

1A Jaques Street Masterplan and Public Domain Plan Engagement Summary



For generations, 1A Jaques Street has been more than just a location, it's been a well-loved gathering place and common ground of the community. To honour its legacy and guide its future, Council developed the draft 1A Jaques St Masterplan and Public Domain Plan (the Masterplan).

Between 14 July and 25 August 2025, the Masterplan was on public exhibition. The community could share their feedback by completing the online submission form, attending a pop-up and/or drop-in session, attending the community workshop or writing to Council via email or post.

Key outcomes from the engagement include:

- **85% of respondents supported the Masterplan** and its overall vision
- There were **mixed views on parking**, with some respondents suggesting more parking spaces are needed to support local businesses, while others preferred the amount outlined in the draft Masterplan and expressed a desire for the site to remain a community space
- Feedback included suggestions to **improve seating and shade**, with requests for more picnic tables and shaded seating areas
- While the inclusion of upgraded toilet facilities was appreciated, respondents suggested **increasing the number of toilets**, improving accessibility, and modifying the toilet block positioning and design for better visibility and access.
- Concerns were raised regarding **safety and security** within the park, including the need for fencing, improved lighting, and further consideration of the toilet block positioning to address potential risks and antisocial behaviour.

How you connected



A total of **115** online submissions received



1 pop up with **35** attendees



1 workshop/drop-in session with **6** attendees



Your Voice Our Coast
1,179 views



The Masterplan was downloaded **246** times



Facebook - **17,467** people were reached, generating **116** reactions



Instagram – **3,772** people were reached, generating **45** reactions



eNews - Delivered to **19,583** and **19,726**



Coast Connect print – readership of **62,000+**

Engagement Results

Online submissions

Council received a total of 115 submissions through the online submission form. Of the 115 submissions, we heard the most from women (62%, n=69) and people aged 70-84 (26%, n=29) or 60-69 (25%, n=27). Among the respondents, 3 respondents identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (3%) and 16 respondents live with a disability (15%).

We heard from people who connected to the area in a range of ways. The majority of respondents were local residents (77%, n=89), interested community members (59%, n=68) or visitors of the area (20%, n=23). *Note: As respondents could select more than one option, totals exceed 115.

The feedback and insights from the online submissions are further analysed in sections below.

Pop-up and community workshop

Council invited community members to attend an on-site pop-up, drop-in session or community workshop. The pop up was held on Tuesday 5 August 11am-2pm, with 35 people attending. The community workshop and drop-in session were held on Wednesday 6 August 2-4pm, with 6 people attending the workshop. An evening drop-in session was also scheduled on Wednesday 5 August. However, no-one attended that session.

Key feedback from the in-person engagement sessions included:

- Overall support for the Masterplan and concept design.
- Community members re-iterating the importance of the history of Ourimbah and long-term generational residents and families.
- Desire for a community space as opposed to a carpark and suggestions to include features such as wider carpark spaces for prams and wheelchairs, safety bollards around the carpark, and time limited parking.



Summary of engagement findings

Support for Masterplan

Support for the overall vision of the Masterplan was high, with 85% (n=96) of respondents either strongly supporting (59%, n=67) or supporting (26%, n=29) (Figure 1).

Do you support the overall vision of the masterplan?

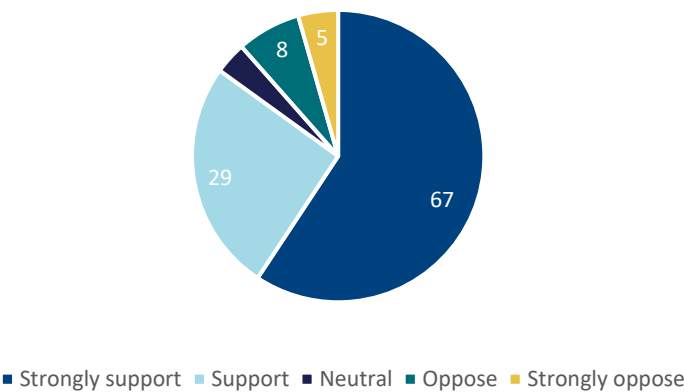


Figure 1: Support for masterplan Survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 14 July to 25 August, 113 responses

There was also strong support across the key design features identified within the Masterplan. Most respondents noted being very satisfied or satisfied with all design features, with the most popular being the accessible toilets (n=98), open green space (n=96) and the sites intended purpose as a gathering space for the community (n=91) (Figure 2).

How satisfied are you with the below features in the masterplan?

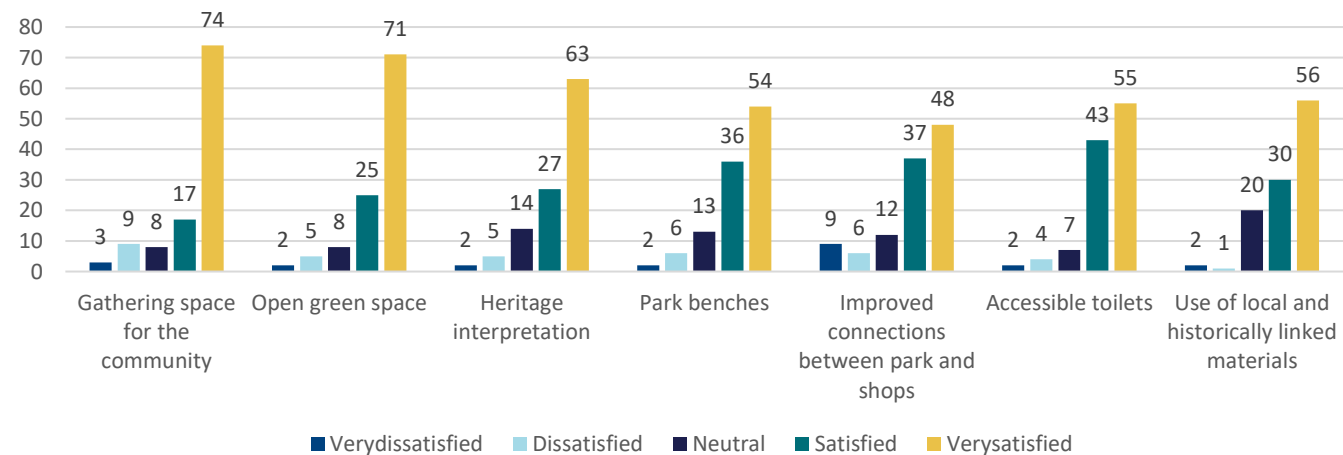


Figure 2: Satisfaction with design principles Survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 14 July to 25 August, 113 responses

When asked to further explain what respondents liked about the Masterplan, 102 respondents gave open-ended feedback. Key themes included:

- The intended purpose as a gathering space for the community (n=28)
- Open green space (n=16)
- A place to sit and eat or drink (n=15)

- Inclusion of upgraded toilet facilities (n=13)
- The use of native plants and landscaping (n=10)

"It has been thoughtfully prepared and should meet the wishes of the local and wider Central Coast community. This masterplan can only enrich our delightful region."

"It warms my heart to see the community involved in this worthwhile project. A community is the heart of a small town and the interest and time spent by the locals should be respected and recognised. The plan is for a beautiful area which I believe will be loved and used by many, both local and tourists. It sounds like the perfect place to sit quietly or be with friends and community while recognising the stories of Country and acknowledging the history of the original Nissen Hut."

"I think that the council staff have 'nailed it'. It is a very comprehensive detailed plan that gives strong credit to all of the past history of the Ourimbah area from aboriginal story lines, to timber pioneers, to the citrus industry, to post war community activities. The plan incorporates and represents all the common features that made Ourimbah showcasing and preserving its history, especially on this site. I love the plan to use local natural materials, natives and citrus into the planting. The circular connecting design features of the building and paths are a great tribute to the history of the land. The provision of the innovative round toilet block is so good. Additional parking is provided as well for shoppers without sacrificing the elements for a community gathering space."

A name for the park

When asked if respondents like the name 'Ourimbah common' for the park, most respondents thought it needs some work (61%, n=69), while some liked it (24%, n=27) and fewer loved it (16%, n=18). Common alternate name suggestions included 'Ourimbah Heritage Park (n=19) and Blue Gum Flat Park/Reserve (n=10).

What do you think of the name 'Ourimbah Common' for the park?

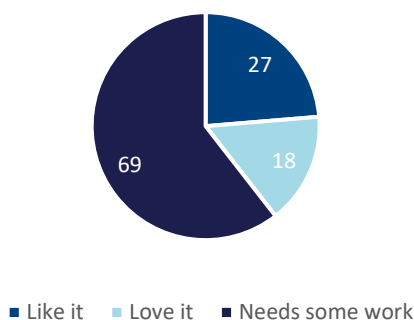


Figure 3: Feedback on a name for the park Survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 14 July to 25 August, 114 responses

Mixed views on parking

Views around the proposed parking for the space was mixed. Some respondents (n=12) suggested that more parking spaces are needed, particularly to support the local businesses in the area. Others (n=22) believe that the amount of parking outlined in the draft Masterplan is sufficient and expressed a desire for the site to remain a community space. Recommendations also included ensuring the parking spaces are time limited (n=4).

"I'd like to see more car spaces added, perhaps also along the front of Jaques Street. There currently there are not enough parking spaces to access Ourimbah shops & businesses. Perhaps providing more car spaces here would be a better alternative than this park space. The money could be reallocated to upgrade the existing Lions Park in Walsley Road which doesn't have toilets?"

"Looks good but impractical the area is screaming for car parks. The area should be one third toilet and park and two thirds car parks."

"The public open space MUST not be given over to car parking - other than what is currently proposed along Glen Road. It must remain a public park for the use of the public."

"I've heard some people just want a car park and that would be a travesty and not at all reflect the true value of the site which is the only easily accessible green space in the centre of Ourimbah."



Seating and shade improvements

Feedback included suggestions to improve the seating and shade of the area (n=17). Respondents expressed a desire for more seating options such as picnic tables, with some requesting shaded seating areas to protect from sun and rain. Conversely, many respondents also mentioned that they were satisfied with the seating options available in the design (n=15).

"Park benches should be covered to protect users from sun and rain."

"Additional benches/picnic seating to support local takeaway shops - maybe 1-2 more than has already been provisioned for?"

"Yes [has anything been missed or should be changed]. More seating for those who may purchase a lunch in the nearby shops then go into the park to enjoy. Benches and seats. Also instead of big open spaces make a feature of a beautiful flowering tree or two e.g. Jacaranda and flame tree. Or plant more beautiful autumn leaf trees like the park down the street. People will appreciate this in years to come. Great for shade as well as local beauty."

Toilet block suggestions



Numerous respondents mentioned the upgraded toilet facilities were a design feature they liked (n=13), however there were also suggestions for improvement to the proposed toilet block design, including increasing the number of toilets (n=5), increasing the number of accessible toilets (n=6) and modifying the toilet block positioning and design for improved visibility and access (n=6).

"Well-designed toilet block which is round and reminiscent of a wood chop log/tree."

"Toilet positioning. A little lost needs to be closer to street."

"Though advised toilets will be fully equipped and suitable for wheelchair access, I think more than 2 are necessary – 3 at least maybe 4. Review of space for same. Happy there is provision for baby change table."

Security and safety measures

Concerns around safety and security within the park were also raised, including comments regarding need for fencing, lighting and further consideration of the toilet block positioning (n=18).

"Some partial low fencing between park and car spaces, for child safety."

"Good lighting at night and if possible security cameras in strategic places."

"The toilet, wall and area around it appears to create barriers that could allow crime or antisocial behaviour to occur. I suggest looking at the design to open the area, increase views as appropriate to make the area safer."

How we responded

Council has reviewed all feedback received during the exhibition period and the Masterplan has been amended, where appropriate. Due to the large volume and variety of content contained within community feedback, issues have been grouped into themes, and a response has been provided in the following table.

Theme	Summary of theme/Example of comment	How it has influenced the project
Carparking	The site should be used for carparking to solve parking issues at the shops.	It is acknowledged that parking at and around the shops can be a concern particularly during peak times. However, part of the terms of sale of the site to Council from the University of Newcastle was that it be used for community benefit. In response to this Council resolved to work with the community to inform the future use of the site. During public consultation prior to development of the draft design and during public exhibition of the draft masterplan the community overwhelmingly supported the use of the site as a park and community gathering space. This vision is a continuation of the site's long history as a place for the people of Ourimbah Village to enjoy in common. The set of uses are the result of lengthy and careful community engagement and discussion. The design has responded by formalising ten additional car spaces and one disabled access space. This increases car parking available. Dedicated council maintenance/emergency vehicle parking has also been provided
	Could carparking numbers around the site be increased	The number of car spaces have been increased from the existing 5 carparking spaces, through the introduction of ninety-degree parking. Additionally in response to public exhibition parking numbers have been further increased by 2 spaces to include 10 carparking spaces, 1 disabled carparking space and Council Vehicle parking to allow for maintenance of the park. Depending on final design details this space may

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		be limited to certain times and available for public use outside these times.
	Why isn't the parking angled parking	Ninety-degree parking was included at the recommendation of Council's traffic engineer. It allows people to pull in coming from either direction. This is especially important because residents may travel down the hill in Glen Road. Angle parking would exclude these residents. Additionally, 90-degree parking maximises the number of spaces that can be provided.
	Parking should be time limited	Council will consider this at the detailed design stage.
	Locate two parking spaces next to each other with larger space between to allow for 2 disabled parking and/or parents with prams	The parking numbers and types are balanced to service the whole community. The disabled space has a widened egress and is located closest to the park entry. The dedicated council carpark is proposed to be time limited and will mostly be available for public use and allow generous additional access to the park.
Public Toilets	1 male, 1 female toilet is not enough – used not only by local community but shop patrons and as last stop for people heading to the freeway	The number of toilets provided in the masterplan design was based on information available on usage of the facility at the time the draft design of the park was being prepared. Prior to detailed design of the structure, the usage of the facility will be reviewed to ensure the provision of adequate facilities based on any updated usage information available.
	Could the toilet block be moved forward on the site to increase visibility, legibility and safety	This was considered in response to comments during public exhibition. However, the position strikes a balance between limiting the size of the 'blind' area behind the toilet block and locating it an easy distance or around 7-8m from the footpath.
	Toilets should include one disabled toilet as well as 1 male, 1 female toilet	Both toilets allow for disability access.
	There is a need for change facilities and disability access to toilets	Both toilets allow for disability access. Change facilities have also been accommodated within the toilets.
	Concerned that wall around the entry to	The concept for the wall is that it can be designed to balance screening and privacy but allow views through for safety.

Theme	Summary of theme/Example of comment	How it has influenced the project
	toilet could be a safety issue	
	Ensure that there are separate male and female toilets for safety.	It is proposed that there are two separate cubicles for males and females.
Fencing	There is a need for fencing around all or part of the park to stop children running onto the road.	Fencing is usually only provided by Council as part of a playground design. The site does not incorporate a "playground" as such. It was suggested during public consultation that rather than a "fence" some sort of barrier or vertical elements could be incorporated into the design at key locations which would serve the purpose of improving safety for younger children. These barriers could have the dual purpose of being used for heritage interpretation or be part of the landscape design. This idea will be explored at the detailed design stage.
	Fencing or partial fencing could be dual use, not look like standard fencing and incorporate heritage interpretation. Could be low fencing.	Refer to response above. This could be a possible location for additional storytelling/heritage interpretation. Inclusion of partial fencing or barriers will be considered at the detailed design stage.
Park Design	Park is trying to do a lot in a small space and should be simplified	The park design has been carefully planned to respond to community consultation and to achieve the right balance of what it is achieving for a neighbourhood park. This is a park based on the original idea of community, the arts, stories and history.
	Should include water tank to collect water from roof of toilets and recycling of water from toilets	It is agreed this would be a good idea. Currently this is proposed under the toilet facility and or pavilion.
Play Equipment	There is a need for play equipment in the park	The park is too small for a formal playground with equipment. Spatial standards for playground safety require a large footprint. These are provided in dedicated spaces elsewhere by Council. However, site-specific nature play, and playfulness will hold a big part throughout the park, as part of the interpretation.

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	The park should incorporate nature play and sensory walkway for young children eg: a natural graduated balance challenge or obstacle course and sensory rich planting	Nature play is intended to be incorporated on this site. An in-depth study will be required as the design progresses, identifying how nature play is incorporated into the design. The planting design also requires more intensive investigation after planning, including establishing connections with local suppliers, the installation process, and the community's involvement.
Connectivity to Shops	Access and connectivity to the shops needs to be improved	Agreed. There are ideas for how this is to be done in future stages involving any improvements to the shopping centre. The design accommodates future proofing for changes to this adjacent scope.
	Design should consider a pedestrian crossing from the park to the shops	Due to the proximity of the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights at the intersection of Glen Road and the Pacific Highway Council, traffic engineers considered this inappropriate and not in accordance with relevant standards. The proposed pedestrian 'blister' of footpath widening improves pedestrian access by shortening the length of the crossing. Incorporation of a pedestrian refuge may be considered at detailed design stage.
Seating	There is a need for more covered seating	The primary structure incorporates covered seating. Additionally, the proposed trees will provide shading to other seating within the park.
	There is a need to provide more seating	There is a large amount of seating of different types and character throughout the park. Seating is provided under the shelter, there are two formal bench/seat type tables and there is potentially up to 50 linear metres of informal seating such as the yarning circle, garden edges etc. At detailed design stage Council could consider modifying the seating in the pavilion to be more formal with backrests/arm rests or increasing the seating in this area.
	Concern that covered area is all outward looking a bit like a bus stop, this area should be designed to encourage gathering, allowing people to sit in groups	The covered area is large enough for small groups. Additionally, it serves a role in defining the larger space as it forms an edge. Final seating design will be determined at detailed design stage.

Theme	Summary of theme/Example of comment	How it has influenced the project
	Questions the use of the sunken meeting place/seated area what will this be used for.	The sunken area creates a focal point; its functions are flexible. Such spaces can serve as an open area where people may sit casually at the perimeter at a comfortable distance from one another. On occasion it may serve for gatherings. It is also an informal gathering circle drawing on the First Nations history of Ourimbah as a gathering place for men during the initiation ceremony.
Safety	Concerned about the concealed areas behind the toilets and safety	The whole useable space is visible from the streets. The screened area behind the structures is intended to be heavily planted, making it inaccessible. Observation of this area is also possible from the pavilion deck.
	How has CPTED been considered in the design?	CPTED design principles have been considered throughout the design process. The concept plan layout has considered visibility from the public domain. Positions and layouts were the result of extended discussions and considerations.
Historical Details	The document is missing important historical details such as the reference to the Tip Top Bread Factory	Where appropriate the document has been updated to include relevant historical details such as the Tip Top Bread Factory see page 12.
Park Name	During initial community consultation, we heard that the community wanted the space to be "communal" or a "common gathering space". The community emphasised the importance of the site, its connection to the broader Ourimbah history and how the site has served as the community's common ground for generations. During the development of the masterplan, the project team started affectionately referring to the park as	The community responses to the park name were mixed with 45% of respondents stating they love or like it and around 60% either not liking it or suggesting an alternative such as Ourimbah Heritage Park, Blue Gum Park, Ourimbah Village Park, Ourimbah Green. In response to feedback it is proposed that as the project proceeds the community be presented with all the suggested names for the park and they be asked to vote for their preferred name.

Theme	Summary of theme/Example of comment	How it has influenced the project
	"Ourimbah Common" in recognition of the site serving as the community's "common ground". The survey on YVOC asked the community what they thought about the name and if they had an alternate name for the park.	

What's next?

Council reviewed all feedback received during the exhibition period and amended the Masterplan where appropriate. The final Plan and results of the exhibition were then presented to Council and formally adopted.

Council will now investigate possible funding sources either via Council funds, developer contributions, grant funding or a combination of these for the detailed design and construction of the works.

In response to community feedback regarding the name of the park, it is proposed that as the project proceeds the community will be presented with suggested names for the park, informed by the suggestions received during public exhibition, and be asked to vote for their preferred name.