

# NEWPORT PRECINCT

Newport's changing demographics are putting increasing pressure on public open spaces. As we start to live closer together, public open spaces will play a more important role in providing green outdoor spaces for relaxation, recreation, and community activities.

Our consultation made it clear that there are a lot of demands on Paine Reserve. Whilst the playground is the most-used feature of the park, the community feels it is overdue for replacement, with something bigger and better needed to cater to a much wider age range. Better performance spaces are needed for music and story-telling, and people would like to see programmed activities such as night markets and farmers markets. Despite all this, the retention of open, grassy spaces for relaxing is also a priority.

Road space around Paine Reserve is poorly configured and unsafe. The centre of Newport is taken up by a giant bus interchange, which is also supposed to be a park called AW Knight Reserve, but is currently a very uninviting space. Market Street is more than twice as wide as needed. Cars travel fast and do not slow down for pedestrians. The issue of safety was raised during the community consultation with parents worried about children running onto the road.

These issues led to the research question:

## HOW CAN SPACES AROUND PAINE RESERVE BE RECONFIGURED TO RECONNECT NEWPORT AND MEET THE FUTURE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?

### OPPORTUNITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

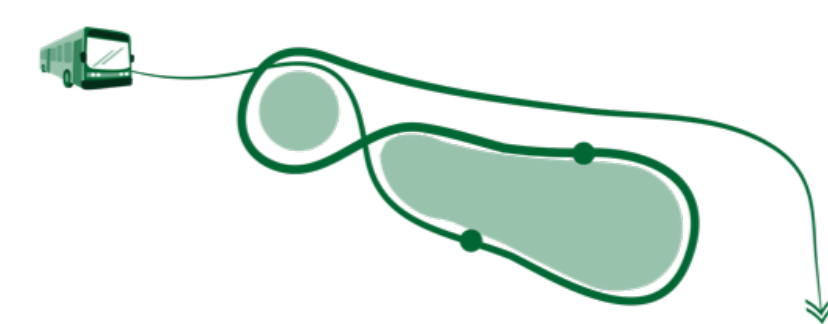
Currently, route 471 buses heading eastbound on Mason Street do a figure-8 to drop passengers on the south side of the interchange, collect passengers on the north side, and go back around the roundabout to head east again and over the Melbourne Road overpass. This not only inefficient for buses, but means that the centre of Newport is a large bus interchange instead of a place for people.

The 432 bus route currently terminates at at the interchange. However, if it were extended across to the eastern side of the railway, this would assist in reconnecting the two sides of Newport and connect residents directly to businesses on Hall Street.

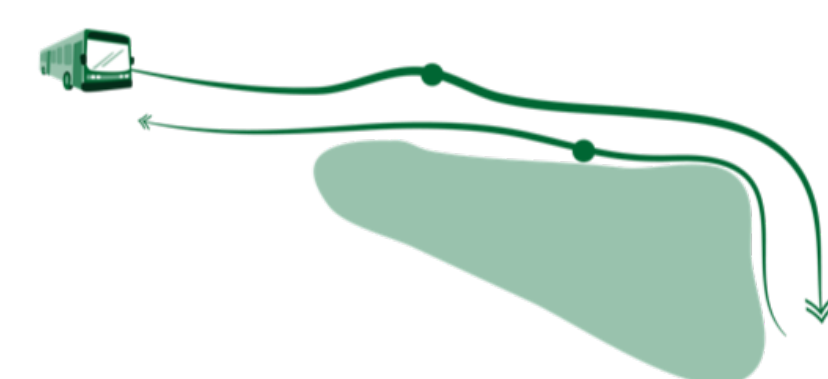
A new eastbound bus stop in front of the IGA supermarket and removal of the roundabout at the intersection of Mason St and Market St would allow for the removal of the bus lane on the east side of AW Knight Reserve and the narrowing of Market Street. While there would be a loss of car parking spaces in front of the IGA, there would be the opportunity to create new parking spaces directly across the road.

These changes would allow AW Knight Reserve to approximately double in size, creating a new plaza for the community. Narrower roads with reduced speeds and greater prioritisation of pedestrians will improve safety and create a more welcoming space.

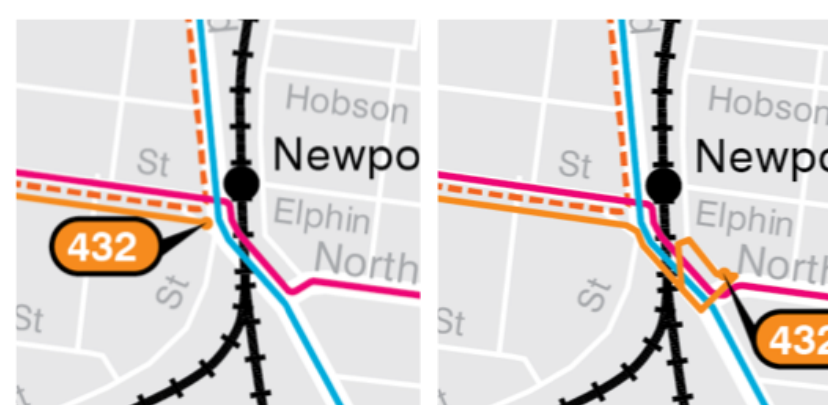
Existing 471 bus route (eastbound):



Proposed 471 bus route (both directions):



Existing (L) and proposed (R) bus networks:



BUS ICON ADAPTED FROM NEWPORT TRADERS ASSOCIATION, BUS NETWORK MAP ADAPTED FROM PTV

### NEWPORT PRECINCT CONCEPT PLAN

Creation of new plaza with canopy trees, raised garden beds with lush planting, ample seating, and low-maintenance paved surfaces where activities such as farmers markets, night markets and remembrance day services can occur.

Reserve enhanced to function as a green urban oasis with expansive areas for relaxing, playing and connecting with nature.

Bus reversing area removed from back of the Community Hub and replaced with more space-efficient solution. New space created could be used for community veggie gardens and a BBQ area.

Possible opportunity to create new pedestrian link from under-utilised areas of the Bowls Club in return for provision of new shelters and fencing.

NOT TO SCALE  
NEWPORT LANDMARKS ICONOGRAPHY  
ADAPTED FROM NEWPORT TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Current public open space (light green) and areas identified for expansion of public open space (dark green):



AERIAL ANALYSIS

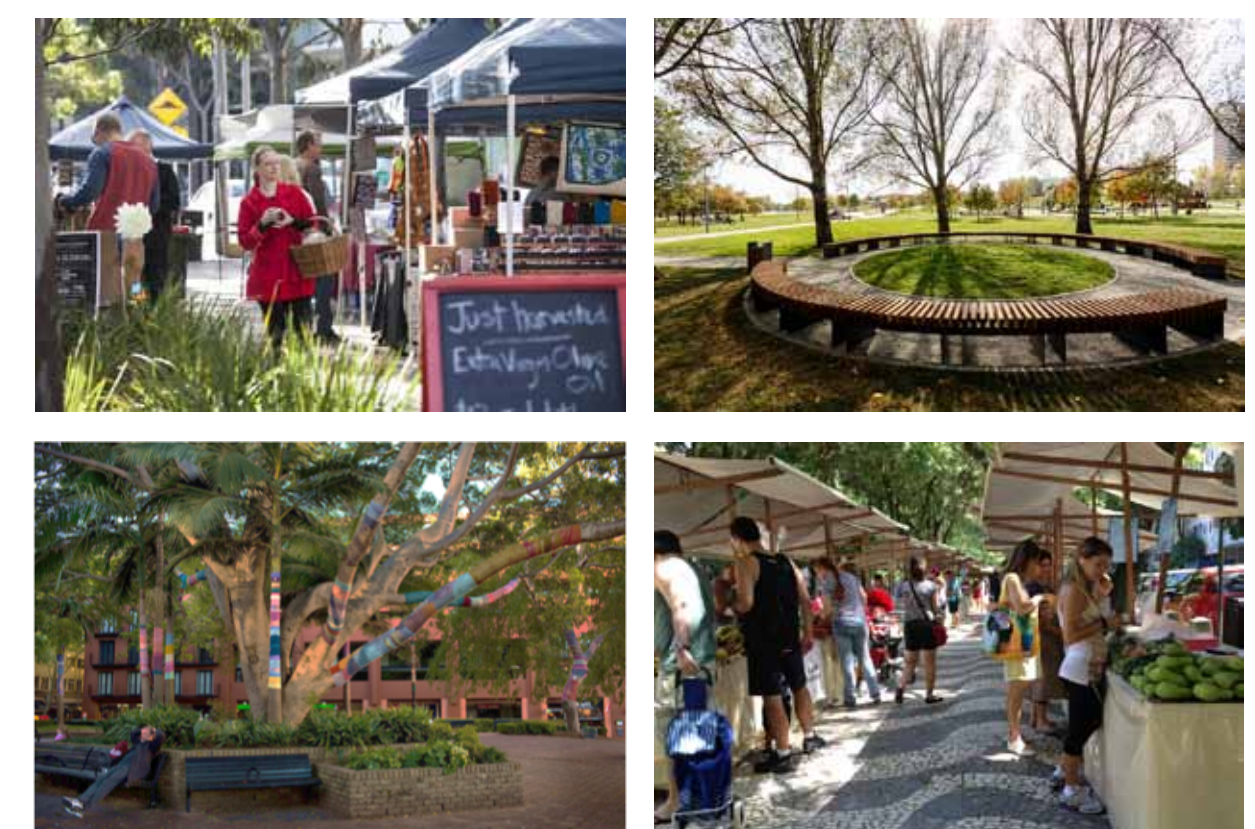
Removal of roundabout and inclusion of pedestrian crossing points will improve safety and create additional space. Opportunity for feature tree planting on the four corners and narrow strip of vegetation along Mason street median to create an 'entrance' to Newport.

Future opportunity for new accessible pedestrian overpass and station concourse.

Kiss-and-ride drop off zone, taxi rank and accessible parking.

Creation of a new Forecourt to provide a grander entrance to the Substation and a flexible space for performances and outdoor art installations. A space for people to hang out or skateboard. Opportunity for replacement of car parking spaces along west and rear of Substation.

### PRECEDENTS



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