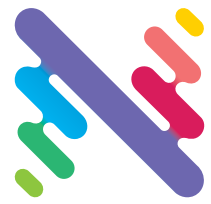


EDITION 4 2021

# City News



City of  
Newcastle



City extends community support  
Enhancing your cycleway network  
Improving open spaces



Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church Pantry volunteer Tashi Dhendup. City of Newcastle's rapid response grants have previously supported the Pantry to provide basic food supplies to individuals and families in need.

## Message from the Lord Mayor

As we head into the final months of 2021, like so many in our community I'm hopeful that our ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and get vaccinated will see a gradual return to life as we knew it.

It's been another challenging year and the latest outbreak has placed a strain on our community. Thank you, everyone in our community, for pulling together in this time of need.

We're doing our part to make a difference for locals, extending our community economic support with targeted initiatives that will provide support people need now while setting us up for economic recovery.

We're also getting on with the job of investing in the local infrastructure, facilities and services needed to support jobs and cater for our growing population, with upgrades to local roads, footpaths, cycleways and stormwater assets, and a sustained focus on coastal revitalisation and environmental initiatives.

We're delivering on projects such as the renewal of the Newcastle Ocean Baths, the construction of the Wallsend Active Hub and the upgrade of suburban hubs and local centres including the James Street Plaza at Hamilton, and we're also working with the community to inform plans of management for our major open spaces such as Gregson Park.

While City of Newcastle takes the lead role in driving the city towards our shared vision, we all play a part in making Newcastle the place we want it to be, now and into the future.

**Nuatali Nelmes**  
**Lord Mayor of Newcastle**

*Pictured: Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and Family Support Newcastle Team Leader Erin Beard with some of the items to be provided to families in need with support from City of Newcastle's Community and Economic Resilience Package.*

## City extends COVID-19 community support

We're investing at least \$10 million into the local economy to help create new jobs as part of an expanded Community and Economic Resilience Package and construction stimulus to help combat the economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

The package builds on last year's \$5.5 million investment and includes rapid response grants aimed at supporting our vulnerable and at-risk community members, business training and mentoring programs, as well as economic development and community funding.

Hardship support will help those under financial strain, while the focus of

existing sponsorship programs will be shifted to support Newcastle's recovery out of lockdown.

We are also identifying projects that can be brought forward or re-prioritised to stimulate the local economy through the delivery of new and upgraded community infrastructure.

Increasing the 2021/22 works program by \$10 million is estimated to create more than 100 new jobs in Newcastle and increase total economic output by more than \$27 million.

To find out more about how we're responding to COVID-19 visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

## Hang in there Newy!

Through these difficult times our team is continuing to provide essential services to the community including keeping you safe at the beach, caring for animals and our natural environment.



**Name:** Abbie

**Title:** Blackbutt Reserve Worker

**Even when in lockdown, our staff have been here every single day looking after our animals and making sure they get the care they need.**



**Name:** Allan and Bella the Ranger Dog

**Title:** Ranger

**Walking your dog is a great way to exercise. Be sure that you have your dog on the lead and take your waste away with you.**



**Name:** Scott

**Title:** Lifeguard

**Our lifeguards know a thing or two about protecting our community and are still on duty to keep you safe at the beach.**



## New playgrounds make a splash at local pools

Two new playgrounds have been constructed at Mayfield and Wallsend (pictured) Swimming Centres, just in time for you to make a splash at the local pool this summer. Both playgrounds feature a variety of equipment including swings and climbing frames to keep the kids entertained. We've also constructed additional shelter, seating and a connecting pathway to link to the playground at Wallsend, and have recently completed a new accessible changeroom area at Mayfield.

*Front cover image: Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes checking out the new playground at Wallsend Swimming Centre.*

## Extending your cycleway network

A 1.1km cycleway between Merewether Beach and Junction Primary School is now open with completion of the first stage of the City Centre to Merewether Cycleway project.

The 2.5-metre-wide shared path now links Glebe Road at The Junction to Merewether Beach along Watkins Street and features new crossings for pedestrians and cyclists, and significant upgrades to drainage and stormwater systems.

The \$3.3 million project started last year and has been delivered with

\$600,000 in funding under the NSW Government's 2020/21 Walking and Cycling Program.

We are now planning the second stage, which will link the City Centre to The Junction.

We've also finished trial cycleways down each side of Hunter Street between National Park Street and Worth Place (pictured above), separating cyclists from traffic, while continuing work on cycleway projects in New Lambton, Fletcher and Mayfield.



*The concept design for the Wallsend Active Hub.*

## Work underway at Wallsend

Wallsend residents are closer to having a fantastic new destination for recreation and play in their neighbourhood, with construction of the \$1.5 million active hub in Federal Park (adjacent to Wallsend Swimming Centre) underway. Featuring an expanded playground with swings, slides, climbing areas, spinning carousel and trampolines, this will be a space for all ages and abilities.

A pump track for bikes, scooters and skateboards, multi-sport courts catering to basketball and futsal, a rebound wall, climbing wall and fitness stations will provide plenty of options for active recreation, while sheltered seating areas, a drinking fountain, bike racks and tree planting will help make the space a great place to visit. Future works will include installing barbecues and public toilet facilities.

Wallsend Active Hub is expected to be completed in 2022.



*A render showing the final design for the Stage 1 upgrade of Newcastle Ocean Baths.*

## Improved safety, water quality and access at Newcastle Ocean Baths

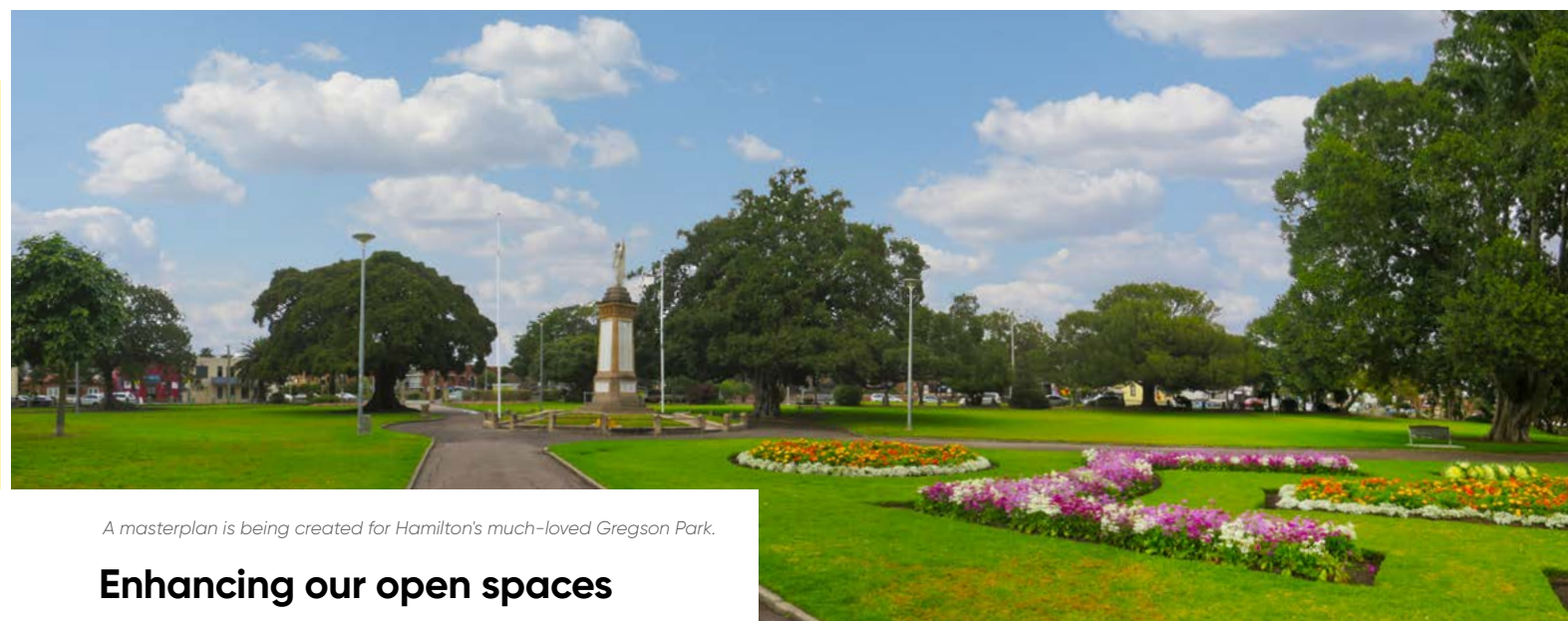
We've finalised plans for the first stage of Newcastle Ocean Baths' revitalisation including the pools and lower promenade in partnership with the community.

'Stage 1' of the upgrade project addresses key safety, accessibility and water-quality issues that have been identified through detailed community engagement and engineering advice.

As part of the upgrade, the iconic bleacher seating will be retained, the boardwalk will be renewed, and a new pump

station installed that can replace the water of the baths within six hours, improving water quality. The undulating rock bottom of the pool will be capped with concrete to improve safety and water quality, while sand will continue to build up on the floor by the same processes as today.

Community engagement was key to finalising the designs for Stage 1, with feedback shaping elements such as the location of ramp access, replacement of art-deco circular stairs, and boardwalk material.



*A masterplan is being created for Hamilton's much-loved Gregson Park.*

## Enhancing our open spaces

We know how important our open spaces and parks are to our community and that's why we're committed to involving you in planning for their future.

Thanks for having your say on the draft Gregson Park Masterplan, which was recently placed on public exhibition. We're reviewing your feedback and will report back to Council in the coming months.

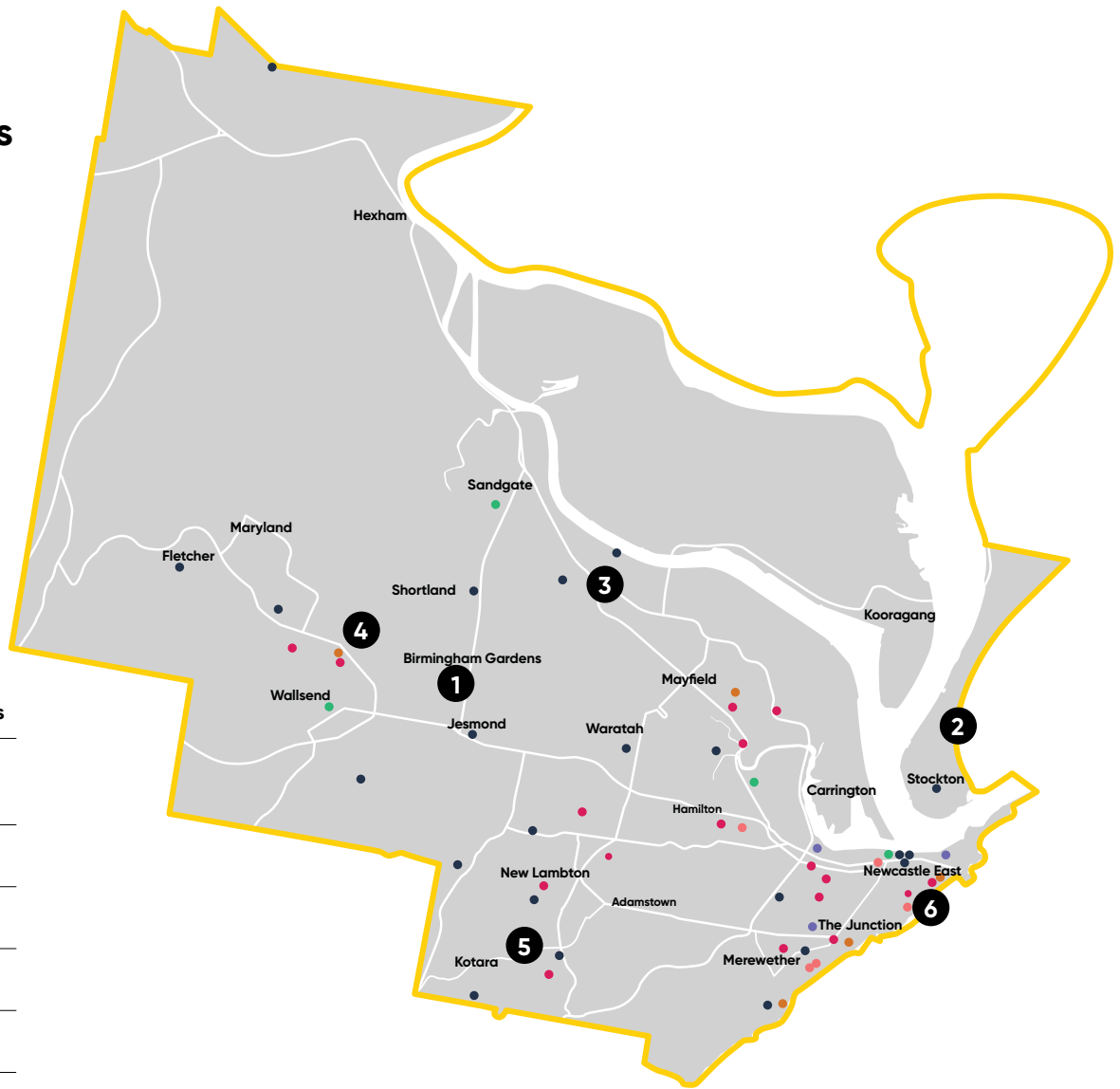
We'll soon be checking back in with you in 2022 on a revised Plan of Management for National Park, which is being developed following feedback from key stakeholders and the community.

Visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au) to find out more.

## Projects being delivered across our city

There are currently hundreds of projects underway across our city. The dots on this map represent some of the larger projects we are delivering, and you can read more about some of the improvements underway or recently completed near you below.

- Infrastructure & Buildings
- Parks, Playgrounds and Sporting Fields
- Environmental Works
- Cycleways
- Beaches and Pools
- Roads and Footpaths



### 1 New shared pathway, Birmingham Gardens

A new wider path links Blue Gum Road with Birmingham Place, along with improved amenity, fencing, lighting and a bus shelter.



### 2 Rockbag structure Barrie Crescent, Stockton

Around 1300 rockbags have been installed to provide temporary protection of the coastline pending mass sand nourishment.



### 3 New shared pathway, Warabrook Wetlands

A new, wider path provides better access and improved health of the wetlands.



### 4 Sediment control system, Maryland

A system to filter pollution from water runoff at Minmi Road, Maryland will protect the Shortland wetlands downstream.



### 5 Drainage improvements, Howell Street, Kotara

A wider creek channel with new plants improves stormwater drainage. The final work will improve stormwater drainage and water quality.



### 6 East End Phase 1 Upgrade, Hunter Street Mall

New road pavement, footpaths, drainage, landscaping and public amenity improvements are underway in and around Hunter Street Mall.

## Upgrade enhances Hamilton community space

James Street Plaza on Hamilton's Beaumont Street (pictured below) has been transformed to create a vibrant, safe and inclusive space for the community to enjoy.

Designed to attract more visitors, families, and shoppers to the area, the upgrade includes new seating, garden beds, trees and new paving.

Public art reflecting Hamilton's history is also a feature of the renewed plaza, while a lighting animation will bring the space to life at night.

Visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/localcentres](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/localcentres) for the latest on upgrades to public spaces near you updates.



*A new footpath at Kilgour Avenue, Bar Beach is befitting pedestrians.*

## Treading the right path

Our teams have been busy making it easier for people to move around the city by improving our footpath network.

Last financial year we renewed or constructed more than four kilometres of footpaths across Newcastle.

Some of the projects we have completed in the last year include a 250-metre footpath on Young Road, Lambton, and a 200-metre pathway along Hannell Street in Wickham, linking pedestrians with the popular Throsby Creek shared path.

## New life for beachside kiosk

We have been working away at the Dixon Park Kiosk, breathing new life into this beachside gem.

Our upgrades include a complete refurbishment of the kiosk building, more seating and shelter, landscaping and a new mural featuring Newcastle surfing world champion Mark Richards (pictured below).

Once it's up and running, the kiosk is sure to transform the space into a vibrant community place where locals and visitors can connect, relax and take in the view!

It's hoped the kiosk will be open for a coffee in the summer months following an expressions of interest process for potential operators.

