

# Ideas Festival Outcomes Report

May 2017



REVITALISING  
NEWCASTLE

**NSW**  
MAKING IT HAPPEN

# Message from Michael Cassel



Newcastle is an exciting place to live, work and play. It has some of the most beautiful natural assets afforded to any Australian city and is situated in a prime location for tourism of an international standard.

Newcastle also has a proud history and character that is looking towards a bright future befit of a growing city making an important transition.

Revitalising Newcastle is delivering the infrastructure and investment to breathe new life into the city centre, in line with what the majority of the community told us they wanted to see: opportunities for jobs, new residential and commercial growth to allow youth to stay and work in Newcastle, increased amenity in the city centre, and revitalised city living.

You are an active part of this change and we are pleased that in 2016, the community took the opportunity to continue to have a say in shaping the city centre.

The Ideas Festival allowed us to hear your voice – how would you like to see the iconic Newcastle Station transformed? Did you have the big idea that would see it become a hallmark tourist destination? Or did you have ideas on how the Civic precinct would look with or without the station building?

Your thoughts and input are invaluable and I thank those of you who have participated so far. Thank you for making the effort to engage with us and other participants – whether that was online, at our drop-in sessions, via a school excursion or through a workshop. Your voice counts and we appreciate you sharing your ideas with us.

This report is a reflection of the ideas generated and the comments presented

to Revitalising Newcastle in late 2016. It shows how we engaged, why we engaged and what you told us.

As with our previous engagement programs, the ideas generated through the Ideas Festival will play an important role in helping us deliver a revitalised city fit for current and future generations.

Keep up to date at [revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au) to see how we continue to bring your ideas to life through exciting new developments and activities, and find out about opportunities for your continued involvement in the program.

**Michael Cassel**  
**CEO, Hunter Development Corporation**  
**Program Director, Revitalising Newcastle**



# Message from Marcia Dweczyk

I was asked by UrbanGrowth NSW to independently review the Ideas Festival community engagement outcomes report as part of the Revitalising Newcastle program.

The purpose of my role was to ensure that the views that came out of the Ideas Festival were accurately represented to inform the next steps.

Bringing in an independent advisor to do an audit can bring a 'fresh' eye on something, to make sure that the voice of the community is accurately represented so that there aren't errors, assumptions or interpretations being made.

To do the review, I read about what meetings were held, who came and how they were run. I was given the word-for-word comments that people wrote in response to questions asked and worksheets provided, and I looked to make sure that the report fairly represented what people said their ideas and concerns were about the future of Civic precinct and Newcastle Station, which is what the engagement was all about.

The resulting outcomes report shows a commitment to open reporting of the process and the results. It shows where stakeholder and community workshops had different views and why. It also shows different ideas from different perspectives that might go together in determining how the two sites might be used in the future.

The report shows UrbanGrowth NSW is making its best efforts to reliably document and report on the Ideas Festival views, discussions, debates and recommendations so that they make a difference to the decisions that are made.

**Marcia Dweczyk**  
**Independent advisor**



Community workshop

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**Note:** Throughout this report we have included quotations from participants across the various engagement activities. These have been incorporated ‘as is’ without any changes from UrbanGrowth NSW.

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School excursion to Newcastle Station

## Executive summary

The 'Ideas Festival' was a community-centred engagement program delivered through the NSW Government's Revitalising Newcastle program in November and December 2016. The objective was to generate ideas for the potential future use/s and design of Newcastle and Civic stations and surrounding precincts.

More than 600 people participated in the engagement activities, and more than 2,000 ideas were generated for the two precincts.

Overall, people supported restoration and reuse of Newcastle Station. The most supported ideas were eateries, a piazza for performances, active art space and cinema under the stars.

At Civic Station precinct, there were mixed views on the removal or retention of station buildings,

however the community had lots of ideas for how they would like to use the space. Ideas included open space that could be used for entertainment or performances and as a gathering area with shade, tables and chairs and disability accessible spaces for all to enjoy and participate in.

This report is a summary of the outcomes of the engagement program, which will be used as the basis for a Development

Application (DA) for Civic Station precinct, and an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for Newcastle Station precinct.

The EOI process for Newcastle Station will allow us to identify the best opportunity to deliver a restored station with a use/s that incorporates the community's ideas while providing an economically and socially sustainable attraction for the city. This EOI process is likely to commence in 2018.



## Background and continued community engagement

Revitalising Newcastle is the NSW Government's urban transformation and transport program to bring people back to the city by strengthening and opening new connections between the city and the waterfront, creating job opportunities, providing more public spaces, and delivering better transport.

UrbanGrowth NSW and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are delivering the program, with direction from Hunter Development Corporation (HDC) and in close collaboration with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and Newcastle City Council (NCC), with ongoing input from the local community.

The Ideas Festival followed an earlier round of community engagement for the Revitalising Newcastle program in August and September 2015, where more than 11,000 people shared their ideas about the transformation of the city centre.

The findings of that engagement showed that Novocastrians are proud of their city and want to see it revitalised. People said the city was once a thriving place and that it would benefit from attracting more people to live, work, play and study there.

In 2015, the community also provided feedback on the future of Civic and Newcastle stations, but there was not a clear consensus. As a result, the Ideas Festival was designed to further explore, in partnership with the community, the potential future uses and design of these station precincts.

*“This is something I have waited to see in my lifetime - the lights and surrounds of the dining room lights itself.”*

*“Can't wait to see the final outcome. Thank you to all who have worked so hard. Newcastle will stand out on the world stage.”*

*“Free Wi-Fi, turn part of the station into a community garden, the station hotel idea was a really good idea and will create lots of jobs and boost tourism.”*

## Ideas Festival objectives

When generating ideas, people were asked to consider the Revitalising Newcastle program objectives as well as an additional objective added exclusively for the Ideas Festival. This objective supported the proposed future 'tourist' zoning of the Newcastle Station precinct.

Through the Revitalising Newcastle program, the station will become a tourist destination and its use/s and function/s must align with this.

The intent of including the additional objective was to ensure people considered the future zoning of the site in their ideas generation.

### Objectives

-  Bringing people back to the city centre
-  Connect the city to its waterfront
-  Help grow new jobs in the city centre
-  Create great places linked to new transport
-  Create economically sustainable public domains and community assets
-  Preserve and enhance heritage and culture
-  Newcastle Station as a tourist destination

### Vision

Tell us what you would like to see at Newcastle and Civic station precincts – how could the space be used and what role could the buildings have?

### Opportunity

Generate ideas for the potential future use/s and design of Newcastle and Civic stations and surrounding precincts.

### Outcomes

An understanding of what the community identifies as the preferred future use/s for Newcastle and Civic stations and surrounding precincts.

## How were people engaged?

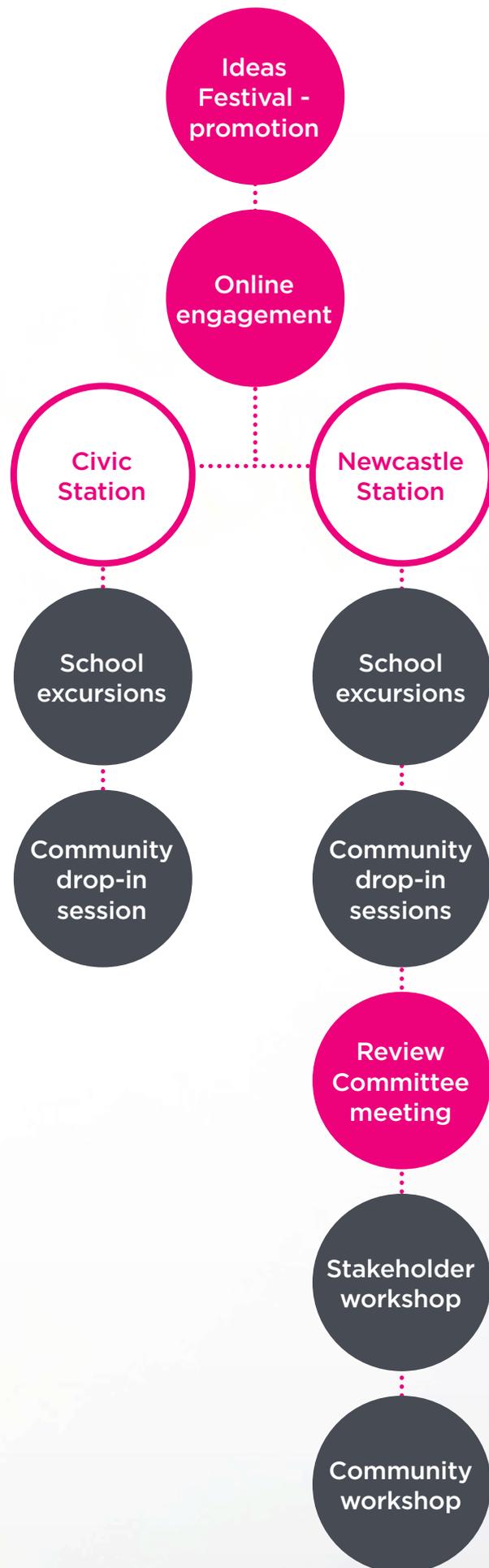
The Ideas Festival engagement program included a range of activities to encourage participation by a diverse group of people from across Newcastle.

Activities included school excursions, community drop-in sessions, online discussion forum questions, and stakeholder and community workshops for Newcastle Station precinct.

Through the community drop-in sessions and school excursions, people were given the opportunity to visit the precincts and participate in organised site tours to engage with the spaces and understand the history and significance of the buildings.

People were then invited to provide their ideas on post-it notes, butchers paper and more. They were able to provide ideas for both stations at either drop-in session.

For those not able to participate in the drop-in sessions at the stations, an online discussion forum provided the opportunity to generate ideas and engage with other members of the community.



## What did people say?

More than 600 people attended the Ideas Festival and provided ideas that consistently supported increased public amenity in the city centre.

For both station precincts, some key themes emerged including preference for entertainment and performance space, more opportunities for eateries and places linked to technology such as Wi-Fi. Open, green, creative, cultural, fun and disability compliant accessible spaces were also key themes.

### Civic Station precinct

More than **500** comments were received from the community about Civic Station precinct.

People were asked to share their thoughts on the retention, partial retention or removal of the station buildings, and to generate ideas for how the public domain could look and function.

Overall, there were mixed views on the removal or retention of station buildings, however the community generated lots of ideas for the future use and design of the public domain.

Consistent with what we heard in 2015, people demonstrated support for improved links to the waterfront and open space at Civic Station precinct. The community also supported enhanced amenity with things such as shade structures, green space, seating and tables in the heart of the Civic precinct to create a place that is active and vibrant.

For people who supported retention, they showed preference for using the buildings to complement the existing museum and providing community toilets, services and eateries, as well as performance structures for entertainment opportunities in the space.

Participants also supported a historical connection to the station. While the station is not officially recognised as having heritage significance, people expressed personal and historical social connections with the station buildings, with some ideas focused on interpreting this in the new domain design.

### Newcastle Station precinct

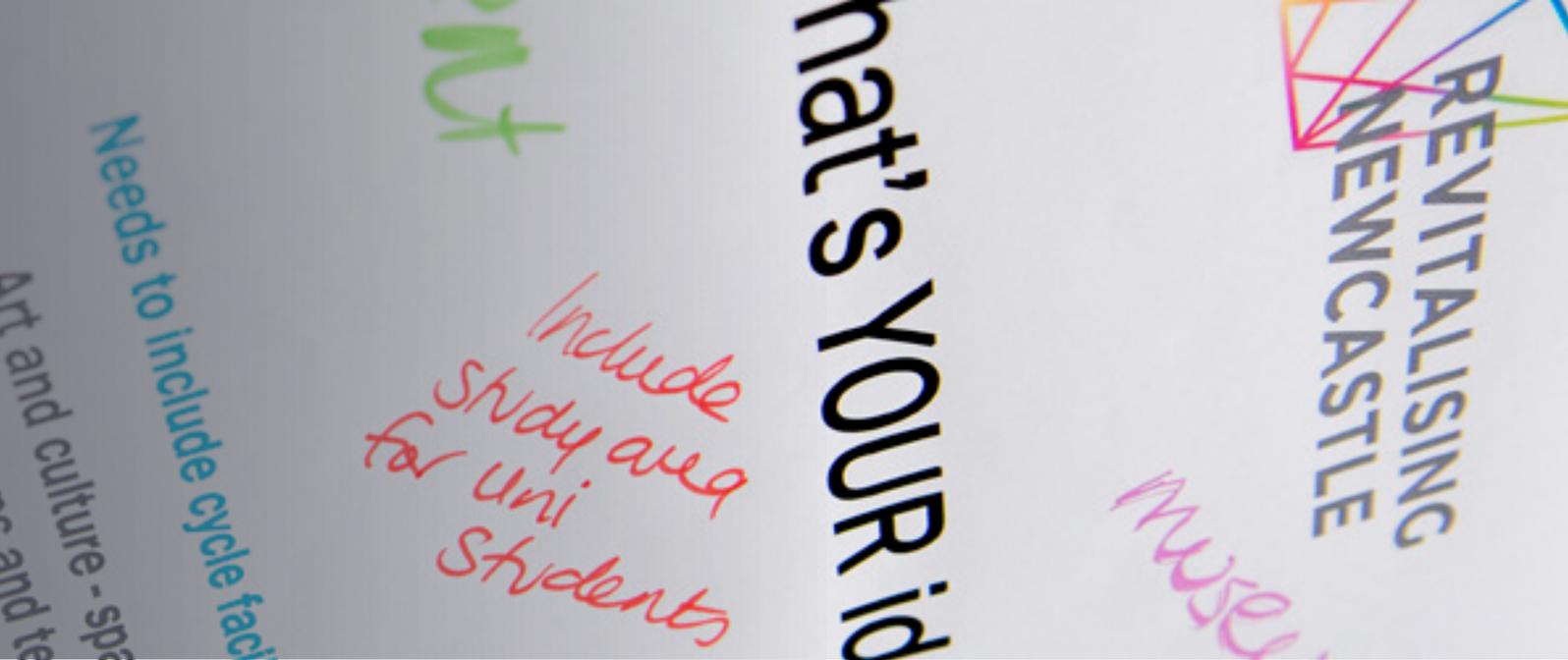
More than **1,500** comments were received resulting in **146** unique ideas for the future use of this important building and surrounding precinct.

Consistent with what we heard through the 2015 engagement program, this round of community input also supported Newcastle Station precinct becoming a hallmark destination that attracts visitors and tourists into the city while providing new diversity for locals to be proud of and enjoy.

#### Additional engagement activities

To further refine the preferred future use/s of Newcastle Station precinct, additional engagement activities were undertaken including a Review Committee meeting, stakeholder workshop and community workshop.

The intent was to thoroughly explore the preferred future use of the station and surrounding precinct due to the size, future zoning, local significance and heritage value of the station. These elements combine to make the site highly important to both the community and the Revitalising Newcastle program.



The intention of the Review Committee was to review the large collection of ideas generated by the community and provide a list of ideas that most aligned with Ideas Festival objectives for the two workshops to explore in more detail. This is further described on page 38.

As an important part of the engagement program, the Review Committee assessed 146 unique ideas and reduced the list to 32 ideas it considered most met the objectives of the engagement program. In the community and stakeholder workshops, the participants then discussed and voted on the 32 ideas, plus additional ideas included as 'wildcards'. The wildcard concept is also further described on page 42.

Following the two workshops, there was support for a total of 18 ideas. Of these ideas, **four** were common across both workshops: two ideas for the precinct use (a sunken piazza for performances, and an outdoor cinema) and two ideas more appropriate to incorporate for the future use of the building (an active art space, and a restaurant/eateries destination/s).

Importantly, there was significant representation from the community through the engagement program about not letting the station become a lost opportunity as a heritage building. In this context, people were happy to be engaged and provide their ideas on how the station and precinct could transform.

*“Work places, More trees/gardens/plants, hotels to attract tourists, shops, restaurants, picnics to attract families, parks for kids, grass places or walkways to exercise, festivals and shopping places, places for people with special needs parking.”*

## What's next?

Previous engagement with the community has been used as the foundation for shaping how the city transforms through the Revitalising Newcastle program.

The Ideas Festival will guide the design of the Newcastle and Civic Station precincts.

Drawing on the outcomes of the Ideas Festival, the Revitalising Newcastle team will:

- › work with landscape architects, heritage experts and NCC to plan and design a new public domain for Civic Station precinct and submit a DA to NCC
- › work with heritage experts and architects to oversee heritage restoration and maintenance at Newcastle Station; and submit a DA to NCC with the goal of opening the station in late 2017 for temporary use and activation
- › work towards an EOI process for Newcastle Station precinct.

The NSW Government is committed to continued engagement with the community through the life of the program, and the Ideas Festival was an important opportunity for the community to continue to influence the next stage of Revitalising Newcastle.



Y CASTLE

# Introduction

## Ideas Festival

The Ideas Festival was a community-centred program to gather ideas on the future use/s and design of Newcastle and Civic station precincts to support viable and sustainable outcomes.

The outcomes outlined in this report will be the basis of a DA for the public domain design of Civic Station precinct, a DA for the temporary use works at Newcastle Station precinct, and an EOI process for the preferred future use/s of Newcastle Station.

The EOI process for Newcastle Station will allow us to identify the best opportunity to deliver a restored station with a use/s that incorporates the community's ideas while providing an economically and socially sustainable attraction for the city. This EOI process is likely to commence in 2018.

The reinstatement of heavy rail and location of light rail was not within the scope of the engagement, however a small number of participants remained unhappy about these issues and expressed their comments and feedback through the engagement activities.

When generating ideas, people were asked to consider the Revitalising Newcastle program objectives as well as an additional objective added exclusively for the Ideas Festival. This objective supported the proposed future 'tourist' zoning of the Newcastle Station precinct.

### Objectives



#### **Bringing people back to the city centre**

Re-imagine the city centre as an enhanced destination supported by new employment, educational and residential opportunities and public domain, which will attract people.



#### **Connect the city to its waterfront**

Unite the city centre and the harbour to improve the experience of being in and moving around the city.



#### **Help grow new jobs in the city centre**

Invest in initiatives that create jobs, with a focus on innovative industries, higher education and enterprises to encourage a range of businesses to the city centre.



#### **Create great places linked to new transport**

Integrate urban transformation with new, efficient transport to activate Hunter and Scott streets and return them to thriving main streets.



#### **Create economically sustainable public domains and community assets**

Leave a positive legacy for the people of Newcastle. Ensure that new public domain and community facilities can be maintained to a high standard into the future.



#### **Preserve and enhance heritage and culture**

Respect, maintain and enhance the unique heritage and character of the city centre through revitalisation. Any re-use must respect, maintain and enhance the unique heritage and character of Newcastle Station.



#### **Newcastle Station as a tourist destination**

This objective is unique to the Ideas Festival and relates specifically to Newcastle Station precinct reuse, supporting the proposed rezoning for the site. In 2015 community feedback demonstrated support for the station as a destination attracting visitors and tourists to the region. The view was that the precinct use should encourage repeat tourism rather than one-off visits and should appeal to a broad audience.



Community workshop



School excursion

## About this report

This report has been prepared as a record of public input received during the Ideas Festival, and also reflects how we engaged with the community through the Ideas Festival, its purpose and how the input from the community will be used.

**The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of:**

- › the engagement activities and channels used to seek input from members of the community and other stakeholders during the Ideas Festival
- › the level of community and stakeholder participation in the Ideas Festival
- › the ideas and other input generated during the Ideas Festival
- › how this input will influence the future use of Civic and Newcastle Station precincts.

The report was prepared in part by local consultants GHD, and by the local UrbanGrowth NSW team, all of whom worked together to plan, deliver and report on the engagement program.



Community drop-in session

In addition, an independent advisor reviewed the engagement plan and provided advice, and had an active and influential role in reviewing draft reports. This process ensured integrity of the information collected and released.

Throughout the process, UrbanGrowth NSW has kept collaboration partners TfNSW and NCC informed of the report progress and contents. TfNSW staff also participated in some engagement activities as members of the Revitalising Newcastle team.

UrbanGrowth NSW presented the Ideas Festival engagement program plan to the Newcastle Urban Transformation steering group (NUTSG) in November for endorsement to commence the

program activities. UrbanGrowth NSW also presented preliminary findings of the report to NUTSG at its March meeting.

### Program background

Newcastle is the capital of the Hunter region and an important regional city in NSW. With a proud heritage linked to steel, timber and coal, Newcastle has played an integral role in delivering heavy industry to the state, and is now moving towards a future driven by innovation and opportunity.

The NSW Government is committing more than \$500 million to transform Newcastle's city centre through the Revitalising Newcastle program, which aims to bring people back to the city by strengthening and opening new

connections between the city and the waterfront, creating job opportunities, providing more public spaces and delivering better public transport.

Revitalising Newcastle is driven by a collaborative government approach with UrbanGrowth NSW and TfNSW delivering the program with direction from HDC, and in close collaboration with DPE and NCC.

The local community is continuing to have an active role in shaping the revitalisation of the city. Importantly, through our past engagement, the community has helped shape the program objectives, endorsing them in 2014 and adding an extra objective in 2015 relating to the importance of maintaining and preserving heritage.



School excursion to Newcastle Station

In 2015, UrbanGrowth NSW and NCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a commitment to deliver better planning outcomes for the city. This agreement underpinned the 2015 'Revitalising Newcastle' engagement program developed and delivered collaboratively by UrbanGrowth NSW and NCC. The findings of this engagement informed a planning proposal, which was submitted to NCC in July 2016 as the first step to rezone and transform the former heavy rail corridor.

The Ideas Festival was the program's next round of engagement with the community to help shape the future of key revitalisation opportunities, specifically at

Civic and Newcastle stations and surrounding precincts.

## What we heard in 2015

During August and September 2015, the Revitalising Newcastle engagement program involved more than 11,000 people giving their feedback about the transformation of the city centre.

The engagement program was overseen by an independent advisor who reported to NUTSG (established under the MOU) comprising representatives of UrbanGrowth NSW, HDC and Newcastle City Council, including the Lord Mayor.

The findings showed that Newcastle people are proud of their city and want to see it revitalised. People pointed to the natural beauty of the city centre – its heritage buildings, world-class harbour and beautiful beaches. People said the city was once a thriving place and it would benefit from attracting more people to **live, work, play** and **study** there.

People held a range of strong views about previous government decisions on transport and the development of land in the rail corridor. There was clear direction from members of the public on the following issues:



School excursion at Newcastle Station

- › People strongly supported the Revitalising Newcastle objectives including bringing people back to the city, growing new jobs and connecting the city to its waterfront.
- › There was a range of suggestions for place making, public domain and community assets.
- › People wanted the heritage and character of the city centre to be respected in the revitalisation. As a result of this feedback, a sixth objective was added – to preserve and enhance heritage and culture.

In relation to Civic and Newcastle station precincts, people saw an opportunity to create a hallmark

destination to attract visitors and tourists to the region while maintaining and enhancing the character of Newcastle.

They saw Newcastle Station as part of the wider East End precinct, a thriving urban community with tourism and entertainment that respects the heritage nature of the area. However, there was no consensus on the future use of the station and UrbanGrowth NSW committed to continued work with the community to refine ideas for the station and the surrounding precinct.

For Civic, people supported the precinct as the art, education and cultural heart of the city. They saw an opportunity to enhance

the existing cultural precinct at Civic and improve links to the University of Newcastle (UON) and surrounding infrastructure including the Civic Theatre and Newcastle Museum.

*“Recreational space as shown consider an incorporating open performance space - even with some seating.”*





# Ideas Festival engagement process

The Ideas Festival engagement program included a range of activities, to encourage participation by a diverse group of people from across Newcastle.

## How were people engaged?

Most of the engagement activities were consistent across Civic Station precinct and Newcastle Station precinct, including online discussion forum questions, school excursions and community drop-in sessions.

Due to the complexity of identifying a future use/s for Newcastle Station precinct, additional engagement activities were undertaken for this precinct. This included a Review Committee meeting, a community workshop, and a workshop for other stakeholders (referred to in this report as the community workshop and the stakeholder workshop). These activities are further described on page 41.

Included at the Civic Station precinct drop-in session was a designated Newcastle Station precinct area, complete with relevant posters and 'thought starters' to encourage participants to provide their thoughts and ideas on the Newcastle Station precinct.

The same occurred for the Civic Station precinct at the Newcastle Station precinct drop-in. This was done to allow the community to have its say on both station precincts, especially if people were unable to attend both the Civic and Newcastle Station precinct drop-in sessions.

## Getting the word out

- > **5,500+ flyers** to homes and businesses in the 2300 postcode
- > **Print, online and radio advertising** across Newcastle and Lower Hunter



## Online engagement for Civic and Newcastle Station precincts

### Facebook page

- 10** posts
- 39** comments
- 292** likes
- Reach = **500** to **4,000+** per post

### Online discussion board

- 12** questions posted
- 100+** responses
- 250+** page visits

## Engagement process Civic Station precinct

- > **One** drop-in session
- > **40+** attendees
- > **501** comments received (including students)
- > **107** worksheets completed (including students)

### School excursions

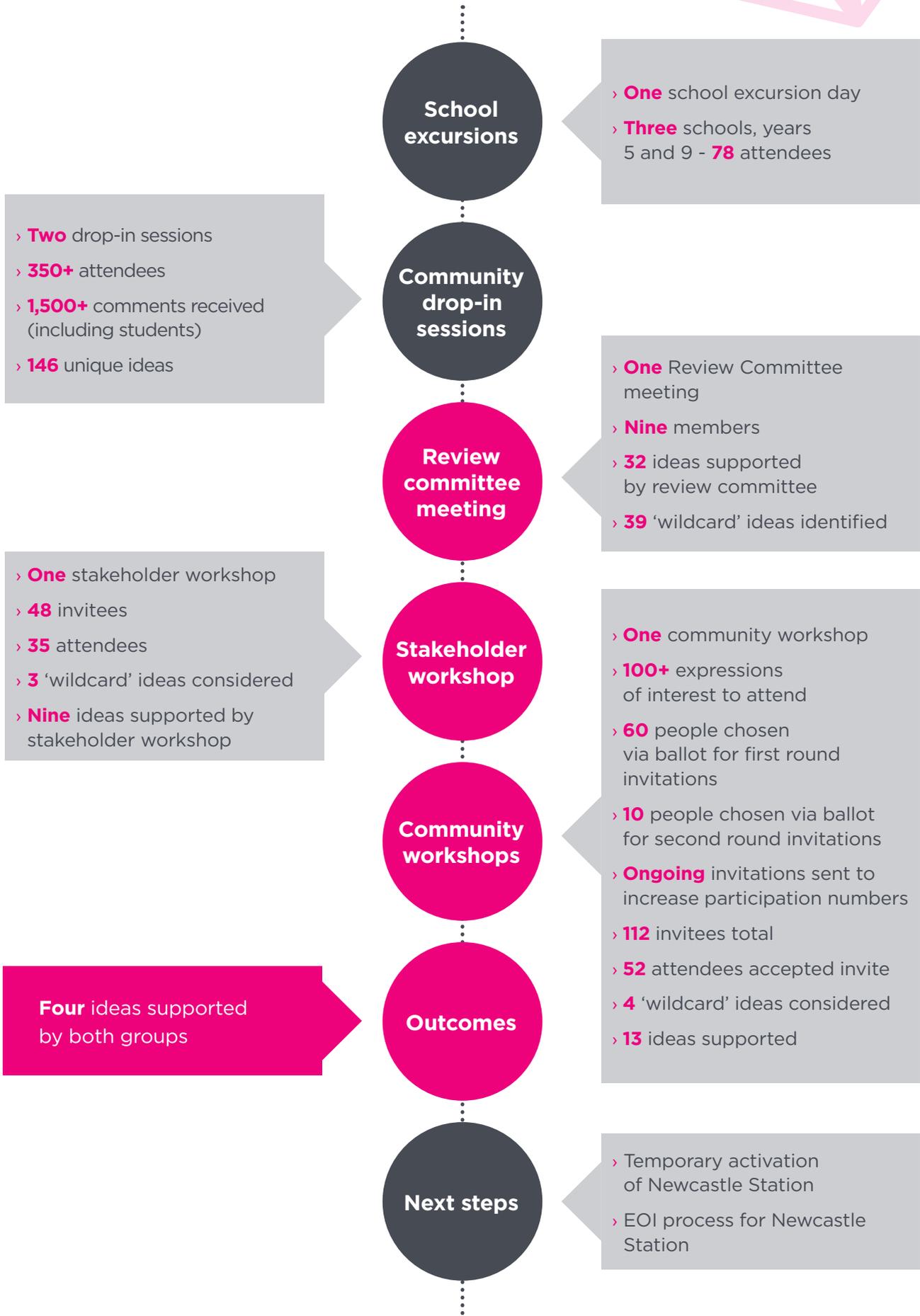
- > **One** school excursion day
- > **One** campus school visit
- > **Three** schools, years 5 to 12 - **135** attendees

### Community drop-in sessions

### Next steps

- > Development Application to Newcastle City Council for new Civic Station precinct public domain

# Engagement process Newcastle Station precinct





*“The kiosk should be more updated and trendy looking, like there should be on each wall a graffiti wall but it’s ‘art’.”*



*“If keeping stairs, use structure and expand on them to create a community grand stand, think grand stand in Times Square, NYC”*





# Civic Station precinct

Civic Station precinct is in the heart of Newcastle and includes the station and surrounding grounds between Newcastle Museum and Hunter Street.

## Background

The precinct is around 4,000m<sup>2</sup> in size and is near a number of key Newcastle landmarks such as the Civic Theatre, Newcastle Museum, the Newcastle Law Courts and the University of Newcastle NeW Space campus.

The Civic Station building is the first example in NSW of a station building employing domestic architectural features, demonstrating the NSW Railways experimentation with new styles during the interwar period.

This form of domestic architecture went on to become highly popular and many examples can be found across NSW. The footbridge is more unique as it is the only known remaining example of this type of structure constructed on brick piers. However, the physical analysis of the footbridge shows it has been substantially modified with the demolition of the original balustrade across its span and replacement brickwork on both north and south piers.

## Consultation approach

### What were people engaged on?

People were asked to generate ideas for the public domain - what they would like to see in the space and how retention or removal could form part of this use.

The community was also asked to provide input on the following four opportunities:

- › retain all buildings and repurpose
- › retain the footbridge only and repurpose
- › retain the kiosk only
- › remove all buildings and create an open area.

### Engagement methods

The engagement activities undertaken for Civic Station precinct included two on-site school excursions, one off-site school excursion at the school (at the request of the school), one community drop-in session, and online engagement. With the exception of the off-site excursion and online engagement, these

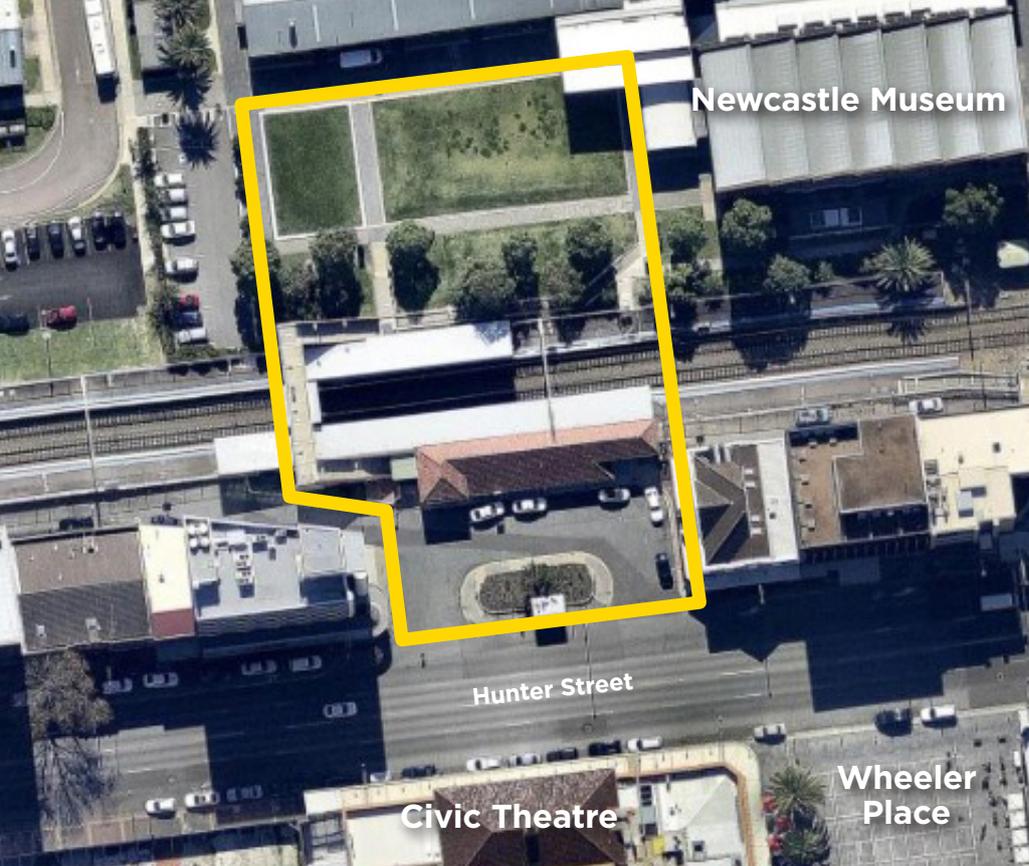
activities took place at Newcastle Museum and included site tours of Civic Station.

### School engagement

Two school excursions were held on Tuesday 29 November 2016. A total of 35 students across various year groups from Callaghan College Waratah Technology campus and Newcastle High School attended.

The excursions included a site tour of the station exterior and the station footbridge and a short presentation explaining the Revitalising Newcastle program, followed by time spent individually or in groups drawing and writing ideas on a specially designed Civic Station precinct worksheet. These worksheets were then displayed during the community drop-in session that followed.

A third school event took place on Monday 28 November at Wallsend Public School. The program team visited the school and followed the same format (excluding the site tour) as the



Civic Station precinct



Community drop-in session

school excursions held on site. The event included around 100 students and their worksheets were also displayed at Newcastle Museum during the community drop-in session.

The Civic Station precinct worksheet was created as an activity to encourage thoughts and ideas generation for the future use of the precinct, taking into consideration whether the station buildings should be retained in full, in part or removed.

A line drawing of Civic Station precinct gave students a visual representation of the precinct. Students were also provided with a sheet of stickers that indicated 24 possible urban amenity opportunities. It was made clear to students that the stickers did not have to be used and that ideas were not limited to the stickers; rather, they were intended as thought starters.

Preference for Wi-Fi accessibility in the precinct was a strong theme that emerged through the worksheets. Some students chose to represent this with one sticker and additional drawings, while others borrowed multiple Wi-Fi stickers from other sheets.

The students were given the opportunity to tick a box on their worksheet indicating their preference for *'keep all the buildings'*, *'keep some of the buildings'*, or *'remove all the buildings'*, and include additional notes supporting their choice and design.

More students favoured keeping some of the buildings over the other options, with ideas for partial retention reflecting reuse to create entertainment and performance spaces, outdoor cinema, eateries, shops and more.

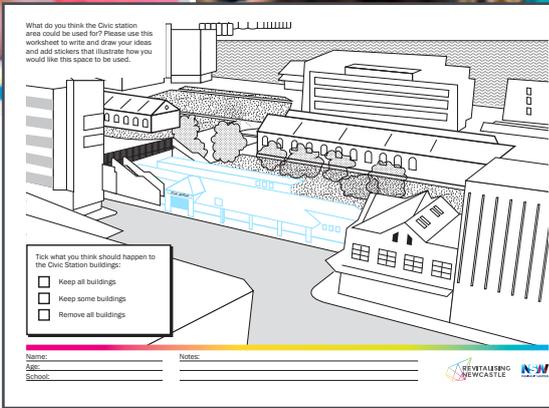
Through the worksheets, students conveyed a preference to see a space with strong community

connections, gathering/communal space, community gardens, and universally accessible space for active uses such as cycling and skateboarding, together with ensuring disabled and mobility access.

More than 100 worksheets were completed for Civic Station precinct. The worksheets and stickers were also available at the community drop-in session to support ideas generation for the precinct, however they were mostly used by students. Some students chose to complete the worksheet in groups and others individually.

### **Community drop-in session**

The community drop-in session was held on Tuesday 29 November 2016 from 3pm - 8pm and attracted more than 40 people. The session comprised a site tour of the station exterior including the station footbridge. This provided participants with an understanding of the station's



Civic Station precinct worksheet and stickers

history and an overview of the size of the Civic Station precinct, so that attendees were better informed when considering the future of the precinct.

During the community drop-in sessions, Revitalising Newcastle team members (UrbanGrowth NSW and TfNSW) and local consultants GHD were on-hand to answer questions, explain the engagement objectives, discuss the artist impressions and more. This allowed people to be informed when they provided their ideas or when they wanted to know more about what Revitalising Newcastle was delivering for the city.

Participants were asked to sign in to the drop-in session as

they arrived, with most people choosing to do this. The purpose of this was to capture the number of people coming through the door and provide people with the opportunity to select if they wanted to stay up to date with Revitalising Newcastle news.

We provided worksheets, post-it pads and pens, butcher paper to write on and four artist impressions of the Civic Station precinct that were presented as ‘thought starters’. Each artist’s impression (shown on page 26) was accompanied by questions to encourage ideas and generate discussion on what people wanted to see in the Civic Station precinct.

People were encouraged to move around the room and review the

comments made and then make their own as they saw fit.

An UrbanGrowth NSW video of the planning proposal animation looped on a screen in the room to give an impression of the proposed transformation of the corridor and revitalisation of the city. The video also included community members who participated in the 2015 engagement.

*“The idea of the pull down movie screen from the bridge would be amazing like cinema under the stars.”*

**Artist's impression questions**

Additional thought starter for Civic Precinct displayed at Newcastle Station:  
  
What do you think we should do?

Keep footbridge

1. How would you use the bridge? What use could the bridge have?
2. Keeping the bridge. Do you like this idea?



Public open space

1. How would you use the Civic public domain?
2. Remove all the buildings. What would you like in this space?
3. What role do you see Civic Station having? Public domain? Existing buildings?
4. Would improved public domain at Civic attract people into the centre?



*We should keep it as it has historical significant value.*

Keep kiosk

1. Would you like to keep the kiosk? What would you use it for?
2. Keeping the kiosk. What should be in the kiosk?
3. What do you want to see at Civic Station?



Keep structure

1. What would you like to see at Civic Station?
2. Do you prefer open space or giving the buildings a new purpose?
3. Do you support keeping the buildings?



*Open up the building to connect Honeysuckle to the CBD.*



# Civic Station precinct online discussion board questions

Retaining the Civic Station building would mean identifying a sustainable purpose for it – what do you think this could be?

.....

If the footbridge was kept at Civic Station, how could we use it?

.....

If we removed the Civic Station building, would the future public domain be better or worse?

.....

If only a part of Civic Station building was kept, what part would you keep and how would you use it?

## Online engagement

The Ideas Festival was designed to reach and engage with as many local people as possible to seek their input into the revitalisation of two key precincts. Online engagement was identified as one of the tools to help achieve this objective.

Four questions about the Civic Station precinct were posted on a specially created Ideas Festival discussion board on the Revitalising Newcastle website between 24 November and 29 November 2016. The questions aimed to promote discussion about how people wanted to see the precinct evolve – with or without the station building structures. Additional links on the Revitalising Newcastle Facebook page directed people to the discussion board to reach a broader online audience.

There were mixed views on the retention or removal of the station buildings. The question that attracted the most responses was, *“If we removed the Civic Station buildings, would the future public domain be better or worse?”*.

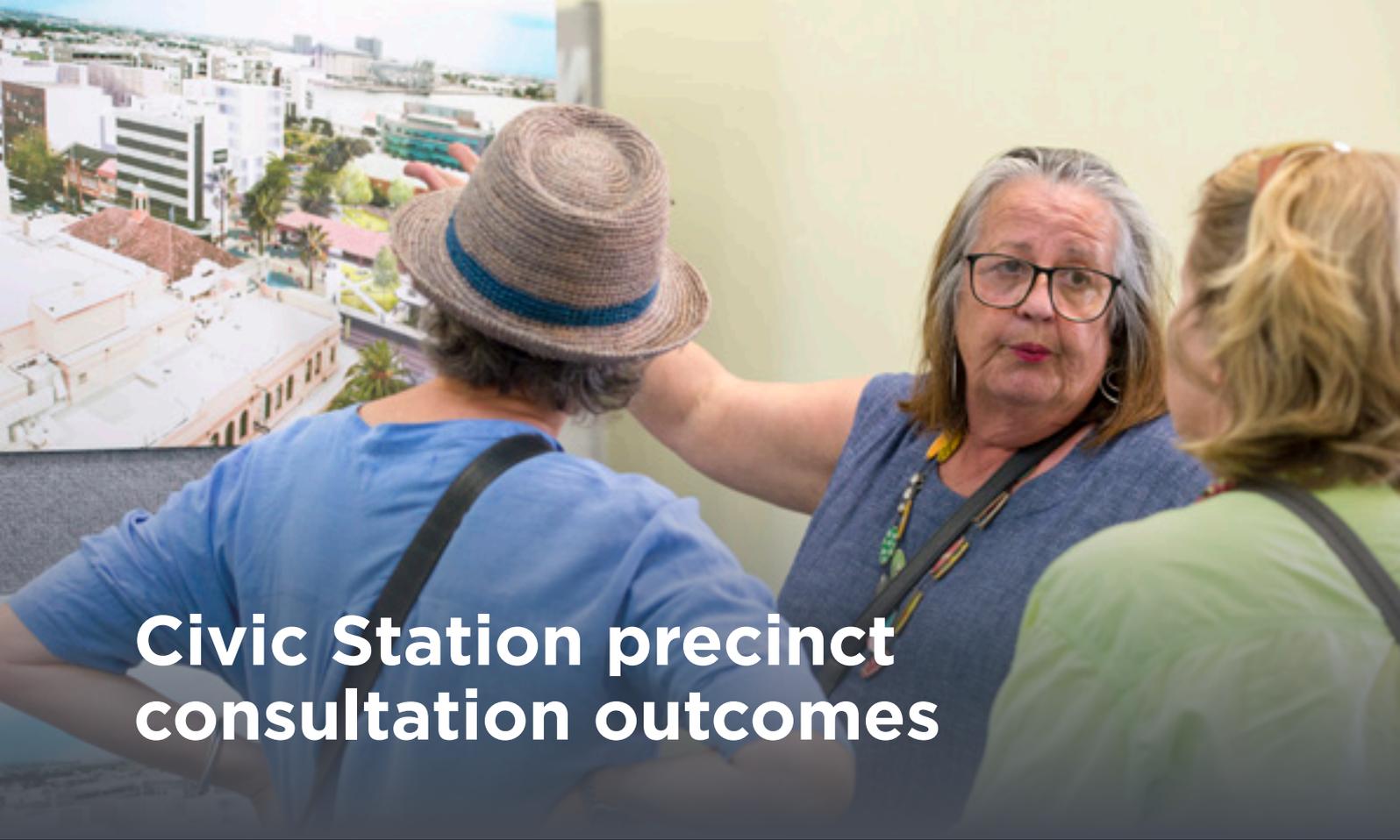
The other online questions attracted mixed responses with some people supportive of removing the station buildings and providing open space, and others expressing a desire to retain and reuse the station buildings as a possible extension to Newcastle Museum.

One question was not commented on at all - *“If only a part of Civic Station building was kept, what part would you keep and how would you use it?”*.

*“Knock everything down and make chairs/tables, gardens, free Wi-Fi, good kiosk, encourage development.”*

*“We want to see something fresh and fun and relaxing for all ages and of course the tourists which will help the businesses.”*

*“NO. Remove most building, keep skeleton for shade.”*



# Civic Station precinct consultation outcomes

A total of 501 comments relating to Civic Station precinct were received. Through these comments, there was strong support for improved amenity and open space in the precinct. This was regardless of whether people favoured retention, partial retention or removal of the station buildings.

The ideas indicate that people saw outdoor functionality as a high priority and one not limited to time of day, time of the year or type of person who can enjoy and participate in activities. People also demonstrated a preference for improved links to the waterfront and enhanced amenity in the heart of the Civic precinct.

## Building retention or removal

Overall, there were mixed views on the removal or retention of station buildings. Some people strongly supported open space in the precinct unimpeded by the existing structures, while others wanted to see the building remain in full or partially retained.

Those who did support retention showed preference for using the buildings for improved linkages to the existing museum as well as providing eateries or performance structures for entertainment opportunities in the space.

Comments were reviewed and grouped based on the following six preferences and/or themes:

- › clear preference for retention of all Civic station buildings
- › clear preference for partial retention of Civic station buildings
- › clear preference for removal of all Civic station buildings
- › expression of an idea or sentiment that supports the use of some building space without a clear preference for retention
- › expression of an idea or sentiment that supports the use of open space without a clear preference for removal
- › expression of an idea or sentiment that could be placed into any one of the above five preferences and/or themes. These ideas did not have obvious or distinguishing preference. These comments may support a building or open space, with no clear preference for retention or removal of the existing buildings.

The grouping process uncovered themes for what the community wanted to see at Civic precinct and how people wanted the space to function.

*Civic Station should be demolished, keeping the bridge to maximise space for live music and performance.*

## Future Civic Station precinct public domain

People were asked to consider the future uses of the precinct and suggested a range of ideas or sentiments. Some of these ideas indicated the need for some type of building (e.g. art gallery or office space) whereas others were more aligned to an open space (e.g. skate park or amphitheatre).

Overall, there was a strong sense that participants wanted to see a unique offering that entices a diverse audience and offers entertainment opportunities for all.

### Preference for removal of all Civic Station buildings:

Those preferring the removal of all buildings favoured open green space with community gardens, increased numbers of trees and connection to nature, as well as a space connected to active transport such as cycling. People also favoured open space landscaped to include tables and chairs to enjoy outside casual dining and activated space to encourage pop-up attractions and music performances. These comments are consistent with what we heard from the community in 2015.

### Preference for retention of Civic Station buildings:

Historical significance emerged as a common theme for those who preferred full retention. Some people who wished to retain all buildings commented on the potential for the station to become an addition to Newcastle Museum.

The ideas for this varied, with some suggesting the station become an extension to the museum exhibition space connecting the rail history into the adjacent building, or simply displaying items currently in storage. Other ideas included the station forming 'workshop' space for school excursions or presentations related to exhibitions within the museum.

### Preference for partial retention of Civic Station buildings:

Some of the participants supported partial retention, however not all comments indicated clearly which part of the building to keep. Most people, but not all, put forward a number of ideas for the future use of the domain in connection to partial retention.

People with a preference to **retain the footbridge** saw opportunities to house a permanent theatre screen for cinema under the stars or an outdoor stage for performances. Other ideas included turning the footbridge into a water feature or destination where people could take photos, add personal messages or use as a graffiti/art space.

Some people commented on the heritage significance of the footbridge, with the majority preferring a unique

and entertaining attraction that would bring people into the city. People also suggested that any retention needed to look inviting and not remain in its heritage form simply for the sake of it.

Those with a preference to **retain the kiosk** predominantly wanted to see it maintained as a café or refreshment stand with refurbishment to suit the new public domain and the provision of additional community services such as a Wi-Fi hub with power outlets, or provide opportunities for murals or art/graffiti walls.

While entertainment was a prominent overall theme, when people commented on the potential to retain the kiosk, the strongest theme was related to eateries and art. People aligned with the kiosk's current use as a refreshment stand and saw it as an ideal location for an eatery, either in its current form or as a sit down café or restaurant.

Other comments related to **retaining some of the building** included the need for shade and therefore retaining only the roof and 'skeleton' of the building, while still allowing for an open space and connection to the waterfront.

Others saw amenities such as toilet facilities as important community requirements or unspecific walls as stand-alone art spaces or reminders of the station's history. These comments, while not dominant, reflected a desire for amenity to support open space in a similar way to other partial retention comments.

Some comments were less specific and provided suggestions for the precinct without a clear retention preference.

Common themes included:

- › a preference for the precinct to prioritise family - the young and old - with activities or amenities that promoted family involvement and inclusion for all ages, from young children to grandparents and even pets
- › a desire for a unique, entertaining and engaging space and that the future use of the precinct needed to be 'amazing' and 'trendy' to attract activation and tourism
- › technology and a sense of security, feeling safe, secure and accessible was of high importance to Novocastrians with a preference for Wi-Fi inclusions and security systems.

*Open up the building to connect Honeysuckle to the CBD.*

*Please make the place a happy place.*





# Newcastle Station precinct

The area is around 10,700m<sup>2</sup> in size and surrounded by a number of key Newcastle landmarks such as Queens Wharf, Customs House, Foreshore Park, Pacific Park, Fort Scratchley, Nobbys Beach and the Hunter Street Mall.

Newcastle Station is located in the East End of Newcastle. The station building and surrounding grounds between Scott Street, Watt Street and Wharf Road (as shown on page 32) make up the Newcastle Station precinct.

The Newcastle Station precinct has historical associations with the Great Northern Railway as its second terminus, built in 1859 only one year after the line was opened.

The building is an example of Victorian Italianate architecture used for larger stations in NSW in the 1870s and 1880s and has State heritage significance. The building and its surrounds are historically significant due to their place in the development of Newcastle and the expansion of rail into regional NSW.

Newcastle Station was the only regional station to have a silver service dining room for passengers (Central was the only other station in the state to have one) and the spaces for the dining room and upstairs kitchen, including a dumb waiter, are still visible.

Newcastle Station precinct is a key location that will act as a catalyst for the successful revitalisation of the East End of the city while preserving and celebrating its heritage and culture.

## Consultation approach

### What were people engaged on?

Newcastle Station precinct is proposed to be zoned 'tourist' and the community was asked to generate ideas for the future use/s of the station consistent with the program objectives and that promote the station as a tourist destination.

The community was asked to provide input on:

- › the future use/s of the station building, understanding its heritage and proposed future zoning as tourism
- › the future use/s of the precinct.

### Engagement methods

The engagement activities undertaken for Newcastle Station precinct included three school excursions, two community drop-in sessions, one Review Committee meeting, one community workshop and one stakeholder workshop. Engagement was also conducted online.

### School engagement

Three school excursions were held at Newcastle Station to reach young people and gain their input into the future of the precinct. Seventy-eight students from the Hunter School of Performing Arts and Newcastle East Primary School attended.

The school excursions involved a site tour of the station exterior and platforms, a short presentation explaining the Revitalising Newcastle program, and time spent individually or in groups, drawing and writing ideas on worksheets that were subsequently displayed during the community drop-in sessions.

As with Civic Station precinct, a Newcastle Station precinct worksheet was developed for use during the engagement. The worksheet was prepared specially for the engagement program and was designed to allow school visitors and the general public to visually communicate their ideas for the precinct.

Students were also provided with a sheet of stickers that outlined 24 possible urban amenity opportunities. It was made clear to students that the stickers did not have to be used and that ideas were not limited to what was included on the sheet.

### Community drop-in sessions

The community drop-in sessions were held on Friday 25 November 2016 from 3pm – 8pm and

Saturday 26 November from 10am – 3pm, attracting several hundred people including more than 350 who chose to sign in.

All participants were asked to sign into the drop-in session as they arrived. The purpose of this was to capture the number of people coming through the door and provide people with the opportunity to select if they wanted to stay up to date with Revitalising Newcastle news. People were also invited to register their interest in participating in a community workshop at the next stage in the engagement process. It was made clear to applicants that the workshop could host up to 60 people and that participants would be drawn by ballot if more than 60 people registered.

Various activities were set up at the drop-in sessions such as worksheets, post-it pads and pens, butchers paper to write on and artist impressions and sketches of the Newcastle Station precinct that were presented as ‘thought starters’. Each artist’s impression (shown on pages 34 and 35) was accompanied by questions to encourage ideas and generate discussion on what people wanted to see in the Newcastle Station precinct.

The sketches were included to provide indicative heights of any possible new buildings. This was to help people visualise the maximum heights allowable on the site, if ideas required additional building. The renders did not suggest a set outcome, rather they demonstrated varying heights (one



Newcastle Station precinct



Newcastle Station drop-in session

storey and two storey options, in line with NCC recommendations for tourist zoning at this site through the planning proposal) in the context of the existing building. As a sketch, the images weren't to exact scale.

During the community drop-in sessions, Revitalising Newcastle team members (UrbanGrowth NSW and TfNSW) and GHD consultants were on-hand to answer questions, explain the engagement objectives, discuss the artist impressions and more. This allowed people to be informed when they provided their ideas or when they wanted to know more about what Revitalising Newcastle was delivering for the city.

People were encouraged to move around the room and review the

comments made and then make their own as they saw fit. A video was created to provide people with an insight into the station's history by showing what it looks like on the upper levels. The video was on display in a small room set up like a cinema.

In addition, the UrbanGrowth NSW video of the planning proposal animation looped on the screen to give an impression of the proposed transformation of the corridor and revitalisation of the city. The video included community members who participated in the 2015 engagement. People took advantage of this and were happy to sit and watch the videos.

As with Civic Station precinct, participants at the Newcastle Station drop-in sessions were also able to provide input on the Civic

Station precinct in an area of the room set aside for that purpose, with posters and 'thought starters' to encourage ideas generation and comments.

Providing this opportunity allowed community members to have their say on both precincts in case they could not make it to both drop-in sessions.

### **Additional engagement**

In addition to the school excursions and community drop-in sessions, a Review Committee meeting and stakeholder and community workshops were also held for the Newcastle Station precinct, allowing the community to play an active role in further distilling the ideas to help shape the preferred future use/s of the station and precinct.



Newcastle Station worksheet

**Newcastle Station –  
heritage restored**

What would you like  
to see here?



**Artist's impression questions**



**Artist's sketch Newcastle  
Station public domain**  
Do you like this space?



**Artist's sketch  
Newcastle Station  
public domain  
+ possible new build**  
Do you like this space?  
What could the new build be?

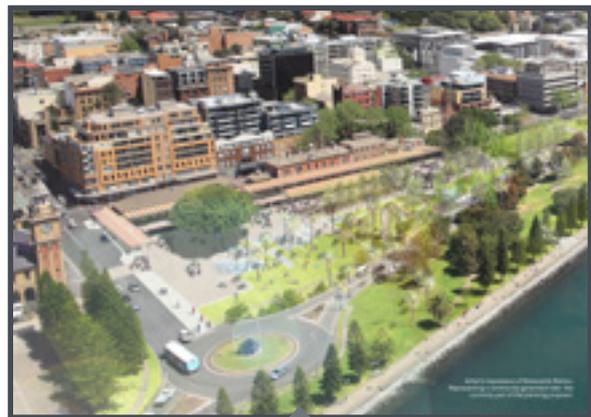


Artist's impression



**Artist's sketch  
Newcastle Station  
public domain  
+ possible new build**

Do you like this space?  
How can this have a tourism  
use?



**Newcastle Station  
public domain**

How would you use this space?

Just over **100 comments** were made in response to the various questions.

### Online engagement

As with the Civic Station precinct engagement, online engagement through the Revitalising Newcastle website was used to promote discussion and reach more people across the Newcastle region.

Using the Revitalising Newcastle Ideas Festival discussion forum, eight questions about the Newcastle Station precinct were posted between 24 November and 29 November 2016. The questions aimed to promote discussion and generate ideas. Additional links on the Revitalising Newcastle Facebook page directed people to the discussion board.

More than 40 comments were made on the questions, *“What attractions or facilities are missing in Newcastle? How could the station meet these needs?”* Relating to these particular questions, there was strong support for an arts and cultural space at Newcastle Station.

An arts and cultural space was a popular idea discussed across many of the questions, with other ideas like markets, eateries and a children’s playground also mentioned.

*“Accommodate for everyone’s needs!  
- Happiness for everyone.”*

*“Calendar of Art and Cultural events aimed at engaging the community and bring in tourists.”*

*“Public stage where people can have events there along with small indie shops.”*

*“Recreational space as shown consider an incorporating open performance space - even with some seating.”*





## **Newcastle Station precinct discussion board questions**

**How could the station support the Hunter's  
wine and food industries?**

---

**In the 1920s, there was a plan to extend  
Newcastle Station along Watt Street.  
Could new buildings be added to reflect this idea?**

---

**Could Newcastle Station be used to address a shortage  
in tourist accommodation? How?**

---

**Would an arts centre be a good use of Newcastle Station?  
Would it attract people to the city and create new jobs?**

---

**Would a function and conference centre at  
Newcastle Station be a tourism drawcard for Newcastle?  
Could this include a community use?**

---

**What attractions or facilities are missing in Newcastle?  
How could the station meet these needs?**

---

**How can the heritage of Newcastle Station be maintained  
without creating a cost burden to future generations?**

---

**Could Newcastle Station be used to support  
major tourism events like the Supercars?**

# Review Committee

A Review Committee was established to review and assess the ideas generated for Newcastle Station precinct against the Ideas Festival objectives.

This assessment of ideas, against the Ideas Festival objectives, was an important stage in the engagement in refining the large list of ideas to those that most aligned with the objectives and would be further discussed at the stakeholder and community workshops.

The Committee included the Program Director, representatives from NCC and HDC, and participants from the community (appointed by NCC), business (appointed by Newcastle NOW), and education (appointed by UrbanGrowth NSW).

A representative from the Urban Development Institute of Australia was also invited to the Review Committee but was unable to attend.

The Review Committee met on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 1pm – 4pm and assessed all 146 ideas for Newcastle Station against the Ideas Festival objectives. For a full list of all 146 ideas, see Appendix A.

The Review Committee was asked to consider all the ideas presented and individually elect to either progress the ideas for further discussion, or remove them using the Ideas Festival objectives as informing

guidelines: bring people back to the city centre, connect the city to its waterfront, help grow new jobs in the city centre, create great places linked to new transport, creating economically sustainable public domain and community assets, and Newcastle Station as a tourist destination.

The Review Committee, with a majority vote (50 percent or higher), identified 32 ideas that they felt either met or possibly met all the objectives and these were carried through for further assessment at the stakeholder and community workshops.

Ideas that received less than 33 percent of the Review Committee votes (75 ideas), were considered by the Committee not to meet the objectives and were not carried through for further assessment at the stakeholder and community workshops.

Ideas that achieved greater than 33 percent but less than 50 percent of the Review Committee votes (39 ideas), were reintroduced via a 'wildcard' system for discussion at the stakeholder and community workshops.

This process was designed to add another opportunity for the community to shape the outcomes. A consolidated list of

wildcard ideas can also be viewed in Appendix A of this report.

The Review Committee was also required to undertake a ballot process to select 60 of the self-registered community members to be invited to the community workshop, plus 10 additional names as a contingency.

The workshop was restricted to 60 participants to allow for robust discussion within reasonable timeframes.

More than 100 people registered to participate in the community workshop.

*“Glad to hear it will be kept. Hopefully will have a balance of public use and private/community to allow for up keep.”*

*“Completely renovate inside. Turn into café strip like Melbourne.”*

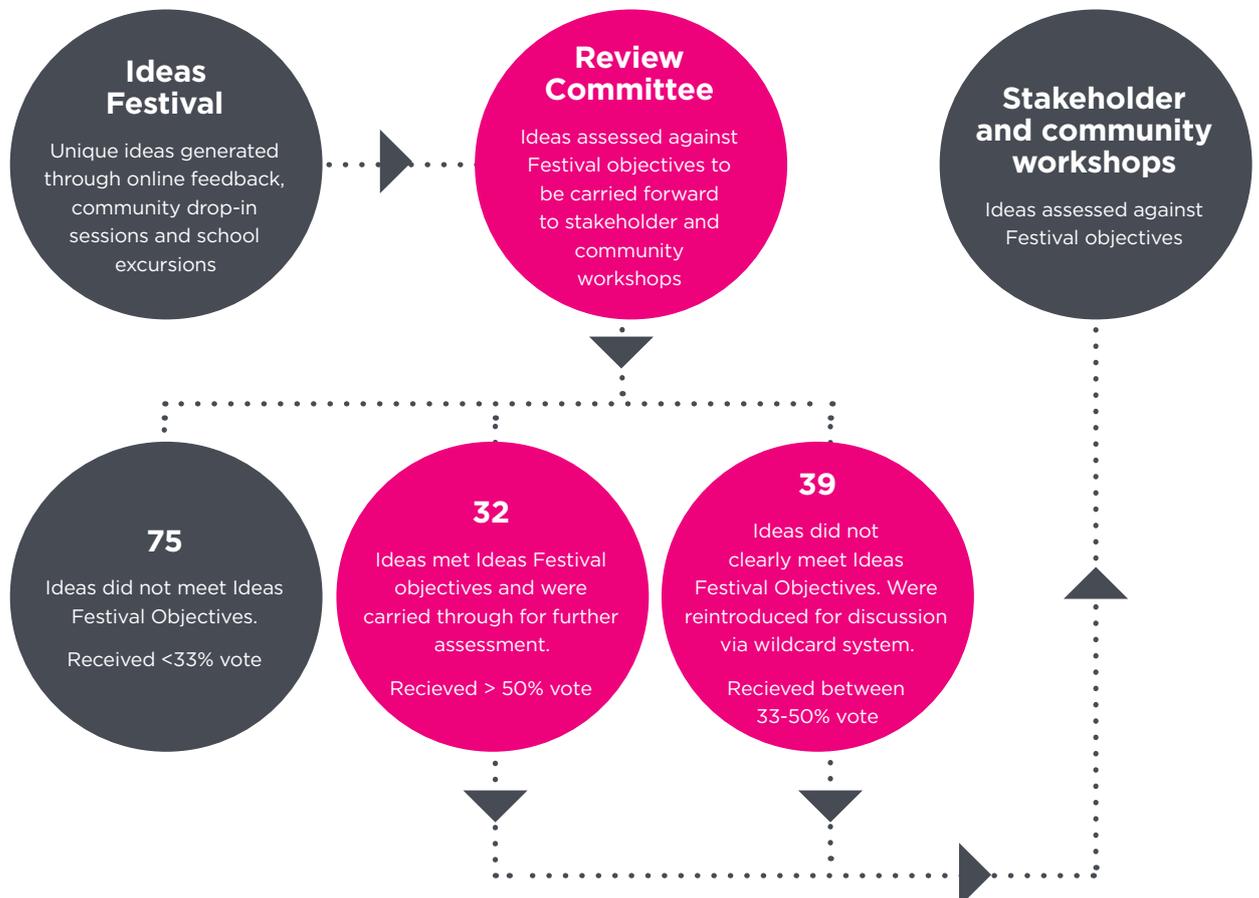


### Review Committee members:

- › **Michael Cassel** – Revitalising Newcastle, Program Director
- › **Cr Nuatali Nelmes** – Newcastle City Council, Lord Mayor
- › **Peter Chrystal** – Newcastle City Council, Director of Planning and Regulatory
- › **Valentina Misevska** – Hunter Development Corporation, Acting General Manager
- › **Brian Ladd** – Newcastle Inner City Residents Alliance, President
- › **Nick Quinn** – Newcastle Youth Council
- › **Julie Rich** – University of Newcastle, Associate Director Campus Strategy
- › **Michael Neilson** – Newcastle NOW, Executive Manager
- › **Matt Anderson** – Newcastle Tourism, Chair.

School excursion to Newcastle Station

### Review Committee Outcomes



*Café, restaurant, pet friendly, gardens, public space,  
live entertainment, cinema under the stars.*



*Completely renovate inside.  
Turn into café strip like Melbourne.*

*A Place to sit and  
enjoy lunch and supper.*

*Eveleigh Carriage works is a wonderful precedent!!  
The community atmosphere is buzzing there.  
Mirror this example!*

*Building floor connecting  
platforms to create large  
open space.*

*Inspiration from the rooftop Kotara. Have restaurants  
around the outside and space for events/eating/  
hanging out in the middle.*



# Stakeholder and community workshops

Following the Review Committee meeting, two workshops assessed the community generated shortlisted ideas against the Ideas Festival objectives. Both groups reviewed the same 32 ideas.

A stakeholder workshop comprising industry, business and interest groups was held on Tuesday 6 December 2016 at 10am – 1pm. More than 50 participants were invited and 35 participants attended.

A community workshop comprising a select number of participants that registered through the Newcastle Station precinct drop-in sessions was held on Saturday 10 December 2016 at 1pm – 4pm.

In the community workshop 112 participants were invited and 52 participants attended. The Review Committee ballot had selected a list of 60 invitees, with an extra 10 ‘spares’. This was later expanded as the acceptance rate was lower than expected.

Community members who had registered their interest were randomly called until a minimum number (an acceptable number to run the workshop with) was reached. As expected, this number subsequently grew a little, as community members responded over time, and some people attended the event without RSVP.

Both workshops were attended by Revitalising Newcastle team members and GHD consultants. The lead consultant from GHD facilitated the workshops and used a PowerPoint presentation to share the purpose of the activity, the direction for participants and to remind people of the program objectives that needed to be considered during the workshop.

The format across both workshops was world café-style, which meant small group discussions with individual voting, supporting a democratic and transparent process of the assessment of the ideas. The world café-style forum works on a time-based rotation system. Each table had a ‘host’ from the Revitalising Newcastle team who remained at ‘their’ table with a set of ideas to discuss in a certain time period.

Following discussion of each idea, participants were asked to vote for or against the idea, in line with the Ideas Festival objectives. Team members recorded commentary and feedback on the ideas discussed at their table. This information is included in Appendix B.

## Wildcard system

In addition to the 32 ideas supported by the Review Committee, there were 39 ideas that the Committee classified as 'marginal' (received 33-50 percent support) and as such, didn't make it through to the next round on their own merit (these ideas are outlined in Appendix A). However, to give the community another opportunity to view and vote on these ideas, a wildcard system was created.

One of the 52 participants that attended the community workshop chose to write their own idea on the list of wildcard ideas, that being 'put heavy rail back'.

At the beginning of the workshops, participants were given the opportunity to vote for the wildcard idea/s they most supported, using stickers. They were each given stickers, three at the stakeholder workshop and two at the community workshop. There were no rules around how people could vote for wildcards - they could use one, none or all of their votes and were not restricted on how they placed them. For example, all votes could be placed onto one idea.

Following this exercise, the wildcard ideas that received the most votes were added back into the list of ideas for discussion during the workshop.

At the stakeholder workshop, the three most popular wildcards were selected. At the community workshop, the four most popular wildcards were selected. Two wildcards were common across both workshops. The disparity in number (including number of stickers) between the workshops was to accommodate different numbers of participants, tables, the need for an equal number of ideas per table as well as an adequate amount of time needed for discussion of each idea.

*Cater to Locals and Tourists. Crafts, Gifts (Art etc) and Café or 2. KEEP History!*

*Public Area - on multiple levels similar to restoration of the water reservoir in Oxford Street, Paddington.*

*With resident arts companies/artists. Contemporary performance space for development of new work.*

*Recreational space as shown consider an incorporating open performance space - even with some seating.*

## The wildcard ideas selected at the both workshops included:

**cinema under the stars**

**heritage mall, e.g. QVB.**

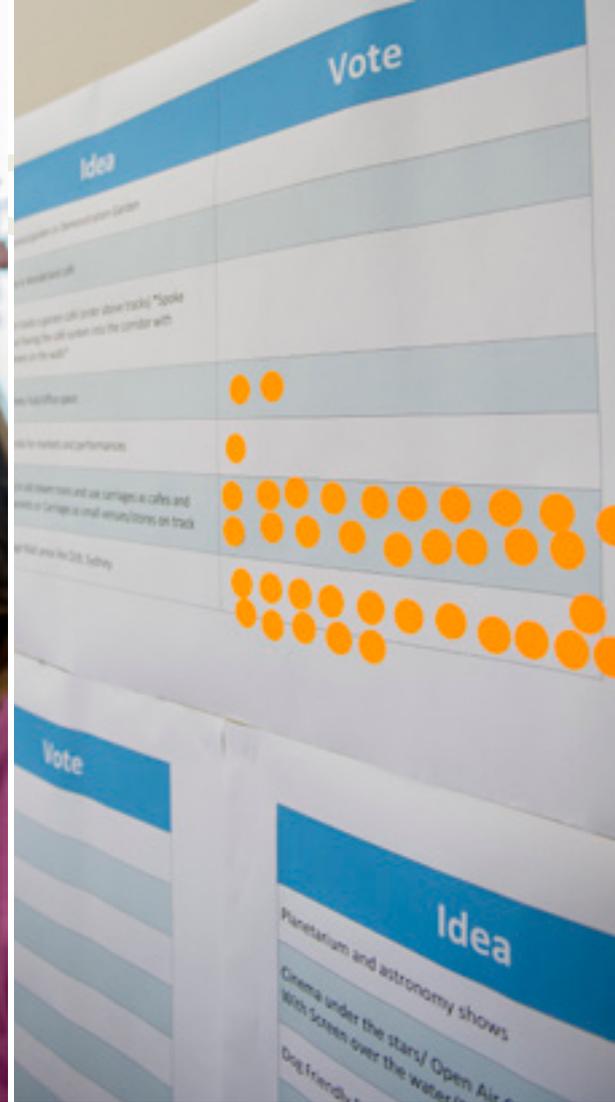
## The wildcard ideas selected for the stakeholder workshop included:

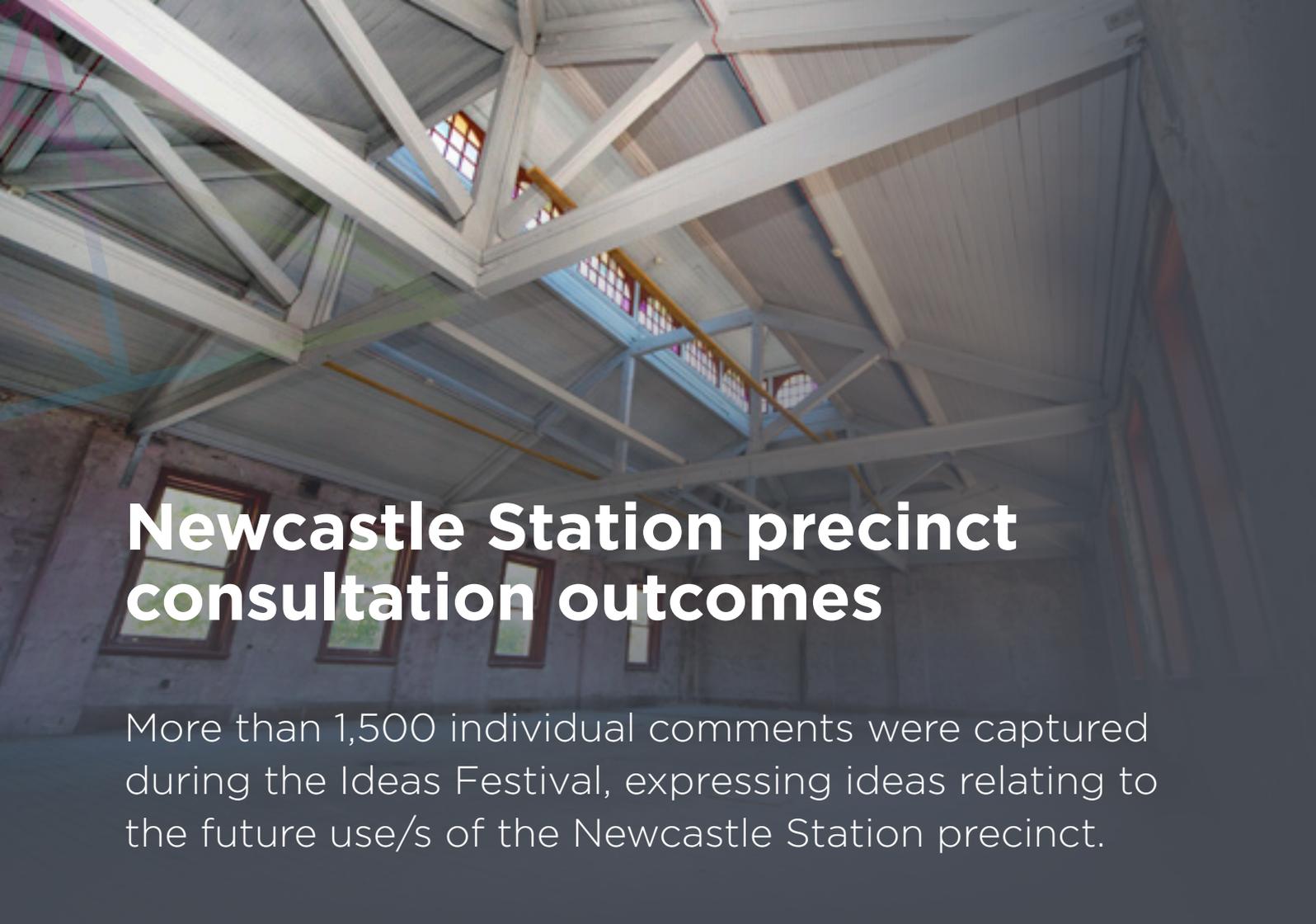
**garden café over the tracks**

## The wildcard ideas selected at the community workshop included:

**old steam trains as cafes/venues**

**school campus**





# Newcastle Station precinct consultation outcomes

More than 1,500 individual comments were captured during the Ideas Festival, expressing ideas relating to the future use/s of the Newcastle Station precinct.

The 1,500 comments for Newcastle Station precinct were grouped based on commonality to form a shortlist of 146 unique ideas (see Appendix A).

The Review Committee then supported 32 ideas and the workshops voted in an additional five wildcards, giving a total of 37 unique ideas for discussion.

Of the 37 ideas, four were supported at both workshops, as well as five at the stakeholder workshop and nine at the community workshop, for a total of 18 unique shortlisted ideas.

The four common ideas were:

- › active art space
- › eateries
- › sunken piazza for performances
- › cinema under the stars.

During discussion at the tables, people said that an **active art space** could involve an art or culture hub or venue. Although this idea was supported, both groups raised concern about the economic sustainability of an active art space as the sole use of the building, and raised concern around successful activation and reaching a broad target audience.

The **outdoor cinema** concept (wildcard) was supported by both groups as a complementary idea (a supporting element to the future use of Newcastle Station precinct). People saw a cinema perhaps as part of a calendar of events or as part of a festival to attract tourism. People considered that this idea could provide good links to eateries or other activations, however, the space should be maintained as multi-use with indoor/outdoor activity.

There was strong support from both groups for the inclusion of **eateries** at Newcastle Station. People wanted careful consideration given to the style of eateries so as not to hinder nearby businesses in the Hunter Street Mall or surrounding food districts, and supported opportunities for eateries to complement other activities or events in the precinct.

People supported the concept of a **piazza** within the precinct, however, the idea of it being 'sunken' was challenged, with some people preferring a ground level space.

Some people said that a piazza would need to integrate with the surrounding heritage and that a sunken structure may not achieve this and could be difficult to activate.

## Shortlisted ideas

### Both the stakeholder and community workshops

Cinema under the stars/open air cinema/outdoor cinema with screen over the water/  
rooftop cinema

Eateries - restaurant and bars and cafes and coffee shops and pop ups/food trucks and tea rooms

Sunken piazza (similar to Expo 88) for all kinds of performances - in bus depot area

Active art space including studios/workshops (watch artists as they work)/classes/dance

### Stakeholder workshop

Heritage Mall area like QVB, Sydney

Garden café over the tracks

Art and cultural hub - 'Newcastle Art Station' /art gallery

A Hunter Valley wine pavilion in Newcastle

Live music venue/music event space

### Community workshops

Children's discovery garden

Performance space/permanent stage/theatre space/community theatre use/theatrette

Tourist information centre

Bring in old steam trains and use carriages as cafes and restaurants or carriages as small venues/stores on track

Event plaza

Vivid-style light show

Festivals/fairs

Hipster food hall i.e. Adelaide

Bicycle and equipment hire/track start/stop and around station

# Summary and next steps

The Ideas Festival engagement program was undertaken by Revitalising Newcastle to gather community input into the next steps for the revitalisation of Newcastle and Civic station precincts.

Previous engagement with the community has been integral in shaping how the city transforms. The Ideas Festival outcomes will likewise influence the next important steps for these two key precincts.





## Civic Station precinct

Through the Ideas Festival engagement activities, it was clear that people are passionate about Civic Station precinct becoming a great place for all to enjoy.

Overall, there were mixed views on the removal or retention of station buildings. The community were supportive of increased amenity in the precinct and there were many ideas linked to various forms of removal or retention to enhance the space. In line with previous community engagement, people continued to support improved public domain and open space to link Civic to the foreshore.

People saw community orientated outcomes for the Civic Station precinct as being important. They saw it as an entertainment location with consideration given to security and social inclusion. The community told us that Civic Station precinct needs to invite diverse age groups and family dynamics,

including young families, older people and students, to interact with the space in a unique way.

### Next steps

The Revitalising Newcastle team will work with heritage specialists, landscape architects and NCC to include the community's input into the future design and function of the space. This will then allow for a DA submission to NCC.

As a part of council process, the public will have the opportunity to comment on future plans through the DA public exhibition period coordinated and run by NCC.

# Newcastle Station precinct

Consistent with what we heard in 2015, the community and other stakeholders again told us that Newcastle Station precinct should be a hallmark destination to attract visitors and tourists to the city.

More than 1,500 comments, consisting of 146 unique ideas, were generated for this important local precinct, and through a rigorous process 18 ideas were shortlisted as the most supported ideas that aligned with the program objectives.

Some of these ideas did not represent a single use opportunity for the station, rather they represented a use better suited to the surrounding precinct. It is on this basis that the community and other stakeholders decided to support them. This creates opportunities for multiple uses incorporating inside and outside functionality of the building and grounds for the benefit of the community.

Importantly, there were four common ideas that were supported in both the stakeholder and community workshops. These ideas will be key inputs to the EOI process.

## Next steps

During 2017 Newcastle Station will undergo some heritage restoration and maintenance so that it can be temporarily used. To achieve this, a DA will be created and lodged with NCC, during which time the community will be able to provide feedback.

The temporary use aims to ensure the community can enjoy this historic building while Revitalising Newcastle continues the planning process towards a permanent use/s.

The EOI process will allow us to identify the best opportunity to deliver a restored station with a use/s that incorporates the community's ideas while providing an economically and socially sustainable attraction for the city. This EOI process is likely to commence in 2018.





# Methodology for data collection, analysis and reporting

This engagement outcomes report was prepared by UrbanGrowth NSW and overseen by an independent advisor.

The approach to collating, analysing and reporting on the data collected during the Ideas Festival was developed by UrbanGrowth NSW in line with best practice IAP2 engagement process.

The engagement program was based on the process undertaken in the 2015 Revitalising Newcastle engagement and outcomes report.

In 2016, UrbanGrowth NSW developed the Revitalising Newcastle Ideas Festival community and stakeholder engagement plan, which outlined the Ideas Festival engagement program. The plan was developed in consultation with key stakeholders and in line with best practice and IAP2 engagement standards.

Each activity run in the Ideas Festival was delivered by a selected team of communications

specialists from Revitalising Newcastle, with the engagement led by UrbanGrowth NSW with input from Transport for NSW and Newcastle-based engagement specialist consultants at GHD. As a key stakeholder, NCC was kept informed and encouraged to provide input.

A process for reviewing the report was developed to ensure that each step was transparent, accurate and robust. An independent advisor oversaw the planning of the engagement program and the writing of the report, and has reviewed the data to ensure the accuracy of its collation.

During the engagement at **Civic Station precinct**, the consultants collected and categorised the data using a coding framework developed by the project team. The framework was designed

to focus on the clear retention preference or clear sentiment that could relate to structures or open space, while considering the context in which the comment was made.

The key steps were:

1. obtaining raw data and ideas through various consultation activities
2. reviewing ideas, aligning based on preference or sentiment into one of five categories
3. reviewing themes

During the engagement for **Newcastle Station precinct**, the list of captured ideas included anything that could be physically created, without further parameters in the first instance. Sentiments and values relating to the style or feeling of the precinct were documented and reported on but did not constitute an 'idea'.





Workshop

From start to finish, the ideas progressed through the different engagement activities using the following key steps:

1. obtaining raw data and ideas without constraints through various consultation activities
2. reviewing ideas, combining duplicated ideas and developing the list of 'unique ideas'
3. the Review Committee assessing ideas individually against the seven Ideas Festival objectives, and then discussing
4. ideas being further assessed and voted upon by two workshop groups - a key stakeholder group and a community group
5. the final list of ideas as supported by each stage being detailed in this report.

6. the report findings were presented to the NUTSG for its consideration prior to the report's formal release.

The outcomes report will be made available to all participants who provided their details during the engagement process.

**The report will be available on the Revitalising Newcastle website as a record of the engagement undertaken and the views of the people who participated.**

# Glossary

## Acronyms

- NCC:** Newcastle City Council
- TfNSW:** Transport for NSW
- HDC:** Hunter Development Corporation
- DPE:** Department of Planning and Environment
- NUTSG:** Newcastle Urban Transformation Steering Group

## Definitions

### Development Application (DA)

Formal request for permission to carry out proposed development. Generally, a DA consists of an application form, a Statement of Environmental Effects, plans and drawings of the proposed development.

### Planning proposal

Formal planning process to rezone land or change development standards (i.e. building height, floor-space ratio, changing heritage status). This process is called a planning proposal and is the first step in preparing or amending a Local Environmental Plan.

### Expression of Interest (EOI)

Formal process to invite interested parties to make a submission outlining their interest and proposed response to selection criteria.

### Newcastle Station precinct

Includes the station building and surrounding grounds between Scott Street, Watt Street and Wharf Road. The precinct is around 10,700m<sup>2</sup>.

### Civic Station precinct

Includes the station and surrounding grounds between Newcastle Museum and Hunter Street. The precinct is around 4,000m<sup>2</sup>.

### Italianate architecture

Was a distinct 19th-century style in the history of Classical architecture. The ornate architectural style and fine detailing of the Newcastle Station building highlight an age of prosperity and confidence in the NSW rail system.

# Appendix A

## List of unique ideas generated for Newcastle Station precinct.

**Note:** at the Review Committee meeting, members were asked to assess the list of unique ideas against the program objectives. At the stakeholder and community workshops, participants were asked to vote their preference on these shortlisted ideas. Appendix A reflects how each of these groups voted.

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
Active art space including studios/workshops (watch artists as they work)/classes/dance	YES	YES	YES
Eateries - restaurants, bars, cafes, coffee shops, pop ups/food trucks and tea rooms	YES	YES	YES
Sunken piazza (similar to Expo 88) for all kinds of performances - in bus depot area	YES	YES	YES
A Hunter Valley wine pavilion in Newcastle	YES	YES	NO
Art and cultural hub - 'Newcastle Art Station'/ art gallery	YES	YES	NO
Live music venue/music event space	YES	YES	NO
Bicycle and equipment hire/track start/stop and around station	YES	NO	YES
Children's discovery garden	YES	NO	YES
Event plaza	YES	NO	YES
Festivals/fairs	YES	NO	YES
Hipster food hall i.e. Adelaide	YES	NO	YES
Performance space/permanent stage/theatre space/community theatre use/theatrette	YES	NO	YES
Tourist information centre	YES	NO	YES
Vivid-style light show	YES	NO	YES
Aboriginal art and cultural centre	YES	NO	NO
Accommodation - apartments/hotel - bed and breakfast - boutique hotel	YES	NO	NO
Circus school	YES	NO	NO
Community centre	YES	NO	NO

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
Displays of regional produce	YES	NO	NO
Exhibition space	YES	NO	NO
Ferris wheel	YES	NO	NO
Function/convention centre/wedding venue	YES	NO	NO
Giant playground	YES	NO	NO
Hawker food vendors	YES	NO	NO
Hostel	YES	NO	NO
Markets/artisan markets	YES	NO	NO
Mini Newcastle under glass	YES	NO	NO
Museum	YES	NO	NO
New York style landscaped walkway/ boardwalk above northern platform connecting across Watt Street to rear customs house/convict lumberyard park (to east) and to Honeysuckle Parks on foreshore (to west)	YES	NO	NO
Retail – shops, stalls, boutiques, outlets and designers	YES	NO	NO
Sculpture by the Sea	YES	NO	NO
Waterpark and water features/fountains/ waterfall	YES	NO	NO
Cinema under the stars/open air cinema/ outdoor cinema with screen over the water/ rooftop cinema	MARGINAL	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	WILDCARD SELECT - YES
Garden café over the tracks	MARGINAL	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	NO
Heritage Mall area like QVB, Sydney	MARGINAL	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	WILD CARD SELECT - NO
Bring in old steam trains and use carriages as cafes and restaurants or carriages as small venues/stores on track	MARGINAL	NO	WILDCARD SELECT - YES
School campus - primary, high or UON	MARGINAL	NO	WILD CARD SELECT - NO
Adventure playground/children play area/ little people bike safety track	MARGINAL	NO	NO

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
Alice in Wonderland café	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Amphitheatre	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Aquarium	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Botanical garden or demonstration garden	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Business hub/office space	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Busking space	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Carnivals	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Children's museum	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Classes (dance, self-defence, art, first aid, dance or yoga) i.e. dancing around the gardens (music by radio) for two nights a week. Waltzing for all ages	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Dance hall with theme music/style i.e. swing nights	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Displays of iconic cars	MARGINAL	NO	NO
DJs emporium	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Dog friendly park/dog pool	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Exercise circuit/athletic centre/gym/running track	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Family entertainment amusement facility	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Free graffiti area/art wall and painted buildings and murals/the back of the buildings should have artists showcase their street art	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Guinness world record events	MARGINAL	NO	NO
HSC art space	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Hydrotherapy pool and day spa	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Illusions hall and hologram gallery	MARGINAL	NO	NO

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
Incubator for design industries	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Lecture spaces	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Legoland	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Masterclass courses (assuming the university is taking over)	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Maze complex - garden or super mirror maze	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Newcastle camera obscura building space	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Newcastle in big block letters i.e. Amsterdam	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Planetarium and astronomy shows	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Retro helter skelter slide	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Rotunda for markets and performances	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Underground art gallery	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Water feature with live fish and frogs, sand, waterfall fed by solar and sub tropic vegetation plus placed sculpture	MARGINAL	NO	NO
WWE events	MARGINAL	NO	NO
Football grounds	NO	N/A	N/A
Aquatic centre/pool	NO	N/A	N/A
International size ice hockey rink complex	NO	N/A	N/A
Parks for kids, grass places or walkways to exercise	NO	N/A	N/A
Supermarket or small specialty grocers (i.e. deli, fruit and veg)	NO	N/A	N/A
After hours shelter for homeless folk (including toilets)/homeless accommodation	NO	N/A	N/A
Area for visiting circuses	NO	N/A	N/A

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
BBQ seatings/tables and chairs	NO	N/A	N/A
Man-made beach	NO	N/A	N/A
Big chess set/other games	NO	N/A	N/A
Big tower for lookout	NO	N/A	N/A
Bilby Ark breeding centre	NO	N/A	N/A
Boat pond	NO	N/A	N/A
Canal - man made in tracks	NO	N/A	N/A
Carousel	NO	N/A	N/A
Carp pond in track area	NO	N/A	N/A
Centre deck area - chairs and tables	NO	N/A	N/A
Charging peddle chairs	NO	N/A	N/A
City farm	NO	N/A	N/A
City zoo	NO	N/A	N/A
Community garden	NO	N/A	N/A
Computer hub for homeworkers/students	NO	N/A	N/A
Cover gaps between platforms with polycarbonate transparent roofing	NO	N/A	N/A
Crematorium	NO	N/A	N/A
Diggers club	NO	N/A	N/A
Discover Australia pavilion boat ride	NO	N/A	N/A
Ferry terminal	NO	N/A	N/A
Fire brigade	NO	N/A	N/A
Fisherman's co-op	NO	N/A	N/A
Flying fox	NO	N/A	N/A

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
Fun sculptures i.e. fairy tales Moby Dick	NO	N/A	N/A
Giant couch	NO	N/A	N/A
Go karts	NO	N/A	N/A
Horse stables and petting zoo - people can come and pat/feed them. Other animals too, goats, etc	NO	N/A	N/A
Hospital	NO	N/A	N/A
A static display of a steam locomotive with carriages would be ideal for Newcastle station	NO	N/A	N/A
Ice cream super store	NO	N/A	N/A
Burj Khalifa	NO	N/A	N/A
Imax theatre	NO	N/A	N/A
International fireworks competition	NO	N/A	N/A
Jumping castle (all ages)	NO	N/A	N/A
Kmart	NO	N/A	N/A
Laser tag	NO	N/A	N/A
Library	NO	N/A	N/A
Local youth centre/youth venue	NO	N/A	N/A
McDonalds	NO	N/A	N/A
Mini train museum	NO	N/A	N/A
Model of Paddington pumphouse area	NO	N/A	N/A
Movie theatre	NO	N/A	N/A
Newcastle Knights Leagues Club	NO	N/A	N/A
Open space	NO	N/A	N/A
Orphanage	NO	N/A	N/A

Idea	Review Committee	Stakeholder Workshop	Community Workshop
Outdoor/indoor Putt Putt	NO	N/A	N/A
Pidgeon academy	NO	N/A	N/A
Place for tranquillity and meditation	NO	N/A	N/A
Police station	NO	N/A	N/A
Public lake	NO	N/A	N/A
Puppet theatre	NO	N/A	N/A
Rooftop gardens	NO	N/A	N/A
Seniors centre	NO	N/A	N/A
Sensory garden	NO	N/A	N/A
Silent disco	NO	N/A	N/A
Skateboarding section/skate park	NO	N/A	N/A
Small security building	NO	N/A	N/A
Souvenir shop	NO	N/A	N/A
Sunken rail garden	NO	N/A	N/A
Tai Chi	NO	N/A	N/A
Temporary flooring over tracks to change uses	NO	N/A	N/A
Theme park temporary/permanent	NO	N/A	N/A
Time zone/revolution /skyzone/flipout	NO	N/A	N/A
Twin slides	NO	N/A	N/A
Ultimate frisbee	NO	N/A	N/A
Video games and Fifa 17 competitions	NO	N/A	N/A
Westfield Newcastle	NO	N/A	N/A
Whirlpool	NO	N/A	N/A

# Appendix B

## Stakeholder and community workshop outcomes

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Active art space including studios/ workshops (watch artists as they work)/ classes/dance	YES	YES	<p>Consensus was that an active art space should act as a complimentary use alongside an art or culture hub or venue.</p> <p>Concern was raised about self-sustainability as a single use.</p> <p>Both groups were concerned about activation and reaching a broad target audience if the active art space was the only use.</p>
Cinema under the stars/open air cinema/outdoor cinema with screen over the water/rooftop cinema	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	<p>The consensus from both groups was that a cinema should be treated as a component idea only.</p> <p>They also agreed that it belongs outside and should be treated as a temporary event rather than a permanent structure.</p> <p>People saw a cinema perhaps as part of a calendar of events or as part of a festival to attract tourism.</p> <p>This idea could provide good links to eateries or other activations but the space should be maintained as multi-use.</p>
Eateries – restaurant, bars, cafes, coffee shops and pop-ups/food trucks and tea rooms	YES	YES	<p>There was strong support from both groups for the inclusion of eateries at Newcastle Station.</p> <p>The groups said consideration needs to be given to the style of eateries so as to not hinder nearby businesses in the Hunter Street Mall or surrounding food districts.</p> <p>Opportunities for eateries to compliment other activities, events or component uses of the precinct were noted.</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Sunken piazza (similar to Expo 88) for all kinds of performances - in bus depot area	YES	YES	Both groups agreed this was a good idea for the Newcastle precinct. The concept of it being 'sunken' was challenged at the stakeholder workshop, with the preference for it to be a ground level space.  Comments were made that it would need to integrate with the surrounding heritage and that a sunken structure may not achieve this and would be difficult to activate.
Bicycle and equipment hire/ track around station	NO	YES	The community group discussed a bicycle and equipment idea as a potential aspect of the cycleway movement for Newcastle, commenting that the Station could act as an end-of-trip location or rest stop.  Consensus from both groups was that this idea was suited as a component feature but should also be considered for the broader Newcastle area not just Newcastle Station.
Bring in old steam trains and use carriages as cafes and restaurants or carriages as small venues/stores on track	NO	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	The community group selected this idea as a wildcard because it would tie into the history of Newcastle Station.  Consensus was that it should act as a component feature only but could offer a substitute to the idea of a museum as well as provide a venue for eateries or children's entertainment.
Children's discovery garden	NO	YES	The community group saw the children's discovery garden as a potential component for the space.  Concern was raised that it attracted a small target audience and perhaps was not broad enough to act as a Newcastle attraction.  The stakeholder group noted that Newcastle City Council has plans for a regional play park/ centre and this idea could be a duplication.
Event plaza	NO	YES	The community group felt an event plaza could be used for local events and to assist tourism.  The stakeholder group noted that this idea could be multipurpose and a component idea but that Newcastle Station may not be the best location. A venue such as this would be better suited to Wheeler Place.

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Festivals/fairs	NO	YES	<p>There were varied points of view on the idea of festivals/fairs. Community workshop attendees saw this idea as an opportunity for a calendar of events with festivals/fairs occurring seasonally to attract tourism in Newcastle.</p> <p>Comments were made that these should include more than just music, such as comedy festivals or short film festivals.</p> <p>The stakeholder group was concerned that festivals/fairs would be too infrequent and that temporary uses of the station would be too difficult to control.</p>
Hipster food hall i.e. Adelaide	NO	YES	<p>Both groups agreed that a hipster food hall could be a component idea only.</p> <p>The stakeholder group did not understand what this idea would include and was concerned it was not sustainable for the precinct and did not provide a diverse offering.</p> <p>The community group saw this idea as an opportunity for more than food options and a positive offering for the University.</p> <p>The group also felt this idea could provide a substitute for others by including a small wine pavilion and local produce display.</p>
Performance space/permanent stage/ theatre space/ community theatre use/ theatrette	NO	YES	<p>The community group commented that a performance space would be a good idea for the Newcastle Station outdoor precinct.</p> <p>It was agreed that this idea was inappropriate for inside the building, but that an outdoor temporary stage with multipurpose use would complement other events such as festivals or ceremonies.</p> <p>It was also noted as complementary to cinema under the starts or to help activate eateries.</p> <p>The stakeholder group was concerned this use would not be sustainable and was a potential duplication of other venues within Newcastle. The group agreed that an outdoor option only could be a potential idea.</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Tourist information centre	NO	YES	<p>The community group agreed that a tourism information centre would be good for Newcastle Station but should only be a small component of the building.</p> <p>It was noted that this type of facility already exists and for it to be included at Newcastle Station consideration would need to be given to access and parking for larger vehicles such as caravans and RVs.</p> <p>The stakeholder group agreed that a small space such as the signal box could be used but that Newcastle Station was not an ideal location.</p>
Vivid-style light show	NO	YES	<p>There was a strong divide in opinion from the workshops to this idea. It was the most popular with the community group and was perceived as an ideal calendar event for Newcastle that could also incorporate the Harbour (light displays on ships) and Fort Scratchley.</p> <p>It was noted that Newcastle would need to make the event relevant to the area but would highlight local heritage and promote tourism.</p> <p>The stakeholder group did not perceive this idea as a unique offering and felt that an idea such as this would need a Newcastle-wide approach rather than be only at Newcastle Station precinct.</p>
A Hunter Valley wine pavilion in Newcastle	YES	NO	<p>Both workshops expressed concern over the potential competition this idea could have for the Hunter Valley vignerons.</p> <p>Both groups discussed this idea as a component use only with the purpose of showcasing the Hunter but not acting as a replacement or destination venue.</p>
Art and cultural hub - 'Newcastle Art Station'/art gallery	YES	NO	<p>Concern was raised, especially within the community group, that an art and culture hub was not broad enough for the Newcastle community and would only reach a small target audience.</p> <p>Consensus from both groups was that an art and culture hub should be a component and complement other uses such as eateries, retail and events that allow for broad community use.</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Garden café over the tracks	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	NO	<p>The stakeholder group voted for this wildcard idea.</p> <p>People commented that this idea should be a component only but has the potential to provide a unique dining experience that could complement other events or building components.</p>
Heritage mall area like QVB, Sydney	WILDCARD SELECT - YES	WILD CARD SELECT - NO	<p>Both groups selected this idea as a wildcard, however the comments were divided in terms of feasibility.</p> <p>The community group was concerned that this idea could negatively impact the Hunter Street Mall area that is still being developed, noting that an idea like this may work in the future but the timing is wrong to make it economically sustainable.</p> <p>The stakeholder group supported the idea as a component, noting that the location was ideal and a mix of retail, function space and eateries could be included.</p>
Live music venue/music event space	YES	NO	<p>Consensus in both groups was that this idea could be included in a calendar of events but was not an appropriate use for the Newcastle Station building.</p> <p>The stakeholder group agreed a small scale offering may be appropriate but a pop-up offering would be preferred.</p> <p>The community group was concerned about noise for local residents and thought there were enough venues nearby with this offering and that Newcastle Station would be a duplication.</p>
Aboriginal art and cultural centre	NO	NO	<p>The consensus was that the idea is good and should be implemented in Newcastle, but not at Newcastle Station and perhaps the former Newcastle Post Office building could be used for this purpose.</p> <p>There was support for events, performances or art exhibitions from local Aboriginal groups being incorporated in other ideas (such as a performance space).</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Accommodation - apartments/ hotel/bed and breakfast/ boutique hotel	NO	NO	<p>Both groups questioned if Newcastle Station is big enough, with comment made that consideration needs to be given to parking and other necessary amenities.</p> <p>Comments were made about the style of potential accommodation and it was raised that Newcastle Station would need to be high-end, boutique style, rather than affordable accommodation to respect the heritage, which may not be economically viable.</p>
Circus school	NO	NO	<p>There was little support from either group for this idea. Comments were made that there is potential as a component only, as an event attraction or part of a performance space/venue.</p> <p>The idea in general was considered not sustainable. Consensus was that Newcastle Station is an inappropriate location.</p>
Community centre	NO	NO	<p>Feedback from both groups demonstrated a lack of understanding as to what this idea might entail and whether it would meet program objectives.</p> <p>The idea was considered too general and a duplication of many other facilities available in Newcastle.</p>
Displays of regional produce	NO	NO	<p>Concern was raised by both groups about the impact of this idea on the Hunter region and existing farmers' markets.</p> <p>Consensus was that this idea could be a component only and would complement the sale of wine, cheeses and other Hunter produce in small shops, during events or at markets as part of a calendar of events.</p>
Exhibition space	NO	NO	<p>Both groups commented that an exhibition space was a good idea for Newcastle, but consensus was that Newcastle Station was an inappropriate venue.</p> <p>It was noted that the space at Newcastle Station was limited and the concept would not allow for regular activation.</p> <p>Comments were made that other venues already fulfil this purpose in Newcastle, and this idea would be a duplication.</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Ferris wheel	NO	NO	<p>Consensus was that a ferris wheel at Newcastle Station was not feasible due to space and view limitations.</p> <p>Locations such as Stockton or Honeysuckle were noted as more functional and suited to the space.</p>
Function/ convention centre/wedding venue	NO	NO	<p>Both groups agreed that Newcastle Station was an inappropriate location for a function centre.</p> <p>It was perceived as not large enough as well as being a duplication of other facilities in the area.</p>
Giant playground	NO	NO	<p>Both groups noted that a plan for a giant playground has already been developed for a different location in Newcastle, which would make this idea a duplication.</p> <p>It was noted that a playground is a good idea for families but should not be incorporated at Newcastle Station.</p>
Hawker food vendors	NO	NO	<p>Consensus was that Hawker food vendors could support other calendar events but was inappropriate as a stand-alone idea.</p> <p>Stakeholders were concerned that they would not attract people to Newcastle and the community group was concerned the vendors would be difficult to control and hinder other businesses in the area.</p>
Hostel	NO	NO	<p>This idea was perceived as too restrictive and inappropriate for Newcastle Station.</p> <p>It was also noted that Newcastle East offers two hostels and a third would be a duplication.</p>
Markets/artisan markets	NO	NO	<p>Consensus that a market could be a component idea only, however, there are many markets already operating in Newcastle and this idea would be a duplication.</p> <p>Both groups were concerned that a market would not be economically viable.</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
Mini Newcastle under glass	NO	NO	<p>Newcastle Station was not considered an appropriate space for this idea.</p> <p>Concern was raised that it would not be a tourism drawcard and would require significant maintenance.</p> <p>It was agreed that this idea could be considered as a component but that other ideas should take priority.</p>
Museum	NO	NO	<p>Concern was raised that a museum was a duplication of a number of venues already established in Newcastle.</p> <p>It was noted that other museums are not economically viable or tourist attractions.</p> <p>The community noted that if a museum were to be included it would need to be a unique offering such as a children's museum or railway museum.</p>
New York style landscaped walkway/ boardwalk above northern platform connecting across Watt Street to rear customs house/convict lumberyard park (to east) and to Honeysuckle parks on foreshore (to west)	NO	NO	<p>There was strong opposition to this idea from both groups.</p> <p>It was considered to impose on the skyline and to be irrelevant to the Newcastle Station history.</p>
Retail - shops, stalls, boutiques, outlets and designers	NO	NO	<p>Both groups perceived this idea as not suitable for the Newcastle Station as it would hinder the Hunter Street Mall activation and possibly hinder future market events.</p>

Idea	Stakeholder workshop vote	Community workshop vote	Feedback
School campus - primary, high or UON	NO	WILD CARD SELECT - NO	<p>The community group selected this idea as a wildcard.</p> <p>It was discussed as necessary for the Newcastle area but inappropriate for the Newcastle Station as it would not allow for community use and would not promote tourism.</p> <p>Consensus was that the Station needs to be used for the general public.</p>
Sculpture by the Sea	NO	NO	<p>Both groups commented that Sculpture by the Sea should be located along a coastline and would require a much larger space than Newcastle Station.</p> <p>The potential for a sculpture to be located at the Station was supported by a number of community members as an addition to a calendar of events around Newcastle.</p> <p>Concern was raised that this event would not stimulate economic growth.</p>
Waterpark and water features/ fountains/ waterfall	NO	NO	<p>Concerns were raised that a waterpark or water feature was a seasonal attraction and may be inappropriate for the Newcastle Station precinct.</p> <p>The community group commented that as a component idea it would attract families but that the location was not ideal.</p> <p>Both groups were concerned about the cost and relevance with the station being located so close to the beach and making the idea unsustainable.</p>

For more information about this document

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