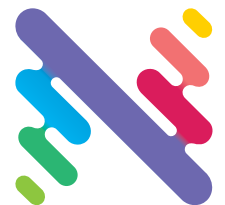


Newcastle HFMP

# Harbour Foreshore Masterplan



[newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)



City of  
Newcastle

## Acknowledgment

The City of Newcastle acknowledges the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We recognize and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

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**City of  
Newcastle**

TCL acknowledges the collaborative process undertaken with The City of Newcastle, site stakeholders and community.

We thank the involvement with Councillors:

Lord mayor: Councillor Nuatali Nelmes

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Councillor Emma White

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Councillor John Mackenzie

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Councillor John Church

---

Councillor Carol Duncan

---

Councillor Declan Clausen

---

Councillor Andrea Rufo

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Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz

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We would also like to acknowledge the important contribution to the Masterplan of the:

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Community Reference Group (CRG), Including; Helen Cummings, Laura Shane, Garry Fielding, Tracey Stephens, Christine Everingham, Rob Russell, Mark Metrikas, Joe Relic, Neil Slater, Doug Lithgow, Reena Bilen, Justin Nyker, Bruce Cooper, Mik Illett and Jamie Graham.

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Harbour Foreshore Masterplan Inclusive Playspace Design Reference Group (PDRG), including; Reena Bilen, Erin Ralph, Luke Russell, Shellie Smith, Kirsty Russell, Nathan Burford, Katrina Lim, Emma MacBain, Mary Pettett, Heather Richmond, Vanessa Henry, Chloe - Archer's Mum, Alexander Goodwin

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Project Control Group (PCG): Director Infrastructure and Property, Director City Wide Services, Manager Major Events & Corporate Affairs, Manager Assets and Projects, Manager Parks and Recreation

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The City of Newcastle project team Including: Tim Daley, Rachel Mc Conkey, Lynn Duffy, Meaghan Bennett, Sandra McKenny & Natalie D'Arcy.

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Variety - the Children's Charity, Councils partner on planning, consulting and designing the proposed all inclusive playspace. Represented in the project design team by Kim Becherand, Head of Inclusive Play & Lisa Whinnen, Inclusive Play Manager - Projects and their team

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*Bosque Landscape Architecture* (Chris Johnstone)  
Heritas  
Variety - The Children's Charity

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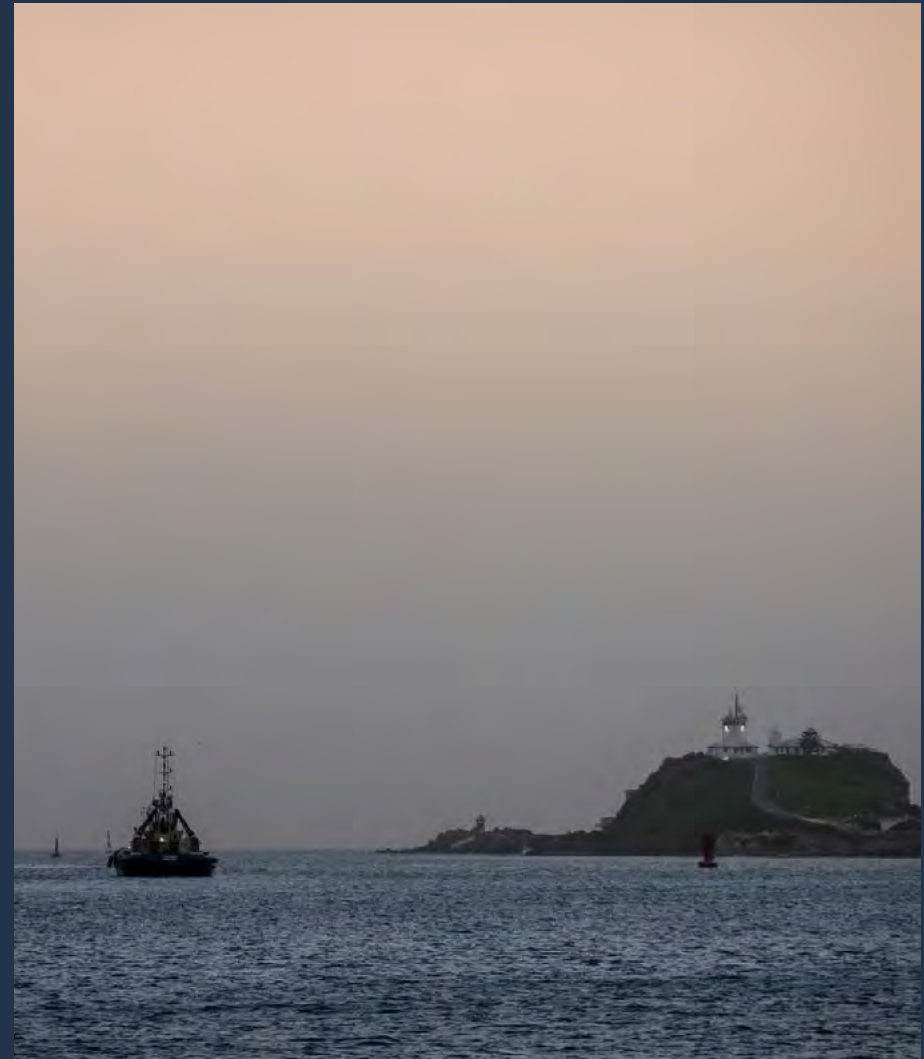
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TITLE	Date	Checked	Approved
Master Plan Report Final	19-01-2023	A O	P L
Master Plan Report DRAFT 01	10-09-2021	A O	P L

# 01 Executive Summary

Newcastle Harbour Foreshore is a high quality eleven hectare regional level park adjacent to the city centre of Newcastle. It borders the Newcastle Harbour or Yohaaba, beaches and culturally significant sites of Nobby's or Whibayganba , Fort Scratchley or Tahlbihn, the Convict Lumberyard and Customs House. The park is situated largely on reclaimed land and has a rich cultural heritage from Aboriginal and European settlement. It has evolved through a number of eras including a home for the Awabakal and Worimi peoples for 60 thousand years, a site for coal mining, shipping, managing harbour activities, a power station, bond storage and rail marshalling yards evolving into the open green space we see today.

(Foreshore Plan of Management 2015)



## Introduction

The Foreshore is comprised of the three distinct sectors; Joy Cummings Promenade, Foreshore Park and Camp Shortland. This masterplan applies to the Joy Cummings Promenade and Foreshores Park, It realises a collective community ambition to have an activated, attractive and connected public space along the Harbour edge and Foreshore Park.

The masterplan acknowledges the layers of history that has formed this precinct and has contributed to its popularity with locals and visitors. Equally the plan recognises the great potential for the precinct to improve on these foundations and become a fully linked, attractive and activated sequence of public spaces on a unique active harbour.

The foreshore provides an important connection for the city to its harbour and is host to a range of community and high-profile events. However, roads and infrastructure often dominate the visitor experience and landscape elements such as furnishings, pavements, lighting and facilities are aging and are not commensurate with its civic role. This plan therefore aims to build upon the inherent strengths and attributes, rejuvenate amenities, planting, furnishings and experiences whilst enriching the destination qualities of the setting to entice visitors every day and all year round.

The foreshore masterplan aims to unite its disparate parts, links to its adjacent context, facilitate a diverse range and scale of events and bring new playful experiences, journeys and cultural connections to the community. The plan is informed by patterns of its history, stories of its people and contemporary aspirations.

The masterplan also builds upon the analysis, consultation , objectives and actions outlined in the Foreshore Plan of Management 2015.

The masterplan has also been informed by a detailed staged engagement process that has sought community and stakeholder input and which has guided the collective vision, concept designs and long-term strategy for future projects and development of the precinct.

The masterplan provides an overall vision for the Harbour foreshore that includes key moves and design strategies for the precinct to inform the future development and enhancement over the next 10-20 years.

Key design considerations informing the plan include:

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Legibility of access and circulation including universal access measures

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Provision of safe cycling routes along the foreshore

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Indigenous representation

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Connectivity with its urban context and broader public realm

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Recognition of site heritage.

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Tree canopy and strategies to mitigate urban heat island and climate change

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Expand upon the existing planting palette to improve biodiversity and botanical diversity

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Enhancement of outdoor spaces and its programming

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Provision of an all inclusive play space and amenities

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Event use at a range of scales

---

Furnishings, pavements and structures

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Signage and wayfinding

---

Public art

---

Key views connecting harbour and foreshore

---

The masterplan ensures that the public foreshore is reinforced as a centrepiece and significant draw card for Newcastle and is enriched with a range of public spaces and experiences that build upon its cultural stories, inherent strengths and opportunities



Aerial image with project extents highlighted  
(Nearmap, 2020)





Proposed Masterplan with project extents highlighted  
(TCL, 2021)





# 01 Executive Summary

## Building Upon its Great Bones

This masterplan realises a collective community ambition to have an activated, attractive and connected public space along Newcastle's celebrated harbour edge.

The masterplan recognises the foundation strengths and experiences of the foreshore and protects and enhances these qualities.

Key foreshore features such as its open views to water, the continuous greenspace linked by promenades, the generous foreshore park, its heritage elements, open lawns and its variety of social and activity nodes are all recognised as important elements for retention and enhancement.

The masterplan builds upon these qualities with more generous promenades and cycling, with additional links to water, enhanced tree plantings and canopy, improved furnishings as well as proposed new activity hubs, amenities, play spaces and cultural interpretation opportunities

## A Cherished Meeting Place

Newcastle's Foreshore is a cherished meeting place for locals and visitors in the heart of the City. Although a popular strolling, cycling, meeting and event setting, the Foreshore has not provided the furnishings, landscape, lighting and destination qualities commensurate with its important context and role and to entice visitors every day and all year round.

To foster an increased and improved user experience for visitors of all ages, new promenades will connect more people to a range of spaces to meet, socialise and rejoice in the beauty of the harbour setting and Foreshore Park. These broad pathways will also link to shady seating spaces, event lawns, cultural walks, play, dining and various social spaces.

Importantly existing key nodes such as Lynch's Hub and Scratchleys will be enhanced as key destinations, with new nodes at the Merchant Mariners Memorial and Tug Berth Lane offering additional seating and viewing opportunities onto the harbour. In Foreshore Park, the central Railway Carriage Shed precinct will become the social heart with new paths, community lawns, plantings and picnic opportunities.

These will support the new all inclusive play space and water play facility that will become an iconic new destination for locals and regional visitors.



## 01 Executive Summary

### Greening of Wharf Road and Foreshore Park with Sustainability Initiatives

The Harbour Foreshore is valued for its open lawns and tree canopy. These provide a major asset for the community providing a setting with great prospects on to the harbour, a place of refuge and relaxation in contrast to the urban streets nearby.

By contrast, Wharf Road, Tug Berth Lane and parts of Foreshore Park are experienced as open and exposed and diminish the sense of a continuous and inviting green harbour park.

The masterplan recognises the community's desire to maintain these treed lawn spaces and complement them with more shade and seating opportunities to foster greater year-round use and enjoyment. Additional trees and shelter has been suggested in locations that are not impacted by event requirements.

The design proposes transforming Wharf Road into a tree lined esplanade to enhance the overall foreshore experience and provide a suitable entry experience. Additional trees, gardens, and indigenous plantings are proposed for foreshore park and supported by localised water sensitive urban design initiatives.

### Place for Celebration

The masterplan fosters Foreshore Park as Newcastle's premier setting for community use and celebrations. The improved park spaces, tree canopy, furnishings and pathways will further encourage the use of the setting for a range of functions, from small community scale to large regional events.

Within Foreshore Park, a range of spaces are being developed and improved to encourage a range of uses for the community. The proposed regional inclusive playspace will provide a new drawcard and active destination. As will the adjacent proposed community commons centred on the Railway Carriage Shed that will foster family community use with picnics, and bbqs.

Importantly the large event uses held at the park particularly on Shortland Lawn, will be enhanced through improved facilities, pathways and landscape.

The existing Shortland Lawn amphitheatre will be developed to encourage additional event uses as well as day to day uses such as roller and scooter use.

Bridging between Community Commons, the Playspace and Shortland Lawn are two large groves of trees that provide pockets of large canopy trees, providing shade and seating for park users and contributing to the park's overall biodiversity.



## 01 Executive Summary

### Connections

Newcastle's harbour foreshore is a popular setting for strolling and cycling, and forms part of an overall connection from Honeysuckle promenade to the west and linking to Bathers Way, Nobby's Beach and Fort Scratchley. Its popularity however is compromised by pavements that are often too narrow, in particular along Wharf Road creating conflicts between pedestrians, runners, and cyclists.

The masterplan has located a new shared pedestrian / cycling path that links along Wharf Road to Tug Berth Lane and connects to Bathers Way. This path located on the northern edge of the transformed Wharf Road will complement the existing / upgraded harbour edge promenade and cater for safe off-road cycling and pedestrian use. These new facilities will link to improved connections through to the City and into Foreshore Park where a range of new pathways and cultural walks are proposed.

### Cultural Stories

Newcastle's Harbour Foreshore has undergone a remarkable transformation over 200 years.

Prior to European settlement the site was a valued coastal landscape and home to the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

Its existing use as a valued green park space contrasts with the range of railway, maritime and industrial uses seen on the site since the original settlement of Newcastle. The existing Railway Carriage Shed in Foreshore Park is a potent remainder of uses that once occupied this setting.

These past uses and cultural stories are intended to be captured and interpreted in the proposed cultural walk with a detailed wayfinding and interpretation process to be undertaken following the masterplan. The Cultural Walk, located on the southern edge of Foreshore Park along the original shoreline, is a generous pathway that conveys through interpretation and experience, stories of first nations connection to country within a landscape setting that locates meeting places, boardwalks and wetlands in indigenous flora.





# 02 Project Vision and Brief



## Introduction

TCL, landscape architects and urban designers with Bosque landscape architecture were engaged by The City of Newcastle in 2020 to prepare a masterplan for Newcastle's Harbour Foreshore.

The objective of this project was to build upon the foreshore plan of management for the precinct, consult with community and stakeholders in order to provide a collective vision and long-term strategy.

This process involved a comprehensive community and engagement process complemented with First Nations engagement, Community Reference Groups participation and stakeholder engagement.

The Masterplan process also included a document review, research and detailed site analysis both remotely and on site. Due to COVID19 restrictions, a desktop mapping analysis was initially conducted followed by a visit to site in May, 2021.

Following initial community input a series of design principles were developed to guide design decisions and support and enhance the valued qualities of the foreshore. These principles informed a set of key moves that provided essential steps to guide the precinct to become a rejuvenated and cherished contemporary civic and community destination.

A draft foreshore concept plan and play space concept was developed with input by Variety - the Children's Charity and the Harbour Foreshore Masterplan Inclusive Playspace Design Reference Group. This was exhibited for community consultation and community reference group input in February 2021.

This masterplan has been refined following this feedback and represents a collective ambition to build upon the sites great bones and provide a welcoming activated park space with high quality promenades, cycleways, facilities and amenities, active nodes, playspaces and landscapes.

## Program

The program for this Masterplan began in March 2020.



Key: ● Stakeholder group or community engagement  
○ Design Development step

# 01 Project Vision and Brief

## Overview

The Masterplan covers a 13.2 ha area situated in the city centre of Newcastle. It comprises two precincts.

Joy Cummings Promenade/Wharf Road, extending from Argyle Street in the west to Watt Street at its eastern end and comprising the harbour promenade, adjacent parklands and wharf Road.

Foreshore Park, a high quality 7.6ha regional level park, including Tug Berth Lane edging the Harbour and adjacent to nearby beaches and culturally significant sites of Fort Scratchley, the Convict Lumberyard and Customs House. The park is situated largely on reclaimed land and has a rich cultural heritage from Aboriginal and European settlement.

These two precincts were consolidated into a unified public open space from maritime, railway and industrial uses through a design competition was held in the 1980s to convert the area into an open space parkland. In 1985, construction work began on the redevelopment of the site and in 1988 Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the Foreshore as part of Australia's bicentenary celebrations. While this emergence of public open space has become a highly valued community amenity, the precinct as a whole has been in need of a consolidated long term vision. The precinct has the potential to become a major visitor destination and united and appealing draw card for Newcastle.

The purpose of the Masterplan is therefore to guide development over the next 10 years to achieve a Harbour Foreshore Precinct that is:

valued as a destination by residents, visitors and the wider community of Newcastle;

Relevant to a growing and changing population;

Able to respond to increasing and changing community pressures;

Responsive to planned urban renewal and revitalisation of the Newcastle and East End precinct;

Balances the foreshore's competing uses and interests, and accommodates the social, political, environmental and economic changes likely to occur within the planning horizon;

Responsive to forecast climate change impacts, including urban heat island effects;

Celebrates the rich cultural history of the precinct; and

Considers CPTED principles throughout the design.





Sunrise Runners  
(City of Newcastle, 2021)

## 02 Project Vision and Brief

### Background Reports

The City of Newcastle adopted the Foreshore Plan of Management in October 2015 which outlines the city's long term vision for the precinct. The Plan of Management identified the need to develop a Landscape Masterplan to guide the future development of the precinct.

The Plan of management provided guidance on key management objectives for the space, including maintaining visual amenity and views, providing appropriate facilities and services and flexible spaces to meet community needs, improving connectivity and activation of the space.

The Plan of Management has been a guiding document to inform key decisions and strategies throughout the masterplanning process.

### Guiding Reports

*Note: Unless specified, these reports are available online*

Foreshore Plan of Management 2015

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, 2016

Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012

Heritage Strategy, 2020

Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy, 2018

Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (Local) *[unavailable online]*

Newcastle Destination Management Plan 2021-2025

Newcastle City Council Events Plan 2016

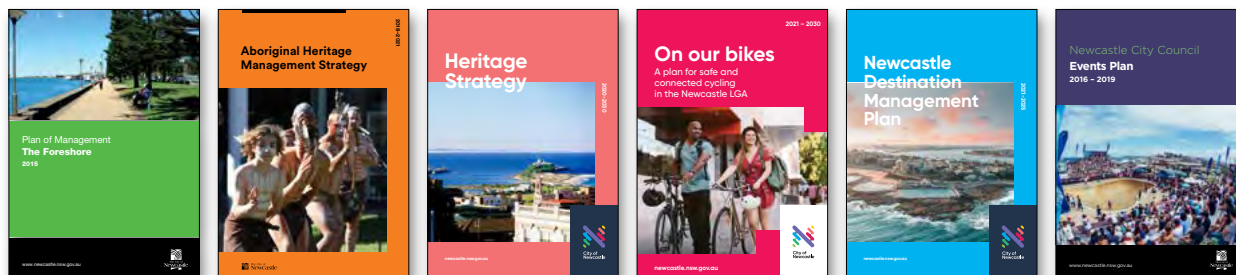
City Centre Technical Manual

Urban Forest Technical Manual

Cycling Plan - On our bikes 2021 - 2030

Parking Plan - On the Street 2021 - 2030

TfNSW Movement and Place Framework



## 02 Project Vision and Brief

### Objectives

The Masterplan aims to realise the full potential of the foreshore as a premier recreation and event space for the City. The Masterplan explores ways to enable opportunities for locals and visitors to have access, utilise and enjoy the experience of the foreshore.

The Masterplan aims to direct a strong, innovative and creative vision which captures and creatively interprets the essence, history and future of the foreshore. This vision has been informed and directed by a high level of community and stakeholder involvement.

Concurrent to the masterplan process has been the planning, consultation and design for a regional scaled inclusive playspace and water park located in foreshore park. This facility will replace the existing play facility and consolidate the park as a major community family destination. This has been developed in partnership with Variety the Children's Charity.

The briefed objectives for the Masterplan also require a spatially articulate vision for the foreshore including:

A revitalised and aesthetically pleasing precinct in response to the inherent opportunities and constraints;

---

The balance of facilities, structured and casual spaces and how this supports the visitor experiences available at the park and foreshore;

---

A unified landscape composed of accessible and diverse spaces;

---

Legibility and hierarchy in the proposed elements defining the landscape;

---

Pedestrian and cycle connectivity to surrounding facilities and communities;

---

Opportunities to explore the diversity of visitation, both casual and event-based;

---

Expands upon the quantity and diversity of park spaces available for the community

---

Balancing recreation and the staging of major events;

---

Protection and enhancement of amenity, environmental, historical and conservation values;

---

Sustainable water management;

---

Adaptive and responsive to a shifting climate;

---

Celebrating the distinctive character and heritage of the Harbour Foreshore Precinct; and

---

Integration with design outcomes of the wider public domain of the East End;

---

A regional-scale water and play space commensurate with the rich and vibrant histories of the Foreshore

---



## 02 Project Vision and Brief

### Key Challenges

The Key challenges identified in the brief for the Masterplan include:

Aging infrastructure throughout the precinct.

---

Cyclist and pedestrian connectivity along the foreshore with meaningful connections to other precincts throughout the city. Current major conflicts occur between Honeysuckle promenade and Watt Street.

---

Historic elements throughout the landscape inclusive of various memorials along the foreshore requiring retention or interpretation.

---

Need for infrastructure to support major regional events, without jeopardising neighbouring activities within the foreshore and park.

---

Need for recreational infrastructure to support increasing population, shift to vertical living and changing demographics.

---

Competing use demands.

---

The harbour foreshore is an important recreational asset for Newcastle and will have increasing pressure from the community as a passive and active recreation space. The masterplan should explore and critique the range of recreational opportunities provided and examine whether the current balance of structured and unstructured space is optimal.

---

Investigation of the local Indigenous culture is required to ascertain the potential for interpretation of the park's cultural values with the possibility of incorporating indigenous themes throughout the park.

---

All issues will be considered with the amenity of current and future residents in mind. Noise, light, traffic, views and any other impacts should be considered, as well as the additional increases to amenity arising from park improvements.

---

Achieve increased canopy cover where possible

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### Opportunities

The Key opportunities identified in the brief for the Masterplan include:

Creating an inner city parkland to meet the recreational and social needs of the community that differentiates itself from neighbouring facilities.

---

Provide improved linkages to Bathers Way and Honeysuckle precincts and the CBD

---

Celebrate the foreshore as a major recreational precinct.

---

Major events space close to the city and public transport.

---

Integrate community facilities including all abilities play space and water play.

---

Historical influences and cultural elements celebrated within the foreshore.

---

Explore opportunities to provide an integrated community building used to service the park and hold minor functions.

---

Explore opportunities to increase night-time activation of the foreshore.

---

Explore opportunities to conserve and protect significant trees which contribute to the foreshore's significant visual amenity.

---

Generating revenue streams.

---

Diversifying the foreshore spaces and creating greater texture and interest in the landscape, within a context of unifying the Park precincts.

---

Improved environmental outcomes, increased tree and ground cover planting and best practise WSUD, building ecological biodiversity, carbon capture and mitigating heat island effects.

---

# 03 Foreshore Narratives



## Culture

The Foreshore is in the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples, where to this day, they maintain a strong connection with the land, the river, the coast and the ocean.

Historically, the Awabakal and Worimi peoples were deeply connected to the rhythms of the coast and river which were intrinsic to the cultural life of community and its provision of sustenance, shelter and stories. The site where the river meets the ocean would have been an important place of gathering.

Today, meeting along foreshore remains an important part of the life of the City.

Newcastle's and the foreshore cultural narratives are also evident in the stories of maritime, industrial and railway uses that have occupied the foreshore over many years since European settlement. The diverse migrant communities that settled here to work have been a major contribution to Newcastle's society and economic offerings.

The Foreshore can showcase the rich and diverse, past and present cultural narratives. Collaboration with the Awabakal and Worimi peoples has been an important part of the masterplan and ongoing engagement and partnership with these communities as designs are further developed will be important as with other cultural groups of the City



## 03 Foreshore Narratives



### Heritage

Newcastle's multilayered heritage is evident in the precinct through the architecture and streetscapes and has also informed the arrangement and extent of the various existing park spaces.

Newcastle's colonial heritage dates back to September 1797 and subsequent settlement in the following years.

The harbour foreshore is home to many significant heritage buildings, elements and monuments.

Themes of marine, lumber, power, industry, commerce resonate across the site. These important foundation uses and narratives are important themes unique to this place and can be protected and enhanced in the visitors experience through subsequent detailed design and interpretation.

In 1973 the Newcastle Green Ban Action saved the site and East End from development and allowed the foreshore industrial area to be transformed into public open space.



### Community

The harbour foreshore is a natural magnet for the Newcastle community, located in the heart of the city, on a working harbour and near important heritage sites and beaches. The expansive green park spaces and linking paths have attracted visitors that seek social engagement in a powerful setting or respite from more urban contexts. The harbour foreshore has provided a range of recreational opportunities, whether walking, exercising, cycling, playing, dining or picnicking.

Coming together to enjoy the theatre of community life, in all its forms, in a beautiful setting is an important guiding narrative for the project.





## Green

Newcastle is a working city, with its architecture and landscapes informed by the practices and patterns of the various industrial and maritime uses. More recently, the City has been planned with an awareness of the impacts of climate change, the need to mitigate against urban heat island effects and the benefits to community and environment of sustainability initiatives.

The masterplan can play a vital role in contributing to an enhanced environmental condition for the harbour foreshore. Through improved tree planting, water sensitive urban design, biodiversity initiatives and sustainable material choices, the harbour foreshore can provide improved community experiences, within a beautiful, shaded and diverse landscape.

## 03 Foreshore Narratives

### Phase 1 Community Engagement - Values, Uses and Ideas

The aim of this phase of engagement was to discover what the community love about the Foreshore and seek ideas for what they'd like to see here in the future.

Phase 1 engagement took place in June and July 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this primarily involved broad online consultation via a survey and online interactive mapping tool, and engagement with schools in the local government area (LGA), in partnership with Variety –the Children's Charity. Over 1,000 people provided feedback.

The key things people told us they loved about the Harbour Foreshore included:

Harbour views

Grassy areas / green spaces and trees & gardens

Wide paths and wide openspaces

Access to nearby restaurants and cafes

The main things the community told us they wanted to see more of included:

Trees and shade

Accessible toilets

Pop-up events and activations

Picnic tables and gardens

People like playspaces with:

Areas for different age groups to relax and play in

Climbing agility and challenging play elements

Sensory spaces, nature play and quiet spaces are preferred by people with a disability and/or their carers, family and friends.

In addition to the broad engagement activities, a community reference group (CRG) was formed with key stakeholder groups and community members. The CRG met in August 2020 to discuss visions for the project. Informed by community feedback, a preliminary concept for the Foreshore Park precinct of the Harbour Foreshore was developed, including a detailed playground concept plan as mandated by the 2015 Foreshore PoM. The CRG met again in December 2020 where an early version of the preliminary concept was presented for feedback. Members of the project team subsequently met with individual CRG members to further discuss their feedback. The concept plans were also shared for feedback with Year 6 students at St Therese's Primary School in December 2020.



Online Survey



Online mapping tool



School workshops



1,000+ responses



### 03 Foreshore Narratives

*City of Newcastle and Variety – the Children's Charity committed to involving the community to help guide and shape the development of the Harbour Foreshore masterplan.*

*To achieve this, a two-phase engagement program was designed to maximise opportunities for community involvement.*

**City of Newcastle**



## 03 Foreshore Narratives

### Phase 2 Community Engagement - Feedback on preliminary concept for Foreshore Park

The aim of this phase of engagement to gain broad community feedback on the preliminary concept design for Foreshore Park and experiences of walking and cycling along the Harbour Foreshore. The feedback gained was used to help refine the masterplan and inclusive play space concept design.

Phase 2 community engagement activities were carried out from 16 February to 5 March 2021. There were a range of ways for people to have their say on the preliminary concepts for the Harbour Foreshore masterplan:



#### Drop-in information sessions

250+ attendees across three sessions

Feedback at two of the sessions was positive with a broad cross-section of the community saying the project will be great for our city.

Local residents raised concerns around:

- location of the playspace
- usage of the Rail Shed & amenities
- existing community garden
- location of the proposed cafe impeding sight lines
- traffic and parking, including current 'hoon' activity, and
- inadequate consultation.



#### Survey

194 surveys completed about walking and cycling on Wharf Road



Opinion divided on whether the 30km/h on Wharf Road should be retained



Most would like to see an additional off-road cycle friendly path along Wharf Road.



**Have Your Say webpage**  
2,911 visits  
244 online polls completed

**77%**

said the preliminary concepts looked great or OK



**Social media**  
Post on CN pages & large media outlets

**1000+ 'likes' & 'loves'**

across two CN posts and two posts from large local media outlets



#### Social Pinpoint

256 comments or ideas received on interactive maps

#### People would like to see more:

- Trees and shade
- Facilities for skating and scooting

#### Improvements to consider:

- Switch location of playspace with Picnic/BBQ Lawn
- Move café to preserve view lines from stairs to the harbour
- Repurpose frog pond for skating and scooting
- Retain existing community garden



#### Submissions

31 written submissions

#### Key issues raised in submissions:

- playspace too close to residents and businesses, with associated noise impacts and loss of passive recreation
- inadequate parking and increased traffic
- amount of event space
- calls to retain the existing community garden
- preference to retain frog pond as a water feature

### 03 Foreshore Narratives

Using community feedback, a number of changes were made to the preliminary concept for Foreshore Park including:

Relocating the playspace next to the Wharf Road carpark, away from nearby residents and businesses and closer to accessible parking spaces.

Centralised amenities with optional café/kiosk

Dedicated area for roller skating and scooting

Improved connections to Tug Berth Lane.

The revised concept for Foreshore Park, and the Wharf Road precinct concept, were presented to the CRG for feedback in July 2021. The concepts were also shared for feedback with Year 6 students at St Therese's Primary School in August. Overall, the concepts were positively received, and feedback received from these groups was used to help further refine the Harbour Foreshore Masterplan.

Thank you to everyone who had their say during development of the Harbour Foreshore masterplan.

For more information on Harbour Foreshore community engagement activities, please visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursayopportunities](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursayopportunities) for community involvement.



# 04 Context and Site Attributes



## Site Analysis

Initial site analysis of the precinct involved remote aerial mapping as well as site visits to the area.

Mapping included pedestrian and vehicular access and circulation; heritage overlays and historical chronology; current building occupancy and ownership; figure ground; events mapping; landscape materiality, lighting and furnishings; built edge conditions and existing softscape.

In addition to aerial mapping, a 'walking the site' analysis was also conducted, which documented a pedestrian's first impressions perspective of the experiential qualities of the site. This is an essential component of understanding what makes a public space successful to users.

Refer appendix for further site analysis and the heritage report.



Site and surrounds  
(Nearmap, 2020)

Left: Newcastle pre-Colonial Settlement Render  
(TCL, 2020)

## 04 Context and Site Attributes



(Site Context) Landscape and Ecology



Topography



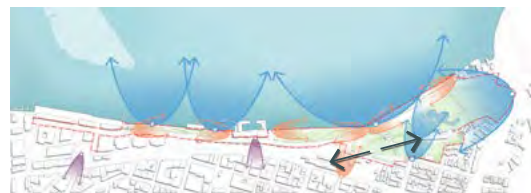
Heritage



Cycle (Proposed) Network



Public Transport Network



Views



Events



## 04 Context and Site Attributes

### City Context

The Harbour Foreshore comprising Joy Cummings Promenade/Wharf Road and Foreshore Park are high profile harbourside parks located adjacent to Newcastle's CBD and the iconic East End. It is a location rich with both indigenous and European history as well as the natural beauty of the harbour and Newcastle coastline. The site is highly accessible with light rail, ferry and bus services within close walking distance. The site is at the apex of two significant walkways and highly used shared pathway networks: The Bathers Way that wraps along the City's coastline from the South and the R6 harbourside pathway that connects the foreshore to the western suburbs.

The harbour edge once cut off from the city by the railway is now linked through connections from east to west at: Newcomen St, Market St, Perkins St and the new connection between Darby St and Argyle St at Darby Plaza.

With vehicle connections accessing the site along Wharf Road from the east at Merewether Street and west at Nobby's Road and Shortland Esplanade as well as links via Watt Street and Argyle, Street.



## 04 Context and Site Attributes

### Site Context

The site located on largely reclaimed land on Newcastle's harbour, extends 1.7 kilometres in length, and comprises an area of 13.2ha.

Wharf Road is comprised of the Joy Cummings promenade, adjacent narrow parkland of Foreshore Reserve, with the two lane wharf road on the southern boundary. Key nodes include the Queens Wharf Precinct, Scratchleys Restaurant and Lynch's Hub.

On its southern edge is the newly completed Market Street Lawn and reinterpreted Newcastle Railway Station public open spaces.

Wharf Road Precinct connects to the Honeysuckle harbourside developments on its west, whilst Foreshore park and Tub Berth Lane are located at the eastern end of the precinct.

Foreshore Park a 7.6ha regional scaled park on the site of the former Newcastle railyards. It is situated adjacent to key Newcastle features such as the Macquarie Pier & Nobbys headland, Camp Shortland, Fort Scratchley and Nobbys beach.

On the southern edge of the park is the Newcastle East residential area as well as are significant heritage elements such as the Customs House Plaza, Paymasters, Former Bond Stores and the Convict Lumberyard.

Foreshore Park features large open lawn areas with treed areas and a path network. Key features include the open Shortland lawn and amphitheatre, the frog pond, historic Railway Carriage Shed, Sandhills community garden, local play space. Tug Berth Lane is located to the north of the Park adjacent to Wharf Road and the harbour.



## 04 Context and Site Attributes

### Heritage Context

The study site straddles several heritage conservation areas defined by the Newcastle LEP and the NSW Heritage Act. The western arm of the site falls within the Newcastle CBD Heritage Conservation Area, while the bulk of the current Foreshore Park area of the site falls within the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area, of which there are three precincts. The very east of the study site extends into the State heritage listed Coal River Precinct.


The European heritage layer of the study site is varied and rich, with extant built fabric telling the story of Newcastle's history as a convict and coal mining harbour city. A number of significant structures are located within the study site however, a large amount of the physical heritage contributing to the site is the fabric to the south - the backdrop of the city.



 Newcastle CBD Heritage Conservation Area

 Coal River Precinct

 Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

 Heritage sites within the project scope

Above: Heritage Context and Precincts  
(Heritas, 2020)

Within the site are several heritage listed items related to the historic harbour interface, including the Earp Gillam Bond Store Precinct and Bond Street Steps (c1890) and the former John Bull Warehouse (1895). The Railway Carriage Shed, and two small, now altered amenities buildings (1943 and 1945) also sit within the study site. These structures all relate to the interaction between the settlement of Newcastle and the harbour, specifically the transport and storage of goods.

The southern boundary of the study site with the city contains an abundance of heritage fabric also relating to the harbour interface, including Customs House (1877), Newcastle Railway Station (from 1858) and Signal Box (1936), Paymasters Cottage (1879), the Earp Gillam (1888) and Stanton Catchlove (1890) bond stores, and the former Coutts Sailors Home (1882). Adjacent to the study site, the Convict Lumberyard (c1818) also presents an urban parkland space with links to the convict history of the harbour foreshore.

Beyond commercial uses, a number of heritage listed residential sites add to the character of the inner city harbour interface including, most prominently, the Stevenson Place Precinct – a two blocks long row of terraces overlooking the current Foreshore Park.

The western arm of the study site is highlighted by Argyle House, the early Victorian cottage originally the offices of the Australian Agricultural Company in Newcastle. Similar to the eastern end of the study site, this western arm is also characterised by numerous heritage items outside of the site boundary but forming a backdrop to the study site, including large commercial buildings such as the former Scott's Department Store building, former Commonwealth Bank building, the dominating former warehouse structures of Beberfauld's and R. Hall & Sons, and the former Newcastle School of Arts building.

The historical interface with the harbour itself is a more diluted remnant however no less significant. Out of the study site boundary but still able to characterise it are the sites of the Pilot Station, Boat Harbour and Boat Sheds (from 1866), Fort Scratchley (1882) and Nobbys Lighthouse (1857). Historical mapping also confirms elements within the study site but no longer visible, such as the original shoreline and the extent of the beach sandhills, over which timber plank pathways once allowed for pedestrian movement between the city and the eastern promontory of the settlement. A c1840 ballast wharf jetty is believed to be remnant in the area of the 1945 amenities building.

- Heritas, 2022

Opposite page: Foreshore Park Heritage Context  
and Buildings (Heritas, 2022)

\*Note: Building demolition works within the East End Heritage Conservation Area require a Heritage Impact Assessment and Development Approval.



- 01: Heritage Item 1491 (Local) Former John Bull Warehouse
- 02: Heritage Item 1492 (State SHR 0762) Former Earp Gillam Bond Store  
(Earp Gillam Bond Store Precinct)
- 03: Railway Carriage Shed
- 04: Former Railway Yards Amenities (West)
- 05: Former Railway Yards Amenities (East)

- Foreshore Precinct-Newcastle East HCA
- Historic Core Precinct-Newcastle East HCA
- Residential Precinct-Newcastle East HCA

## 04 Context and Site Attributes

### Landscape Context

Wharf Road Precinct is characterised by a narrow parkland space located between the road and the harbour promenade. The majority of the park is comprised of open lawns and canopy trees with species including *Auracaria heterophylla* (Norfolk island pines), *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook pines), *Casuarina Glauca* (Swamp sheoak), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary island date palm), *Phoenix reclinata* (Senegal date palm) and *Ficus rugbignosa* (Port jackson fig). Some garden spaces are located sporadically along the foreshore comprising of species such as *Lomandra longifolia* (Mat rush) and *Crinum pendunculatum* (Swamp lilly).

Foreshore Park is a large 7.6ha landscape, located on reclaimed land on the site of the former Railway marshalling yards comprising, large open lawns and mostly informally arranged canopy trees.

A range of trees are considered significant including an avenue of *Auracaria heterophylla* (Norfolk island pines) located on axis with the Railway Carriage Shed and *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook pines)

Additional species used within the park include:

*Casuarina cunninghamiana*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Triadica sebifera*, *Acmena smithii var. minor*, *Pittosporum undulatum*, *Angophora costata*, *Melia azedarach*, *Corymbia maculata*, *Brachychiton acerifolius*,

*Tristaniopsis laurina*, *Angophora costata*, *Acacia sophorae*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Callistemon citrinus*, *Casuarina glauca*, *Ficus rubiginosa*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *Syzygium smithii*, *Syzygium leuhmannii*, *Waterhousea floribunda*, *Platanus orientalis* "Digitata", *Viburnum tinus*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Agathis robusta*, *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Murraya paniculata*, *Ficus carica*, *Inga vera*, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Triadica sebifera*, *Olea europaea subsp. Cuspidate*, *Metrosideros excelsa*, *Acacia saligna*, *Banksia serrata*, *Howea forsteriana*, *Erythrina crista-galli*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'*, *Ligustrum lucidum*, *Lagunaria patersonia*, *Washingtonia filifera*.

At the centre of the park is the Frog Pond, that has been emptied of water and is now a sunken and open concrete basin.

A valued community garden space (Sandhills Community Garden) is located near to the Railway Carriage Shed adjacent to the park works depot.

The park is defined by an escarpment on its southern edge which frames the park spaces and illustrates the original shoreline. Along this edge are undulating lawns and more detailed gardens and plantings.



(City of Newcastle, 2021)

## 04 Context and Site Attributes

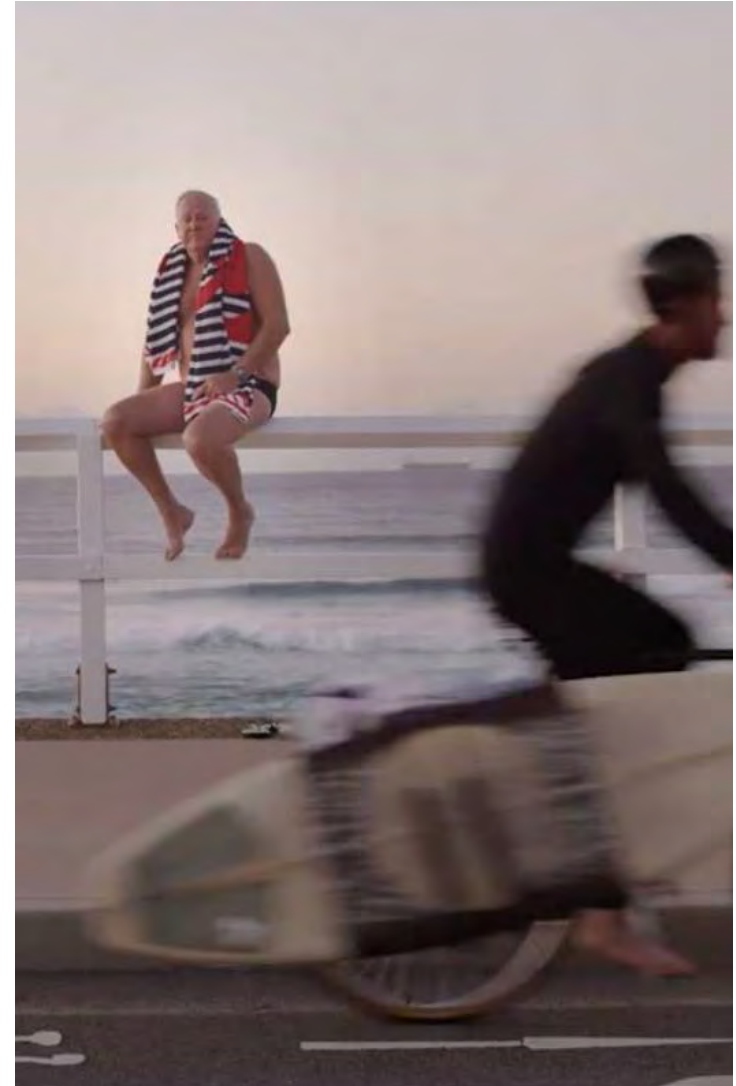
### Connectivity

The harbour foreshore is well connected to its adjacent city context and well served with public transport including ferry, light rail and bus services.

Pedestrian and cycle connections to the site are available along the narrow harbour promenade which links to the western suburbs and east to the Nobbys Beach and beyond.

Pedestrian connection to the site from the city are available at, Nobbys Beach & SLSC, Bathers Way , Fort Scratchley via Nobbys Road, Telford Street , Bond Street, Watt Street, Market Street, Perkins Street, Darby Street, Merewether Street and Honeysuckle Promenade.

Carparking and access is available via parallel parking bays along Wharf Road as well as defined parking areas at Queens Wharf. At Foreshore Park a large carpark exists along Wharf Road, that is also used for events. A large car parking station is located at the corner of Wharf Street and Argyle Street.





## 04 Context and Site Attributes

### Uses

The Harbour Foreshore is an important informal recreation and cultural space for the inner city and the wider Newcastle community. The site is a premier event space for the City, hosting a range of community based and commercial events including Newcastle 500 , concerts, markets and family gatherings.

The area is enjoyed on a day to basis for a range of recreational uses such as strolling, meeting, play, informal sports, picnicking, bbqs, fishing and cycling. Use of the adjacent lawns for informal dining and takeaway meals is a popular activity near to Scratchleys and Lynch's hub.



# 05 Key Moves and Principles



## Principles

The Masterplan identified a series of design principles, to guide the key directions and decisions and to test and validate ideas as they emerge. These principles were developed in response to community consultation and Community Reference Group input.

*1. Reinforce Sense of Place:* Ensuring the masterplanning is of this place, is site responsive and uniquely of Newcastle. With outcomes that celebrate its valued and distinctive qualities.

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*2. Create a Sequence of Destinations:* Paths and promenades should link to a series of places and create interesting and memorable interludes on the journey.

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*3. Community Facilities and Amenities:* Provision of high-quality public park facilities to serve the community.

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*4. Flexible Park Spaces:* Ensuring the foreshore is robust and able to perform a multiple of roles and have a variety of functions to best serve many visitors needs over many years.

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*5. Inclusive Access:* Ensuring our foreshore has safe equitable access for all.

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*6. Connected:* Provision of generous safe, walking and cycle networks. That are beautiful and part of a great foreshore experience.

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*7. Management:* Recognizing the success of the harbour foreshore will be, in part, how they are cared for and are organized for events.

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*8. Views and Landmarks:* Ensuring key vistas and panoramas are acknowledged, protected and reinforced. Those chosen should enrich the experience, aid orientation and reinforce a sense of place.

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*9. Active Nodes:* keeping the foreshore activated and well used through well designed community focused activity spaces.

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*10. Environment:* To plan for a climate resilient parkland with an enveloping canopy of suitable shade trees that also integrates water sensitive urban design into its landscapes.

---

*11. Heritage:* ensuring we identify values and interpret our pre-colonial and post-colonial stories of place.

---

## 05 Key Moves and Principles

### Key Moves

The Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan is designed via a sequence of key moves which will define the precinct as a world class waterfront parkland by building upon its valued characteristics, establish key connections, embellish with beautiful trees and plantings and foster a range of community focussed activity and social park spaces.

#### Unite The Foreshore

*Allow Foreshore Park to realise its full potential as the premier connective open space destination for the city of Newcastle. Connect current separate open space assets via new green walks, parks and cycleways.*



#### Establish a World Class Promenade

*A promenade that is generous, active, beautifully furnished and exquisitely lit that links destinations and celebrates the harbour setting.*



### Create a Memorable Cycleway

*Linking a majestic harbour to a dynamic and scenic ocean experience via a seamless new cycling experience.*



### Wharf Road as Great Esplanade

*Transform Wharf Road from an access drive into a memorable tree lined harbour esplanade.*



### Foreshore Park with Memorable Spaces

*Reinforce the foundation patterns of the park we have established with a sequence of defined spaces each with their own role and character.*



## 05 Key Moves and Principles

### Create a Community Heart

*Deliver a memorable themed play and water experience adjacent to a revitalised Railway Carriage Shed and café to become a major community destination and to animate the park all year round.*



### Establish a New Cultural Walk

*Link the park, marking the original shoreline with a new interpretive journey which will celebrate and tell stories of the Awabakal and Worimi and their connection to this place and ensuring we incorporate ecological and water sensitive city initiatives.*



### **Enrich the Foreshore with a Botanical Overlay**

*Introduce a beautiful botanical and ecological story to the setting ,with strong biodiversity values, with shaded spaces and furnishings to encourage year round use*



### **Commemorate the Creation of a City**

*Celebrate the architectural quality of Customs House and its role in the formation of the city by embellishing the plaza with stores that have driven the formation of the City of Newcastle.*



# 06 Masterplan





## Overview

This Masterplan realises a collective community ambition to have an activated, attractive and connected public space along the Harbour edge and connecting to Foreshore Park.

The Masterplan acknowledges the layers of history that has formed this precinct and has contributed to its popularity with locals and visitors. Equally the plan recognises the great potential for the precinct to improve on these foundations and become a fully integrated, attractive and activated sequence of public spaces on a unique active harbour.

## Major Elements

The report describes the components of the Wharf Road Precinct and Foreshore Park in subsequent chapters. Connecting both spaces are the following key elements and linkages.



## 06 Masterplan

### 01 Pedestrian Connections

A key feature of the Masterplan is the rejuvenation of the harbour promenade to be a world class experience that fosters greater connectivity to its Harbour.

The existing waterside pathway along Wharf Road is upgraded with new pavements, lighting and seating opportunities.

The promenade is extended east along Tug Berth Lane as part of a redevelopment of this space as a tree lined waterfront parkland.

Combined the promenade provides visitors with a generous link from Honeysuckle in the west to Bathers Way in the east and linking to adjacent nodes of activity, amenities, seating spaces and Foreshore Park.

### 02 Cycling Connections

A new separated cycleway is proposed along Wharf Road to alleviate pedestrian cycle conflicts along the Joy Cummings foreshore promenade.

This cycleway will be located on the northern edge of the road and provide a circulation edge between the parallel parking, avenue trees and the foreshore parkland lawns.

This pathway will link to the proposed Tug Berth Lane promenade and shared cycleway, creating a link from Argyle Street in the west to Watt Street in the east.



### 03 Green Connections

The foreshore parklands along Wharf Road are proposed to be extended along Tug Berth Lane to the east to provide a continuous green promenade and park experience linking to Foreshore Park.

Tug Berth Lane, currently an asphalt road will be transformed to a tree lined pedestrian and cycle pathway with new shade trees, open lawns and seating spaces.

### 04 City Connections

The success of the foreshore will in part be due to the way it connects to its city context. Proposed improved connections are proposed at Argyle Street linking to Darby Street, Lynch's Hub to Honeysuckle Promenade, Scratchleys to Perkins Street, Queens Wharf to Market Street, Watt Street to the refurbished Station and Foreshore Park to Tug Berth Lane.



# 06 Masterplan

## Wharf Road Precinct

### Wharf Road Precinct

The Wharf Road Precinct is redeveloped to celebrate its location on the Harbour. Upgraded promenade experiences, destinations and safe cycleways provide new links and ways to enjoy the waterside experience. Wharf Road is transformed into an attractive Harbour Esplanade with new avenue trees, pavements and furnishings.

### Carpark Rationalisation

Rationalisation of existing parking bays east and west of Queens Wharf into a consolidated parking area that is more integrated into its landscape context open up the pedestrian space surrounding the building. Rationalisation of the carpark is to be designed and undertaken when existing carpark assets are planned for renewal. Parking numbers to remain the same.



### Legend

- |    |                  |    |                                |    |                       |
|----|------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 01 | Lynch's Hub      | 04 | Joy Cummings Harbour Promenade | 07 | Pedestrian/Cycle Path |
| 02 | Argyle Street    | 05 | Carpark Rationalisation        | 08 | Tug Berth Lane        |
| 03 | Scratchleys Node | 06 | Wharf Road                     |    |                       |

### **Pedestrian / Cycle Path**

To alleviate congestion and safety along the harbour promenade a new pathway is located on the northern side of Wharf Road.

The path shall cater for bi-directional cycle and pedestrian movements and link from Argyle Street to Tug Berth lane promenade and east to Bathers Way and Shortland Esplanade.



## 06 Masterplan

### Wharf Road Precinct

Wharf Road redeveloped as a memorable harbour esplanade.

Improve the amenity and experience of the environs through new defined parking bays with dedicated WSUD tree planters every second car bay to treat stormwater. This will reduce the scale of the road, create an avenue effect and boulevard driving experience, mitigate urban heat island effect and link to the Foreshore Park landscape.

Pedestrian pavements to be upgraded with new furnishings and lighting.

Provide dedicated widened pedestrian crossings at Argyle, Lynch's Hub and Scratchleys to foster links from the City to the foreshore.

Provide a new pedestrian/cycle way to the north of Wharf Road at the Foreshore Park interface to foster safe cycle links from Honeysuckle Promenade to Bathers Way.

#### Legend

- 01 Integrated Street Tree Planting
- 02 Parallel Parking
- 03 Generous Pedestrian Crossings
- 04 Shared Cycleway
- 05 Activated Edges





# 06 Masterplan

## Foreshore

### Typical Condition

Improve promenade experience along Harbour edge through upgraded and widened pavements, adjacent lawn renovation and a new continuous seat edge facing onto the harbour.

Improved safety and amenity lighting to enhance the night time experience.

#### Legend

- 01 Harbour Promenade
- 02 Existing Trees
- 03 Upgraded Existing Pathway
- 04 Shared Cycleway with adjacent Pedestrian Zone
- 05 Parallel Parking
- 06 Street Tree Planting
- 07 Two-lane Bidirectional Road
- 08 Upgraded Existing Footpath
- 09 Continuous Seating Edge



Foreshore Typical Condition (Plan)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:400 @A3







Foreshore Typical Condition (Section A-A)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:200 @A3

## 06 Masterplan

### Lynch's Hub

Improved plaza, decked seating area, upgraded lawn spaces, seating and promenade.

Feature lighting to accentuate night-time experience.

Proposed cycle / pathway along Wharf Road and dedicated crossing.

Raised Ship builder's memorial to be flush with new promenade pavements.

#### Legend

- 01 Harbour Promenade
- 02 Raised Memorial
- 03 Shared Cycleway with adjacent Pedestrian Zone
- 04 Parallel Parking
- 05 Street Tree Planting
- 06 Upgraded Existing Footpath
- 07 Decking with AI Fresco Dining
- 08 Lawn with Tree Planting



Lynch's Hub (Plan) Scale 1:400 @A3  
(TCL, 2021)



## 06 Masterplan

### Argyle Street

Foster greater connections between the City and Harbour by widening pedestrian path and planting of new trees with integrated water sensitive urban design (WSUD) on its western edge.

Maintain two laned access to connect to access properties and carpark.

#### Legend

- 01 Widened Footpath
- 02 Proposed Tree Planting and Integrated WSUD
- 03 Generous Pedestrian Crossing
- 04 Stronger Pedestrian Connection to Darby Plaza
- 05 Threshold Paving to Argyle St to reinforce Quiet Way street



# 06 Masterplan

## Scratchleys Node

Create an attractive destination by improving the plaza, with decked seating area, upgraded lawn spaces, seating and promenade.

Provision of new feature lighting to accentuate the night-time experience.

Proposed cycle / pathway along Wharf Road with widened dedicated crossing linking to Harrys' Café de Wheels and Scott Street.

### Legend

- 01 Timber Decking with Alfresco Dining
- 02 Accessible Ramp
- 03 Generous Pedestrian Crossing
- 04 Seat Edge
- 05 Existing Pines
- 06 Shared Cycleway
- 07 Upgraded Existing Pedestrian Path
- 08 Harbour Promenade



Scratchleys (Plan) Scale 1:400 @A3  
(TCL, 2021)



# 06 Masterplan



Scratchleys Node (Section B-B)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:100 @A3

## 06 Masterplan

### Scratchleys Node

#### Legend

- 01 Timber Decking with Alfresco Dining
- 02 Accessible Ramp
- 03 Seat Edge
- 04 Existing Pines



## 06 Masterplan

### Tug Berth Lane

Develop Tug Berth Lane as a linear park, promenade and cycleway with new shade trees and lawns right to the water's edge. This shall provide an attractive harbour walk that connects Joy Cummings Promenade to Nobby's Beach, Fort Scratchley and Foreshore Park.

This welcoming harbour destination will be complemented with terraces shelters and seating opportunities to foster enjoyment of the harbour and invite a range of social and recreational activities.

Connect Tug Berth Lane with Foreshore Park via a dedicated pedestrian crossing at the mid point along the promenade.

#### Legend

- 01 Cycleway and Footpath
- 02 Terrace and Shelter
- 03 Lawn edge
- 04 Generous Crossing
- 05 Indicative location for Iconic Newcastle Sign \*Subject to further detail during staged design development





# 06 Masterplan

## Tug Berth Lane Condition A



Tug Berth Lane Condition A (Section C-C)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:100 @A3





### Tug Berth Lane Condition B



Tug Berth Lane Condition B (Section D-D)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:100 @A3

## 06 Masterplan

### Foreshore Park Precinct

Foreshore Park is planned to reinforce its strong bones, patterns and use to become a cherished community destination and event setting. Through a new inclusive play space, water play, upgraded pathways, interpretation, furnishings, technology, gardens and trees, visitors will enjoy a range of attractions facilities and destinations.

#### Legend

- 01 Customs Plaza
- 02 Cultural tWalk
- 03 Variety Livvi's Place Playspace
- 04 Amenities Pavilion & Cafe
- 05 Railway Carriage Shed (to be retained)
- 06 Community Commons
- 07 The Groves
- 08 Shortland Lawn Event Space
- 09 Amphitheatre
- 10 Sandhills Community Garden (to be retained)



## Events

The Harbour Foreshore precinct is one of Newcastle's most iconic locations with its close proximity to the harbour, beaches, cafes, restaurants and public transport. The precinct contains several venues that can be utilised individually or in combination to attract and facilitate everything from small scale community activities to nationally recognised events. These events greatly contribute to the city's visitor economy and its regional and national identity.

The Masterplan recognises the importance of the Harbour Foreshore precinct as a premier tourism and event hub for the city. The Masterplan has reviewed all past and proposed events to produce a plan that accommodates bookable areas and events of all scales within the park. Event requirements such as laydown and access areas and offsets necessitate limited obstruction (i.e. trees) within the event footprint and the new plan will increase the flexibility of the park to deliver these events while celebrating the qualities that make the Harbour Foreshore precinct unique and treasured by the community.



## 06 Masterplan

### Customs House Plaza

The Customs House is an important Newcastle building, designed in 1877 by James Barnet. The building and plaza have a strong relationship and axial view to the harbour.

The area has the potential to form an important orientation and entry experience to Foreshore Park, from Watt Street, nearby public transport links and the city.

Although the axial and visual link to the harbour, framed by existing trees is currently successful, the existing sunken plaza is not used effectively for day to day use or managed for events.

The Masterplan proposes to create a more generous threshold to the park in front of the Customs House building to accentuate arrival, ease orientation, and link to the proposed play space, cultural walk and great park setting. The

existing sunken pavement will be removed and levels brought to be flush with adjacent lawn surfaces with a new central path linking to the harbour and centred on the building.

In association with the great lawn area, new seating and lighting will foster greater use both day and night. Whilst the level surfaces will be able to be used for pop-up events, or more formal community celebrations.

A commissioned sculpture is proposed on the lawns in and adjacent to the existing trees, to highlight the arrival experience and communicate the important link this area has to the harbour and to Newcastle's colonial history. The artwork could potentially be a fun and interactive piece that is illuminated to create a memorable night time experience.

#### Legend

- 01 Axial link to Harbour
- 02 Level Plaza
- 03 Upgraded Existing Water Feature
- 04 Extended Paving
- 05 Sculpture and Artwork
- 06 Seating under existing trees
- 07 Feature Entrance to Cultural Walk
- 08 Interpretation of Former Shoreline
- 09 Widened Pedestrian Crossing
- 10 Future Pedestrian Crossing to be investigated to better link Foreshore Park with Rail Station Redevelopment



🕒 Customs House Plaza (Plan) Scale 1:1000 @A3  
(TCL, 2021)

## 06 Masterplan

### Cultural Walk

Establish a new destination and journey in Foreshore Park that follows the line of the original shoreline and narrates cultural stories of Newcastle and its Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

The walk extends from Customs Plaza to Fort Scratchley, connecting to the railway carriage shed, community commons, Shortland lawn and amphitheatre. The path would comprise boardwalks, lawns, meeting places, artworks, indigenous plantings, gardens and wetlands as part of the journey.

This interpretive and experiential journey will relay Awabakal and Worimi stories of the foreshore and greater context.

Conceptually arranged around a journey from the River to the Coast, themes for interpretation could include, sand dunes, frog pond, bush tucker, naming, indigenous flora and biodiversity, ceremony and story telling.

Detailed conceptual design would be developed in collaboration with representatives of the Awabakal and Worimi communities.

#### Legend

- 01 Feature Entrance to Cultural Walk
- 02 Geological Rock Feature Paving
- 03 Dune Landscape Interpretation
- 04 Meeting/Ceremony Place
- 05 WSUD Pond
- 06 Plank Pathway Interpretation
- 07 Awabakal Interpretive Garden
- 08 Frog Pond and WSUD
- 09 Boardwalk
- 10 Amphitheatre Meeting Place





## 06 Masterplan

### Dune Landscape Interpretation

#### Legend

- 01 Clipped Coastal Plants
- 02 Indigenous Garden
- 03 Dune topography/lawns
- 04 Informal Pathway
- 05 Native Shade Trees
- 06 Seating
- 07 Passive Lawn Spaces







03

04

05

06

## 06 Masterplan

### Frog Pond

#### Legend

- 01 Boardwalk
- 02 Seating
- 03 Interpretive Signage
- 04 Native Garden
- 05 Riparian Vegetation
- 06 Rock Plinths for Seating
- 07 WSUD Treatment
- 08 Coastal Shade Trees
- 09 Shortland Lawn





09

08

05

07

06

03

05

## 06 Masterplan

### Variety Livvi's Place Playspace

The proposed play space has been planned in association with Variety the Children's Charity.

It is anticipated that the playspace will be an iconic centrepiece for the park and a regional destination.

Importantly it shall be a flagship all inclusive playspace that creates a thriving community hub for intergenerational community building and be of a quality and scale that is commensurate with the role of the park and its importance to the City.

The playspace is located in the western end off Foreshore Park, bridging between the Railway Carriage shed to within close proximity to Customs Plaza, and Watt Street and is well serviced by adjacent parking and potential bus drop off areas.

The playspace has been developed to be fun, inclusive, varied, surprising and to convey distinct Newcastle stories under the banners of trade, exchange, history, culture and environment.

Play opportunities include a junior and toddler space based around themes of the beach as well as a water splash pad with interactive water play, tug boats Awabakal canoes and water mazes.

In the centre of the play area is an iconic elevated play structure for the adventurous playfully using industry as its design cue, with a large swing set based on maritime navigation as well as a flying foxes.

Gardens and trees provide nature play and active climbing experiences thought the play space and along with purpose built shade structures provide important shade and cooling.

The play space will be fully fenced and is connected via a series of accessible paths, generous seating, gardens and lawns.

The play space is intended to cater for all ages and visitors with generous seating and shade areas for both those coming to support the active participants and the active play people too. There are also a variety of less active spaces for picnics or to just and relax.



Playspace Thematics and Precedents

(Top-Bottom L-R, JMD Design, TCL, Hilldistrictmums.com.au, Turf Design Studio and Environmental Partnership, TCL, JMD Design, 2021)

**Legend**

- 01 Entry Gateway
- 02 Kiosk and Amenities
- 03 Industrial Play Towers with Interactive, Sensory & Social Play
- 04 Double Flying Fox with Inclusive Seat
- 05 Tree Top Boardwalk
- 06 Trampolines
- 07 Quiet Space
- 08 Awabakal & Worimi Area
- 09 Whale Bone Giant Swing Set
- 10 Bark Canoes
- 11 Picnic Lawn
- 12 Coastal Water Play Area
- 13 Sea Grass Maze
- 14 Tug Boats
- 15 Sand Dunes Area
- 16 Accessible Sand Dune Mound
- 17 Nature-Based Play



 Playspace (Plan) Not to scale  
 (TCL, 2022). \*Note: Playground concept is subject to change through the Detailed Design process.

## 06 Masterplan

### Industrial Play

Playing at Height • Flying Fox  
 • Climbing, Sliding • Active  
 Play • Auditory Play • Sensory,  
 Interactive Play • Bouncing •  
 Spinning, Social Play

#### Legend

- 01 Nut & Bolt Towers with interactive, sensory and social play
- 02 Inclusive Slide
- 03 Treetop Walkway to 1st level of play structure
- 04 Wheelchair seesaw
- 05 Wheelchair Carousel
- 06 Edge Seating to Garden Bed



Industrial Play (Concept Section) Scale NTS  
 (TCL, 2022) \*Note: Playground concept is subject to change through the Detailed Design process.



# 06 Masterplan

## Coastal Waterplay Area

Bucket • Inclusive • Interactive, Social Play • Educational • Jets • Water Curtain • Canoe Interps • Surprises • Sea Grass Sculptures • Sprays • Patterned, Textured and Accessible Surfaces • Wet Wheelchairs (located at kiosk)

### Legend

- 01 Sea Grass Maze
- 02 Accessible Tug Boat with Water Cannons
- 03 Elevated Tug Boat with Bucket
- 04 Bark Canoes
- 05 Seating Edge
- 06 Picnic Lawn







## 06 Masterplan

### Sand Dunes

Climbing, Sliding • Tunnels  
• Social Play • Balancing •  
Imagination, Education •  
Discovery • Tactile • Sensory •  
Swinging • Bouncing

### Legend

- 01 Covered Refuge/Shaded Space (connected to Kiosk)
- 02 Accessible Sand Dune Mound
- 03 Nature-Based Play
- 04 Sandstone Rock





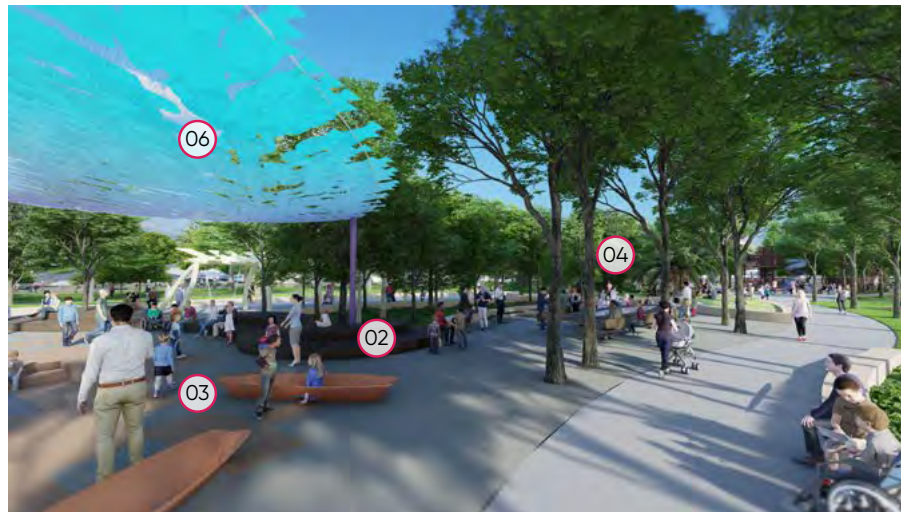
# 06 Masterplan

## Awabakal & Worimi Area

Gathering • Fishing Nets • Bark Canoes • Giant Swing Set • Beached Whale Story • Sea Fern • Learning • Discovery

### Legend

- 01 Whale Bone Giant Swing Set with inclusive, standard and basket swing
- 02 Terrace & Edge Seating
- 03 Bark Canoes
- 04 Shady Picnic Area
- 05 Community Table
- 06 Shade Structure



### Kiosk and Amenities

There is an al fresco cafe and public amenities pavilion proposed adjacent to the play space and Community Commons.

The café shall reinforce the park as a community destination. Architecture to permeate existing and proposed landscape, providing appropriate amenity for the adjacent playspace as well as food and beverage for Community Commons and park users.

The building is to be modest in scale and provide appropriate shade provisions and be developed to the highest architectural quality. Public amenities are to meet the requirements of an all inclusive play space and surrounding parkland.

The concept design developed for the pavilion forms a collection of concave shapes responding to adjacent activities. With three public spaces carved out of the cylindrical building. The cylindrical form reuses the Newcastle colonial circle overlay that identifies important nodes, whilst simultaneously enhancing the node with three welcoming public spaces.

### Legend

- 01 Community Table
- 02 Water Collection Point (above)
- 03 Kiosk
- 04 Changing Place & Toilets
- 05 Covered Seating Area
- 06 Drinking Fountains



## 06 Masterplan

### Railway Carriage Shed

The Railway Carriage shed is an important heritage building and undercover recreational park space.

In association with the proposed community commons, cultural walk, play space and al fresco café, the Railway Carriage Shed will become a central hub for Foreshore Park providing a range of seating, bbq, and event spaces for the community.

The large undercover space will be improved with upgraded pavements, planting, furnishings and lighting and has further potential to be activated with pop events, programmed activities and community functions.

The upgrades to the Railway Carriage Shed will incorporate re-ignition of the Hunter Workers and the Green Bans Heritage of Foreshore Park, including the 1973 Green Ban action which saved the site and the East End from development and allowed the foreshore industrial area to be transformed into public space.

The images (left) illustrate the potential changing and temporary programs and activities that could be considered such as bouldering walls, art markets, pop-up food and wine events and botanical insertions.



MARKET SPACE



ART STUDIO / MAKERS PLACE



SENIOR PLAY ZONE



CONSERVATORY



CAFE



SHELTERED COMMUNITY SPACE

## 06 Masterplan

### The Groves

The Groves are an opportunity for shaded space and botanical display within Foreshore Park.

It comprises large canopy trees at close spacings to provide shade for informal gatherings, refuges for events, play and picnics.

They are located on either side of the Community Commons, creating a green buffer between park spaces.

#### Legend

- 01 Large Canopy Trees with lawn underneath
- 02 Footpath
- 03 Seating Edge (removable)
- 04 Community Commons
- 05 Shortland Lawn



## 06 Masterplan

### Community Commons

The Community Commons is a large unencumbered lawn space, suitable for events and passive recreation. It is flanked on either side of paths and shade trees and opens out to views of the Harbour.

Two large groves on either side of the Commons provide shaded seated areas and picnic spaces.

#### Legend

- 01 Tree Lined Footpath
- 02 Community Commons Lawn
- 03 Cultural Walk
- 04 Railway Carriage Shed
- 05 Amenities Pavilion and Cafe
- 06 Council Depot
- 07 Sandhills Community Garden
- 08 The Groves
- 09 Shortland Lawn



🕒 Community Commons (Plan) Scale 1:1000 @A3  
(TCL, 2021)





04

01

08

05

02

01

## 06 Masterplan

### Shortland Lawn Event Space

This great open lawn will be bordered by shady trees with clear views out to the harbour.

This area is intended to function as an everyday park space, encouraging passive park uses whilst also accommodating premier events for Newcastle.

#### Legend

- 01 Large Event Lawn
- 02 Footpath
- 03 Cultural Walk
- 04 Existing Pines
- 05 Amphitheatre
- 06 The Groves



Shortland Lawn (Plan)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:1000 @A3



## 06 Masterplan

### Amphitheatre

The Amphitheatre references the original sandhills - windblown sand that capped the hills between the Harbour and Newcastle Beach.

The existing amphitheatre area will be developed to encourage additional event uses as well as day to day activities such as roller-skating and scooter use.

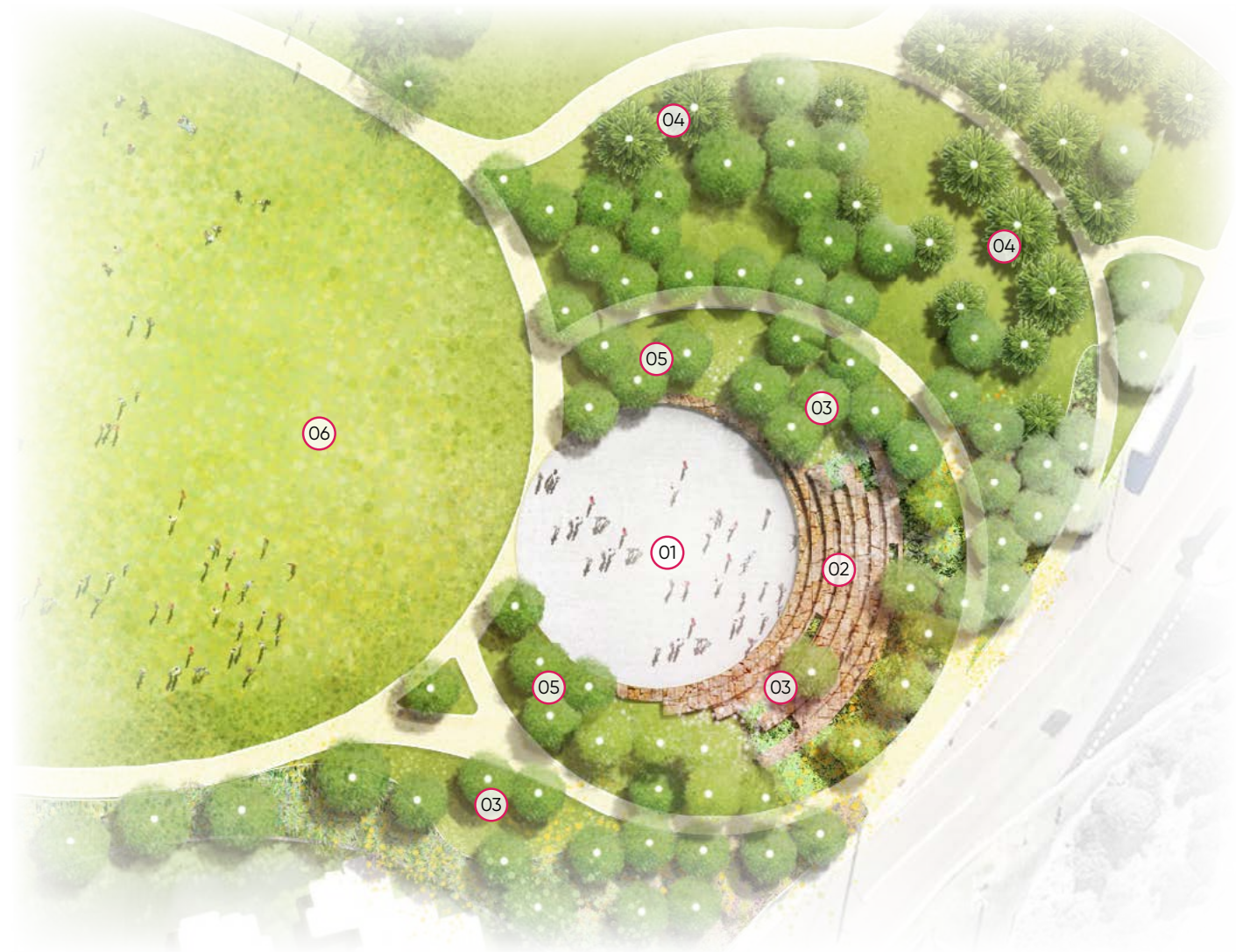
The central lawn will be paved to allow for scooter and rollerskating use as well as for staging events.

Tiered sandstone seating framed by indigenous gardens and trees will be provided in the centre of the space to reference the local geology and provide informal seating.

On either side of the tiered seating lawns will be maintained around the amphitheatre with additional shade trees.

#### Legend

- 01 Paved Amphitheatre
- 02 Sandstone Terraces
- 03 Indigenous Garden Planting
- 04 Existing Trees
- 05 Proposed Coastal Shade Trees
- 06 Shortland Lawn



Amphitheatre (Plan)  
(TCL, 2021)

Scale 1:750 @A3



## 06 Masterplan

### Amphitheatre

#### Legend

- 01 Paved Amphitheatre
- 02 Sandstone Terraces
- 03 Indigenous Garden Planting
- 04 Existing Pines
- 05 Existing Footpath
- 06 Shortland Lawn
- 07 Proposed Coastal Shade Trees



# 06 Masterplan

## Amphitheatre

### Legend

- 01 Paved Amphitheatre
- 02 Sandstone Terraces
- 03 Shortland Lawn
- 04 Footpath
- 05 Indigenous Garden Planting
- 06 Proposed Coastal Shade Trees





03

04

06

02

05

## 06 Masterplan

### Community Gardens

Existing Sandhills community gardens to remain in their current location and linked into the proposed circulation of the Railway Carriage Shed and cultural walk.

### Landscape Trees and Gardens

Foreshore Park has limited tree diversity and canopy cover. The masterplan proposes to introduce additional trees to create a climate resilient park, reduce the impacts on urban heat island effects, provide beauty, shade, biodiversity and visitor enjoyment.

The desire for additional trees and shade was a key finding from the consultation process.

Trees shall be located in association with pathways to provide shade and balanced with open lawn areas allowing for event use.

Significant gardens and trees will be incorporated with the proposed play space to enframe the setting, provide shade as well as encourage nature play experiences.

Indigenous plantings and trees from the local coastal context and the broader Newcastle region will be used along and within the cultural walk to promote biodiversity, showcase indigenous flora, and provide a means to interpret Awabakal and Worimi stories.

Water sensitive initiatives are proposed along the cultural walk in wetlands near to the original frog pond.

The introduction of additional trees with a greater diversity of species will greatly





## 06 Masterplan

enhance the Foreshore Park experience.

Species shall be selected in part in how they contribute to the following criteria:

### **Botanical Diversity**

A broad representation of the botanical diversity of Newcastle's flora, including exotic, indigenous and endemic.

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### **Climate Resilient**

Able to thrive in the sites challenging environmental conditions and selected in anticipation of future rising temperatures and extremes.

---

### **Shade and Amenity**

Contributing high amenity value for visitors, in form, shade, scale, flowers and seasonal display.

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### **Spatial Experience**

Able to provide spatial enclosure and definition to reinforce path patterns, open lawns, clearings and groves.

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### **Biodiversity**

Contribute to biodiversity values for the park

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### **Ethnobotany**

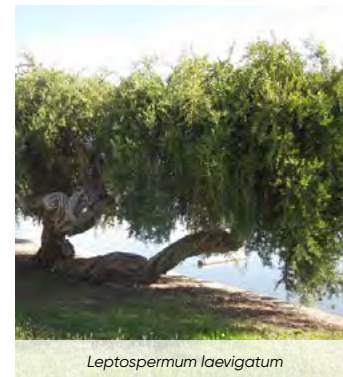
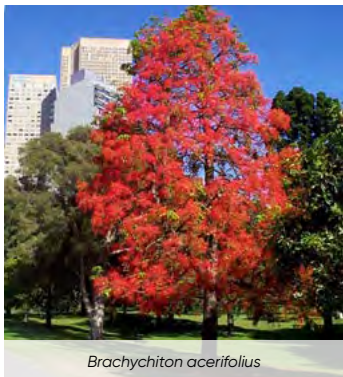
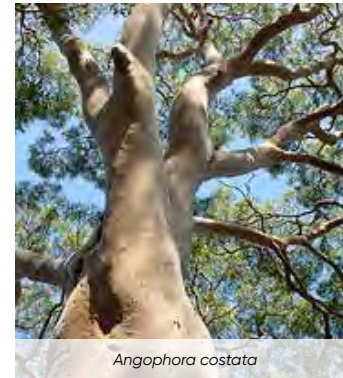
Linking the trees to the stories of the people who have lived in Newcastle.

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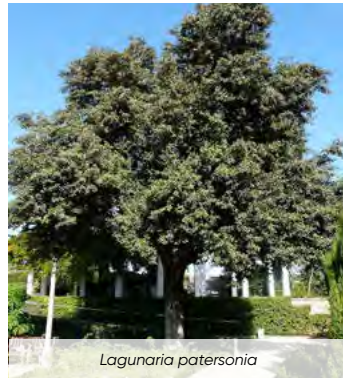
## 06 Masterplan

### Indicative Tree Palette





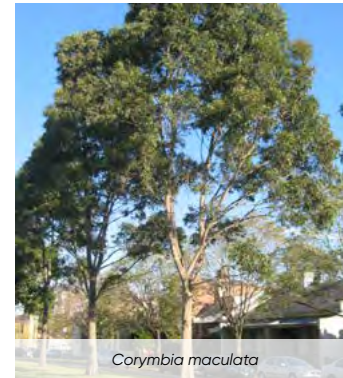
*Howea forsteriana*



*Lagunaria patersonia*



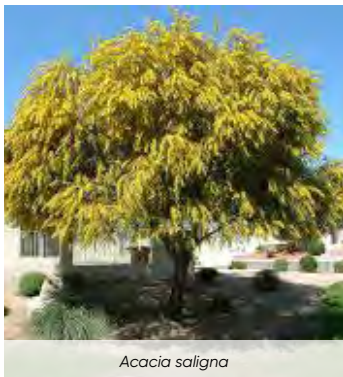
*Melia azedarach*



*Corymbia maculata*



*Acacia sophorae*



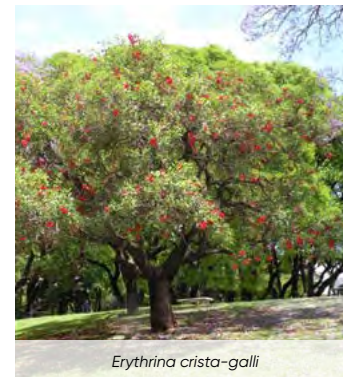
*Acacia saligna*



*Ficus microcarpa 'Hillii'*



*Callistemon citrinus*



*Erythrina crista-galli*



*Inga vera*

## 06 Masterplan

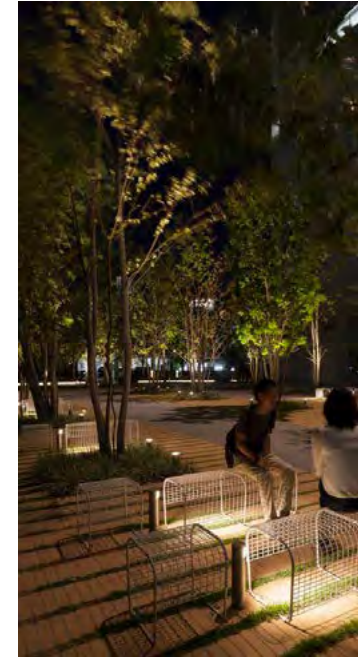
### Lighting

Lighting and night-time safety will be a key consideration for the ongoing design development and implementation for the masterplan.

A detailed lighting concept for the project site should be developed to ensure sites are appropriately illuminated, key features are highlighted, pathways are illuminated to best CPTED principles and utilize practice smart pole technology.

The lighting concept should seek to reinforce the masterplans principles of seamless connectivity along major circulation and cycling routes as well as interconnectivity to its city context.

Key nodes as defined in the masterplan should be highlighted with bespoke lighting solutions that reinforce the distinct spatial and experiential qualities of the spaces and landscape as well as provide memorable visitor experiences.



Lighting Consideration Precedents  
(Clockwise L-R, *TCL*, *unknown*, *unknown*, *TCL*, 2021)

## 06 Masterplan

### Furniture & Materials

The Furniture & Materials palette will be of high quality, commensurate with a regional park and consistent with the Newcastle public domain palette to ensure a cohesive look and feel from the city to the harbour, whilst responding to site and the landscape characters across the foreshore. Path amenity (including bins, drinking fountains, etc) to be integrated within the landscape, subtle and receding from view.

All furniture elements will satisfy five selection criteria as determined by the City of Newcastle:

Character and Design

Functionality

Availability

Life Cycle Cost

Maintenance

More information on this criteria can be found in the *City Centre Public Domain - Technical Manual, City of Newcastle*.

Note: Images shown are indicative only and will be developed further in the later stages of design.



[newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)