



15 April 2026

Councillor Dan Watton
Mayor, Cessnock City Council
Daniel.watton@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor

HSU members have recently met with Clayton Barr MP to discuss concerns around the current lack of parking availability at Cessnock Hospital and the timed parking in surrounding streets. These concerns have also been raised with the hospital management but remain unresolved.

A number of hospital staff have been issued parking infringement notices as most of View Street is timed parking. Staff have also reported vandalism and abuse from residents for taking up parking in front of their houses. There was one staff member who had her back window smashed.

Furthermore, staff cannot park on Jurd St as there is a nursing home located across from the new build and signs have been erected saying nursing home staff and residents only.

It is our understanding that the Cessnock Hospital building works will continue until approximately February 2028. The lack of parking is having an impact of staff not being able to park a safe distance from work and patients are arriving late for appointments or cancelling altogether due to no parking availability.

The HSU has previously worked with numerous Councils during COVID and after COVID whilst construction has been going on at health facilities to assist with the challenge of parking in and around hospitals.

We would appreciate discussions with Council about healthcare workers being issued with parking permits that they would display on their dashboard and this would eliminate timed parking being applied.

We would also like to discuss improving the lighting on Foster Street to make it safer for staff who are walking to their cars at night.

Council's assistance would be most welcome as we deal with construction which has seen parking reduce from 150 spots to approximately 45 spots, of which 23 are taken by fleet vehicles.

Could you please liaise with Adam Hall on 0407 013 752 or adam.hall@hsu.asn.au to further discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Gerard Hayes AM
Secretary
HSU NSW/ACT/QLD