participants were asked to rank six aspects of the proposed redevelopment of the surf pavilion in order of importance (1 to 6), with 1 being the most important and 6 being least important.

These results are provided in Figure 2 and indicate that:

- Public amenities (toilets, showers, bubblers) was ranked as most important by the highest proportion of participants (30%)
- Shade and shelter was ranked as most important by 25 per cent of participants
- Provision of community facilities (includes surf life saving facilities) has ranked as most important by 24 per cent of participants

- Accessibility was ranked as most important by 16 per cent of participants
- Access to food and beverage services was ranked as most important by two per cent of participants
- Seating was ranked as most important by two per cent of participants.

Figure 2: Ranked aspects of surf pavilion by importance



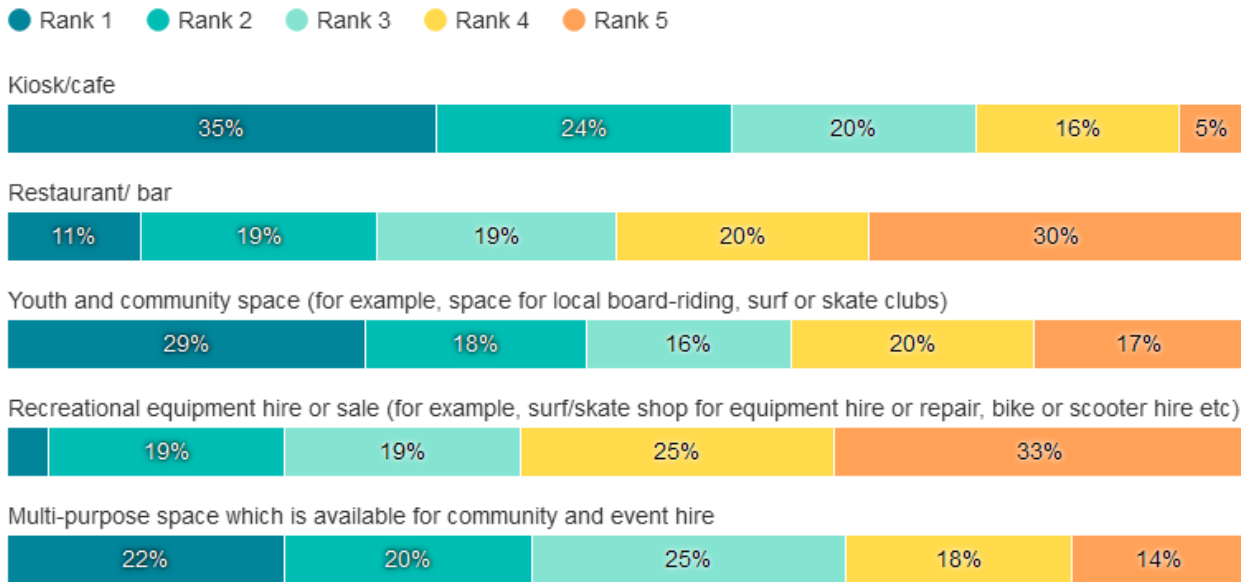
3.6 Surf pavilion services and amenities

Respondents were asked to rank the provision of specific services and amenities of the proposed redevelopment of the surf pavilion (Bathers Way Newcastle – Stage 2) in order their level of support (1 to 6), with 1 being the most supportive and 6 being least supportive.

These results are provided in Figure 5 and indicate that:

- Kiosk/café was ranked as most important by the highest proportion of participants (35%)
- Youth and community space (e.g. space for local board-riding, surf or skate clubs) was ranked as most important by 29 per cent of participants
- Multi-purpose space which is available for community and event hire was ranked as most important by 22 per cent of participants
- Restaurant/bar was ranked as most important by 11 per cent of participants
- Recreational equipment hire or sale (e.g. surf/skate shop for equipment hire or repair, bike or scooter hire etc.) was ranked as most important by three per cent of participants.

Figure 5 level of overall support for proposed surf pavilion services and amenities



4 Appendix I - Online Survey Questionnaire

How supportive of Bathers Way

Having viewed the proposed plans for the Bathers Way - Newcastle Beach which includes a wider shared pathway, new kiosk and amenities, shade and seating, progressive skate park and bowl, and a new community/recreational facility, how supportive are you of the overall proposal for this stage of the Bathers Way?

- Strongly oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Neither oppose nor support
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support
- Don't know

Supportive

Which aspects support

Multiple Choice Question

Can you tell us which aspect(s) of the project you most strongly support? Please select all that apply

- Wider shared pathway
- Shade and seating
- Kiosk
- Skate park
- Skate bowl
- Community/Recreational facilities
- Other

Oppose skip

Which aspects oppose

Multiple Choice Question

Can you please tell us which aspect(s) of the project you most strongly oppose? Please select all that apply.

- Wider shared pathway
- Shade and seating
- Kiosk
- Skate park
- Skate bowl
- Community/Recreational facilities
- Other

Skate park concerns

Aspects of Skate Park concerned about

Multiple Choice Question

Can you please tell us which aspect(s) of the skate park/bowl you are most concerned about? Please select all that apply.

- Erosion
- Inundation (i.e. sand and water entering the bowl)
- Structural integrity
- Location (i.e., at Newcastle Beach)
- Extent to which the bowl protrudes onto the beach
- increased anti-social behaviour
- proposed skill level

Rank aspects of surf pavilion

Could you please let us know which of the following aspects of the proposed redevelopment of the surf pavilion are most important to you? Please rank in order.

- Shade and shelter
- Seating
- Accessibility
- Public amenities (toilets, showers, bubblers)
- Access to food and beverage services
- Provision of community facilities (includes Surf Life Saving Facilities)

Rank services surf pavilion

Could you please let us know which of the following services in the proposed redevelopment of the surf pavilion would you be most supportive? Please rank in order.

- Kiosk/cafe
- Restaurant/ bar
- Youth and community space (for example, space for local board-riding, surf or skate clubs)
- Recreational equipment hire or sale (for example, surf/skate shop for equipment hire or repair, bike or scooter hire etc.)
- Multi-purpose space which is available for community and event hire

5 Appendix II - Communications collateral

Image 5 Outdoor poster

Bathers Way - Newcastle Beach Drop-in Sessions

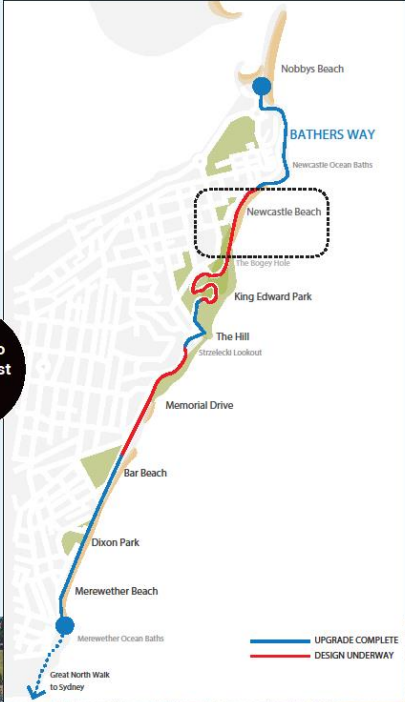
Our iconic Bathers Way walk is now more than half way to completion. The next stage includes upgrades to Newcastle Beach between Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club and King Edward Park.

Come along to a community drop-in session on the proposed design. The sessions will be held at four locations:


- Mayfield Seniors Centre, 187-189 Maitland Road**
Tuesday 4 December, 5.30 - 7.30pm
- Newcastle City Hall, Mulubinba room**
Thursday 6 December, 5.30-7.30 pm
- Wallsend library, 30 Bunn Street**
Tuesday 11 December, 5.30 - 7.30pm
- Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road**
Wednesday 12 December, 5.30 - 7.30pm

Bathers Way is one of City of Newcastle's priority projects. To find out more, visit the Priority Projects pages on our website www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au


No need to register, just drop in.



The map shows the Bathers Way route from Merewether Beach in the south to Nobbys Beach in the north. A blue line indicates the 'UPGRADE COMPLETE' section, which runs from Merewether Beach, past Dixon Park, Bar Beach, Memorial Drive, The Hill, and Newcastle Ocean Baths. A red line indicates the 'DESIGN UNDERWAY' section, which runs from Newcastle Ocean Baths, past The Boggy Hole, King Edward Park, and The Hill. A dashed blue line shows the 'Great North Walk to Sydney' starting from Merewether Beach. A black dashed box highlights the Newcastle Beach area between Newcastle Ocean Baths and King Edward Park.



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The City of Newcastle

Image 2 Press advertisement

Bathers Way - Newcastle Beach Drop-in Sessions

Our iconic Bathers Way walk is now more than half way to completion. The next stage includes upgrades to Newcastle Beach between Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club and King Edward Park.

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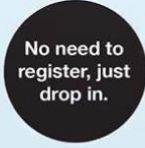
No need to register, just drop in.


Images 3 & 4 Social media

City of Newcastle @CityNewcastle · 3 Dec 2018
 Planning for the next stage of Bathers Way is well underway and we'd like to hear what you think about our proposed plans bit.ly/2E0ZPQP

The next stage includes upgrades to Newcastle Beach between Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club and King Edward Park.

Come along to a community drop-in session and/or take our online survey on the proposed design.





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City of Newcastle @CityNewcastle · 3 Dec 2018
 Planning for the next stage of Bathers Way is well underway and we'd like to hear what you think about our proposed plans bit.ly/2E0ZPQP

Our iconic Bathers Way walk is now more than half way to completion.



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