

NEPEAN AVENUE SHARED PATH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT NEPEAN AVENUE?

Council plans to build a new 2.5m wide concrete path along Nepean Avenue to deliver a critical missing link on the Bridge-to-Bridge loop between Tench Reserve and Memorial Avenue.

The new path will be at the road level and will have kerb separation between the road and path to create an even and consistently accessible surface for all users.

This project is important for community safety so that people using the Great River Walk do not need to walk on the road to travel along Nepean Avenue.

It will also include a new pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Nepean Avenue with Memorial Avenue, landscaping for new trees on the eastern side of the Avenue, as well as landscaping in suitable gaps on the western side of the Avenue. This new landscaping work will help boost canopy levels on the Avenue and assist with Cooling the City.

Council is undertaking community consultation on the draft design for the new path from 14 February to 11 March 2022.

WHY IS A NEW SHARED PATH NEEDED ON NEPEAN AVENUE?

The new path along Nepean Avenue will complete the missing link on the Bridge-to-Bridge loop.

Pedestrian activity is significant and growing along the Great River Walk (which includes Nepean Avenue) and has increased since the opening of the Yandhai Nepean Crossing in 2018 and due to social distancing mandates necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Council survey in 2020 recorded 500 pedestrian movements per hour during peak times on Nepean Avenue, a weekly average of 32,500 pedestrians and annual use by over 1.5 million people. These numbers are projected to increase based on current and future investments in the River Precinct, which is one of Penrith's most popular recreation areas and tourist attractions.

As there is no formal pedestrian infrastructure on Nepean Avenue and room on the western side road verge is limited, pedestrians typically walk directly on the road.

This represents a clear safety risk, particularly for vulnerable road users including older people, families with young children and prams, as well as people with limited mobility.

WHO WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE NEW SHARED PATH?

The new path will be for all pedestrians, including older people, families with young children and prams, as well as people with limited mobility. The pathway will still provide an opportunity for people jogging and for children or adults riding bikes for leisure (at slow speeds). More confident bike riders should use the roadway in keeping with the NSW Road Rules. People walking pets should remember to keep their animal on a short lead and under control, especially if walking during busy peak times.

WHAT ARE THE ROAD SAFETY RULES FOR SHARED PATHS?

Shared paths are designed to be used by pedestrians and bicycle riders. Bicycle riders must keep left and give way to pedestrians on shared paths. Pedestrians should be aware of their surroundings and keep a look out for other pedestrians and riders using the path. If you are walking with pets, keep them on a short lead and under control.

Children under ten years old should always hold an adult's hand when walking on footpaths, in car parks and when crossing the road. Children over the age of ten years old should be closely supervised by an adult near traffic and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.

As a driver, Council reminds our Nepean Avenue visitors and residents to remember to give way to pedestrians:

- at pedestrian crossings
- when turning at intersections
- when doing a U-turn
- when entering or leaving a driveway.

Always slow down and be prepared to stop if there is any danger of colliding with a pedestrian.

Drivers should also remember to park their vehicle safely and legally by complying with the NSW Road Rules. This includes:

- Not parking your vehicle where it may block or obstruct driveways or pathways
- Not stopping or parking your vehicle within 'No Stopping' zones or where a painted yellow line is installed on the road pavement
- Not parking your vehicle within 10 metres of an intersection

WHY IS THE GREAT RIVER WALK IMPORTANT?

The Nepean River Corridor is a highly valued environmental, scenic, and cultural landscape in Penrith that is important to the local community.

The River provides a green environmental corridor activated by parks, public facilities and path networks and The River Precinct is one of Penrith's most popular recreation areas and tourist attractions.

Since 2016, there have been considerable infrastructure investments to support the growth of the River Precinct including: the opening of East Bank café and restaurants at Tench Reserve; revitalisation of Emu Hall; construction of kayak access points, rowing pontoon extension and provision of new boat ramp; expansion of Tench Reserve; and the upgrade of Regatta Park.

The significant amount of current and future investment in the River Precinct, and its tourism and recreation destination status in our LGA (Local Government Area), means it is essential for Council pedestrian infrastructure to reflect this, including on Nepean Avenue.

WHAT ABOUT THE SAFETY MEASURES ALREADY INTRODUCED ON NEPEAN AVENUE?

The temporary safety measures implemented by Council on Nepean Avenue in 2020 were done with a view to still pursuing a longer-term pathway solution for better community safety.

Reducing the speed limit to 40km/h, making changes to parking zones, introducing new signage and road markings were all important measures, but a

dedicated path is still needed to make Nepean Avenue and the Great River Walk safer.

WHAT WILL THE NEW SHARED PATH ON NEPEAN AVENUE LOOK LIKE?

The new path will be a 2.5m wide tinted concrete path at the road level, which will have kerb separation between path and road. Council will also undertake landscaping work to add more trees to Nepean Avenue, which will both enhance the look of the Avenue and contribute to Cooling the City.

You can find out more about the new path by visiting: yoursaypenrith.com.au/nepeanavenuesharedpath - here you will be able to view a 3D fly through based on the draft design showing how the path will look when complete, as well as see the draft masterplan design and other information about this project.

HOW IS COUNCIL ENGAGING WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS ABOUT THE DESIGN FOR THE NEPEAN AVENUE SHARED PATH?

Council hand delivered letters to all properties on Nepean Avenue about the shared pathway before the consultation period commenced to ensure that they heard this information from us first.

In these letters, Nepean Avenue residents have been offered the opportunity to meet with Council individually to discuss the draft design for the shared path should they wish to. Council welcomes feedback from Nepean Avenue residents to ensure we hear their views directly and can meet either in-person in a COVID responsible way or virtually if residents prefer this.

A flyer was also delivered to the streets surrounding Nepean Avenue to ensure that other local residents were aware of the consultation process and how to provide their input on the draft design.

HOW CAN I SEE THE DRAFT DESIGN FOR THE NEPEAN AVENUE SHARED PATH?

You can see the draft design for the new path by visiting: yoursaypenrith.com.au/nepeanavenuesharedpath

Here you will be able to view a 3D fly through based on the draft design showing how the path will look when complete, as well as see the draft masterplan design and other project information.

HOW LONG IS THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PERIOD?

The community consultation period on the draft design will be for one month between 14 February and 11 March. To find out more information, please visit: yoursaypenrith.com.au/nepeanavenuesharedpath

HOW CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

To provide feedback on the draft design please email the project team at: nepeanavenuesharedpath@penrith.city

I LIVE ON NEPEAN AVENUE. CAN I MEET WITH COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE NEW PATH?

Yes, Council's project team is available to meet with any Nepean Avenue resident that wishes to do so.

If you would like to meet with us, please email: nepeanavenuesharedpath@penrith.city with details of your availability – we can meet either in-person in a COVID responsible way or virtually if residents prefer this.

HOW DID COUNCIL DECIDE ON THIS DRAFT PATH DESIGN?

A new path along Nepean Avenue has been under consideration by Council since 2016 to help make Nepean Avenue and the Great River Walk safer.

Council considered and investigated many options for the design of this path to ensure that it could address important safety issues and meet the needs of both Nepean Avenue residents and the broader community.

The path design was selected after lengthy consideration of a wide variety of factors to retain and enhance the local river corridor character of the area, while still providing much needed safety improvements to help accommodate increasing volumes of users.

Council's proposed design has many important benefits, including:

- addressing community safety issues
- having the least impact on Nepean Avenue residents
- protecting the roots of the established trees on the Avenue
- minimising disruptions for residents and the community by taking the shortest amount of time to construct
- Increasing the number of trees on Nepean Avenue which contributes to Council's Cooling the City initiative and the NSW Government's priority Greening our City by planting trees that improves liveability for people and communities
- representing good value for money in both its construction and ongoing maintenance costs

WHAT ABOUT THE PEACH TREE CREEK ALTERNATIVE ROUTE?

The Peach Tree Creek alternative route raised by some residents in 2016 has been investigated. Two path options were conceptually plotted through the length of the Peachtree Creek corridor – including a boardwalk and/or bridge construction over lower areas. Estimates at that time to deliver this alternative route, including landscaping, lighting, signage, and furniture were significant. Other issues were also identified with this route including:

- The flood liability of the land along the creek.
- The remote and unlit nature of the location.
- The route not being along the 'desired line' of pedestrians, and,
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design considerations.

The most significant factor with a Peach Tree Creek alternative route is that this will not eliminate pedestrian risk on Nepean Avenue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EXISTING TREES ON NEPEAN AVENUE?

The existing trees on Nepean Avenue will remain. A key consideration in Council's draft path design was to retain these trees and have the lowest possible impact on them during the path's construction. Our design requires minimises the need for excavations and new drainage, and as a result, can better protect and preserve existing root zones for these mature trees.

HOW MANY NEW TREES WILL COUNCIL PLANT ON NEPEAN AVENUE?

Council aims to plant approximately 50 new trees on Nepean Avenue on the eastern side, as well as in suitable gaps on the western side of the Avenue and will maintain these new trees for the next 18 months to help them become well established.

Where these trees are planted will vary based on feedback from the closest residents regarding location, species, and other specifications to marry in with the existing streetscape. New landscaping beds will be established for these trees in places where it is not possible to currently park cars, as well as in new locations in existing verges on both sides of the street.

You can view Council's draft masterplan design for the new path, which includes indicative tree planting, by visiting: yoursaypenrith.com.au/nepeanavenuesharedpath

If you are interested to know more about trees in specific areas on Nepean Avenue, please email us at: nepeanavenuesharedpath@penrith.city

WILL THERE BE ANY IMPACT TO DRIVEWAYS ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF NEPEAN AVENUE?

No, there will be no requirement to adjust or modify existing driveways along Nepean Avenue in Council's draft design, which starts from the existing kerb and gutter. It is also proposed to extend the existing driveways through the proposed shared path to facilitate easy turning in and out of properties.

This minimises inconvenience for the residents on the western side of the Avenue and importantly, eliminates the need for residents to negotiate with Council about changes to their driveways.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER COMMUNITY CONSULTATION CONCLUDES?

Council will review any feedback provided about the draft path design and if needed, fine tune accordingly. Once all feedback has been reviewed and design if finalised, we will commence a procurement process to engage a civil works contractor for construction.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THIS PROJECT?

Council is undertaking community consultation on the draft design for the new path from 14 February 2022 to 11 March 2022. Council then hopes to commence procurement for construction of the path in approximately April 2022. The project will take approximately nine months to complete from start to finish. Construction will occur in stages to minimise disruptions for residents and the community.

WHEN WILL WORK START ON THE NEW SHARED PATH?

Council hopes to commence procurement for construction of the path in approximately April 2022.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD THE SHARED PATH?

The project will take approximately nine months to complete from start to finish. Construction will occur in stages to minimise disruptions for residents and the community. A variety of factors such as the weather and the COVID-19 pandemic will potentially affect how long it takes to build the path, but Council aims to complete it in the shortest amount of time possible.

HOW WILL THIS SHARED PATH BE FUNDED?

This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Penrith City Council. Council secured a \$1.25M grant under the NSW Government's Metropolitan Greenspace Program and will be matching funding.

WHAT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESIDENTS WHILE THE SHARED PATH IS BEING BUILT?

Construction of the path along Nepean Avenue will occur in stages to minimise disruptions for residents and the community. Council appreciates that there will be some inconvenience to residents during construction, but we will work hard to minimise impacts. Once a civil works contractor is engaged by Council for this work, they will have a dedicated community liaison officer who will work closely with residents as the work approaches their properties to understand their needs and help resolve any concerns.

HOW WILL TRAFFIC ON NEPEAN AVENUE BE MANAGED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

The civil works contractor that Council engages for construction for the path will be responsible for a traffic management plan to ensure that Nepean Avenue residents can still get to where they need to. A dedicated community liaison officer will work closely with residents regarding traffic arrangements on the Avenue as the work progresses.

HOW WILL ACCESS TO INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT OFF-STREET PARKING BE IMPACTED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Construction of the path along Nepean Avenue will occur in stages to minimise disruptions for residents. When the path construction is directly outside a resident's home, there may be some temporary impacts to their off-street parking access, but this should be only for a short period of time.

The civil works contractor that Council engages for construction for the path will be responsible for ensuring that impacts on residents are minimised. A dedicated community liaison officer will work closely with residents regarding their parking arrangements and access as the work progresses.

HOW WILL STREET PARKING BE IMPACTED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

There will be some temporary impacts to street parking during construction. Council appreciates resident patience in relation to this and will work hard to minimise impacts. Construction of the path along Nepean Avenue will occur in

stages to minimise disruptions. Once a civil works contractor is engaged by Council for this work, they will have a dedicated community liaison officer who will work closely with residents regarding street parking to keep them informed and help resolve any concerns.

WHAT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREAT RIVER WALK WHILE THE SHARED PATH IS BEING BUILT?

For community safety, a diversion for the Great River Walk via surrounding streets will be in place for the duration of construction of the shared path along Nepean Avenue. Details of this diversion will be made public once the work is ready to commence.