

Transforming the High Street in Penrith

Great Streets, Great Public Spaces: Penrith Case Study



Completed works



Expanded space for outdoor dining

Penrith's community and local businesses have benefited from the rejuvenation of the oldest shopping strip in its CBD. Completed in June 2019, the High Street upgrade is one of many projects helping to deliver on Council's ongoing commitment to supporting Penrith's economy and boosting the amenity and attractiveness of the Penrith City Centre.

The upgrade involved replacing and improving ageing infrastructure along High Street, from Woodriff Street to Riley Street, installing new paving, introducing street furniture, upgrading lighting by constructing three footpath extensions for additional outdoor dining and seating, and introducing more mature trees to increase shade cover.

Council's commitment to working closely with the community and local businesses was key to the success of the project. Council engaged extensively with residents and businesses about the importance of the improvements, the scope of works and impact to High Street and associated businesses.

During construction, Council made it a priority to minimise disruption and keep the High Street open for visitors and workers. Work was undertaken in stages and overnight where possible, and signage along site fences indicated business locations, to make it easy for people to access stores and services. Council communicated with local businesses and the community at every stage of the works.

To celebrate the completion of the works and to support local businesses, Council proactively promoted the upgrades and businesses along High Street, and encouraged foot traffic and shoppers back to the area with a series of promotional videos.

Penrith CBD Corporation Chairman, Darren Latty, said the transformation has made High Street more user-friendly.

"In the past the pathways were narrow and the pavement uneven. Now it's completed we can already see an increase in people's confidence in being able to move around the CBD more easily."

- Penrith CBD Corporation Chairman,
Darren Latty

Penrith's residents love the new look, and local businesses feel it has refreshed their outlook. The multiplier effect of the upgrade has been realised, as many businesses have gone on to do upgrades to their own facades.

For videos illustrating Penrith's upgraded High Street see: [High Street Transformation](#), [Real People](#), [Real Stories](#), [Our City](#), [Life After Dark](#), [Come Down to High Street](#), [High Street Secrets](#), [Café Culture](#)

PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

Unique and Creative Streetscape at Coffs Harbour's City Square

Great Streets, Great Public Spaces: Coffs Harbour Case Study



Upgrades to Coffs Harbour's City Square have transformed it into a day and night hub. The \$2 million revitalisation, completed in 2019, is the centrepiece of a \$10 million investment to enhance Coffs City Centre's capacity to stimulate economic growth and meet evolving local social and cultural demands.

Council repaved the square, installed event facilities and contemporary lighting (including an interactive light show projector) and adapted the space to be safe and attractive for markets, night-time dining and entertainment. Council also invested in traffic safety improvements, and enhanced security measures, to provide a safe environment.

Locally crafted street furniture featuring public art provides spaces in the Square where diners can order from various restaurants. Elements of public art created by local artisans help to reaffirm the location as a social and cultural hub.

The Coffs City Centre Masterplan Committee (including businesspeople, investors, retailers and the community) formed a vital link with community and cultural groups, event organisers and businesses to help implement the plan. By working in partnership with community and business stakeholders, Council was confident the Square would attract visitors and meet the needs of traders and event organisers.

Coffs City Centre has now become a destination featuring strong design in a unique and creative streetscape. City Square sets this tone, not only through design, but through the growing community relationship with the space.

The City Square is only one element of Council's efforts to revitalise the City Centre. Major projects are largely being financed by property owners in the City Centre who contribute to a special levy generating a \$10 million base investment for infrastructure. Other upgrades already complete include the construction of new shade sails to give the City Centre a unique identity and improved pedestrian connections.

Council is also looking to activate and beautify its City Centre laneways to generate arts and cultural opportunities for creative communities, and to encourage new entertainment and dining experiences.



City Square with new shade sails, before City Square transformation



After



After

A people-first approach for Waverley's new cycleways and streets upgrade



Great Streets, Great Public Spaces: Waverley Case Study

New connections to create a safer environment



Waverley Council is delivering a significant program of street upgrades to make them more activated, liveable, sustainable, and equitable.

The Bondi Junction Cycleway and Streetscape Upgrade is a key component of the NSW Government's Eastern Suburbs Cycleway. Once complete, it will create a connected transport network into the city and beyond, with new signalled crossings to improve safety.

Council's goal is to make Bondi Junction a great place to live. This project brings to life a transport hierarchy that prioritises people first, then bicycles, public transport, service vehicles, shared mobility and finally, private vehicles. It's part of Waverley's [Complete Streets](#) plan to green and beautify public areas and footpaths, make meeting places more appealing, and improve connections for cycling, walking and access to public transport.

Council's consultants worked closely with the community to develop and refine the design, using surveys, postcards and community events. Taking account of the community's response, technical stakeholders helped to address issues identified in the preliminary design. Overall, the community was supportive of Council's holistic approach to integrating pedestrians, cyclists and motorists with increased bicycle parking, defined cycleways and footpaths, and more trees and garden beds.

Council collaborated with award-winning landscape architects, the community, Transport for NSW and State Transit Authority. The NSW Government funded the first three stages of the project through the Active Transport program. Council has now received a significant commitment from state and federal governments under the jointly funded Pinch Point Program, set up to make Sydney's metropolitan road network more efficient for all transport users.

Construction began in August 2019 and is being completed in seven stages to minimise disruption for cars, cyclists, pedestrians and residents/businesses. Council is currently finishing work on Spring Street and moving on to the next stage - Oxford Street, between Denison Street and St James Road in November 2020. Throughout all the stages of construction Council has been active in working with businesses, residents and stakeholders by holding information sessions and business walkthroughs.

Once complete, the project will see new footpaths allowing for outdoor seating and garden beds, new street lights and 50 new trees.



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL



Waverley replaced the road, paving and footpath, installed a bidirectional cycleway and planted trees at Spring St, Bondi Junction



Parramatta's Centenary Square re-established the space as the City's civic centre

Great Streets, Great Public Spaces: Parramatta Case Study



Parramatta's Centenary Square has been restored as the city's civic heart and is now home to festivals, community events and activities. By 2023, Centenary Square will link up with the expansive public forecourt now under construction in Parramatta Square and Council's flagship civic and community building, 5 Parramatta Square.

City of Parramatta Council recognised that the Square, which had been converted into a mall in the late 1980s, was in need of an overhaul. Used by 20,000 people each day, the space had become cluttered, and residents, workers and visitors perceived the Square as unsafe.

Council set a goal to create a place where people want to visit and stay—a quality public space where people could freely interact, while retaining and improving the area's unique heritage features, including Parramatta Town Hall.

Council sought to understand what people wanted to see in the upgraded Square, through extensive community consultation with locals, visitors and workers, and incorporated desired elements into the design.

The space was decluttered and elements including the playground and amphitheatre were removed. Permanent infrastructure was moved to the edges of the Square, creating a large event space where formal and informal events could be held to attract visitors and activate the city. An animated and illuminated water play fountain was incorporated into the pavement of Centenary Square. Council collaborated with a neighbouring landowner to regrade private lawns to integrate seamlessly with the Square, further expanding the space available to the community.

Businesses that could deliver high-quality and engaging fit-outs were invited to take tenancy in vacant or under-utilised shopfronts adjacent to Centenary Square to help drive local tourism and visitation.

Completed in 2014 at a cost of \$5 million, Centenary Square is now home to the Parramatta Farmers Markets, Parramatta Lanes Festival and other community events and activities.

“When you think of what makes our favourite cities memorable, their great public spaces often come to mind. From Trafalgar Square in London, to the Piazza Navona and the Campo de' Fiori in Rome, to Martin Place and Hyde Park in Sydney,

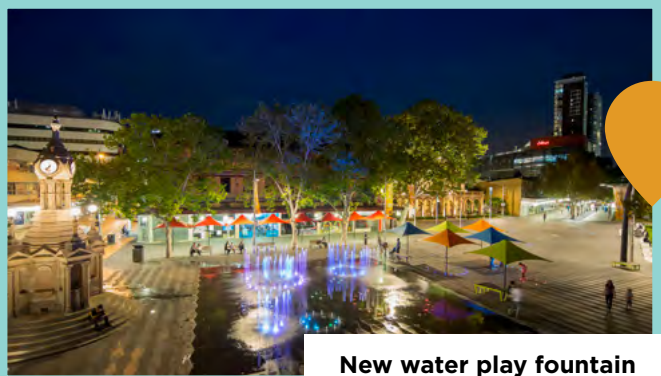
open spaces are the backbones of great cities.... In Parramatta, Centenary Square now plays this role...the square is the vibrant heart of Parramatta.”

- Lucy Turnbull, former Chief Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission

Centenary Square has won multiple awards, including the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects 'Civic Landscape' award in 2016.



Photo credit: City of Parramatta Council



New water play fountain

Photo credit: JMD Design, Brett Boardman

Newcastle

Newcastle's former heavy rail corridor transformed into a new public space - Market Street Lawn Great Streets, Great Public Spaces: Newcastle Case Study



Before



Before

Market Street Lawn in Scott Street, completed in 2016, provides a new community space in Newcastle's city centre, connecting the CBD with the harbour along the light rail corridor. The lawn was made possible by removing overhead pedestrian bridges and heavy rail infrastructure that previously divided the city from the waterfront. It reimagines the street environment between Scott Street and Wharf Road in line with what the community said they wanted to see.

Located at the intersection of Market and Scott Streets, at the new Queens Wharf Light Rail Stop, this new public space now activates the street by providing open green space, shady trees, seating, an illuminated play space water feature, and amenity to support a variety of events. The lawns also incorporate the restored Signal Box, now a popular café.

Market Street Lawn was designed to enhance the location by providing engaging and useable parkland as part of the streetscape along the harbour, creating opportunities for programmable events, arts and community gatherings. Circulation to and through the park extended the original Dangar Grid city design in the form of new north-south pedestrian connections.

These connections were coordinated with Transport for NSW to ensure a seamless transition from light rail to public domain.

Location of the public space within the State Heritage precinct required considerable effort. It was vital to celebrate the site's heritage with design references to the former heavy rail use and the adaptation of the Signal Box.

The NSW Government sought input from the Newcastle community in 2015, as part of its Revitalising Newcastle program. The community was highly engaged, attending forums, pop-ups, and completing more than 2,500 phone and online surveys.

Market Street Lawn has activated the Newcastle CBD by providing more than 8,000sqm of high-quality public space in the heart of the city, with an additional 2,000sqm scheduled to open in late 2020. The area has also hosted many events and activities like Street Feasts, India Day, and Oakvale Farm's petting zoo.



Hunter & Central Coast
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After



After

Urban renewal unlocks new civic heart for Newcastle at Museum Park

Great Streets, Great Public Spaces: Newcastle Case Study



Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes says Museum Park demonstrates Newcastle's resilience and ability continually to reinvent itself.

"Site by site, the former rail corridors are making way for high quality green and public spaces for the community to relax, right in the centre of the CBD"

- Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Rob Stokes

The former Civic Station precinct on Hunter Street, in the centre of Newcastle, has been transformed into a vibrant public space at Museum Park. Major urban renewal in the city centre provided an opportunity for a new central garden linking existing civic spaces and creating a connected network of open space extending from Newcastle's civic buildings to the waterfront.

Completed in 2019, the \$5 million Museum Park sits on Newcastle's Main Street with Civic Park, City Hall, Civic Theatre, Newcastle Museum, the university and the law courts.

The precinct upgrades provide a new high street plaza, renovations to the existing station building, greater pedestrian access between the city and the waterfront, and the creation of paved and green spaces.

During consultation, the NSW Government heard that people wanted a vibrant space with improved links to the waterfront, shade, green space and seating. People also supported a historical connection to the former train station. Engagement activities included school excursions, community drop-in sessions, online forums and a questionnaire.

Ongoing consultation helped to shape the look and function of the public space, and how the site's heritage could be recognised.

Museum Park was designed to provide a moment of calm and elegance in the city centre. Areas of lawn are crossed by paths, offering connections between surrounding sites. The park is shaded by trees, which also provide places for gathering and relaxing.

Mixed-use infill development, including the construction of 30 affordable housing units, has defined the edges of the park and means there are enough people around at all times to provide a sense of safety.

The former Civic Station has been restored and repurposed, now housing the Newcastle Tourism Information centre run by City of Newcastle. A new bronze statue of former Lord Mayor Joy Cummings proudly overlooks the main street.



Hunter & Central Coast
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Before



After - new places to sit, relax, connect and learn