



City of
Newcastle



CITY OF NEWCASTLE

BRIEFING COMMITTEE

Councillors,

In accordance with section 367 of the Local Government Act, 1993 notice is hereby given that a Briefing Committee Meeting will be held on:

DATE: Tuesday 20 September 2022

TIME: 6.00pm

VENUE: Council Chambers
Level 1
City Administration Centre
12 Stewart Avenue
Newcastle West NSW 2302

J Bath
Chief Executive Officer

**City Administration Centre
12 Stewart Avenue
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302**

13 September 2022

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In participating in this Meeting, Councillors are reminded of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, and of their obligations under City of Newcastle's Code of Conduct for Councillors to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

**BRIEFING COMMITTEE
20 September 2022**

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BRIEFING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM-3 **BR 20/09/22 - EAST END PUBLIC DOMAIN PLAN STAGE 1 - FIG TREES**

REPORT BY: **INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY**
CONTACT: **INTERIM DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY / ACTING MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS**

PURPOSE

To provide a public briefing in relation to four fig trees located on Hunter Street, Newcastle between Perkins and Brown Streets as an action from the Notice of Motion of 24 May 2022 - Hunter Fig Trees in East End Upgrade.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, detailed design for the adopted East End Stage One Streetscape Plan (the Plan) commenced. Improvements to the streetscape include renewed roadway infrastructure, underground services, increased gardens, improved growing conditions for existing trees and tree vaults for new trees. The Plan provides 83 newly planted trees and over 830 square metres of garden beds. This is an increase of 45 trees and 195 square metres of garden beds.

Following exhibition in March 2020, Council endorsed changes to the Plan on 26 May 2020.

The section of Hunter Street between Perkins Street (Crown and Anchor Hotel) to the boundary of The Lucky Hotel (inclusive of the Brown Street intersection and redundant Hunter Street Mall bus stop) was included in the updated Plan. This section of Hunter Street was not upgraded during the Newcastle Light Rail project and contains several street elements that require rejuvenation. The proposed changes included a detailed concept plan for the Hunter and Scott Street intersection (**Attachment A**).

Trees within the Plan were reviewed and assessed in accordance with City of Newcastle (CN) procedures. This ensures that all trees within the scope of projects are effectively incorporated in decision making processes, from initiation, through design processes to implementation.

Where possible, existing trees have been retained throughout the East End project. Arborist assessments of the three western figs at the former bus stop indicated that due to restricted growing environments and excessive pruning associated with the light rail project, these fig trees had a significantly reduced life expectancy. The fourth fig tree at the corner of Perkins and Hunter Streets was assessed as having a good state of health and relatively high useful life expectancy. This fig tree has been retained in the Plan with additional understory planted beneath, while the three western figs are scheduled to be replaced.

A tree replacement strategy has been developed to ensure the protection of existing trees and improved growing conditions for future greening. Retention of the fourth eastern fig and southern plane trees will retain 70% of the existing canopy within the block, maintaining the green avenue while replacement trees and gardens mature. An additional 12 trees and 636m² of garden beds suitable for projected climate change will bolster the canopy and biodiversity within the block.

The improved greening outcome includes a grove of *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, the Firewheel Tree, selected as a replacement for the trees. It will suit Newcastle's predicted climate and greatly add to the biodiversity of the local area. Additional irrigated gardens beneath the trees will increase the amenity and health of the trees.

RECOMMENDATION

The briefing be received.

REFERENCES

ATTACHMENTS

Item 3 Attachment A: Detailed Concept Plan – Hunter and Scott Street Intersection – CCL 26/05/2020 – Adoption of the updated East End Stage One Streetscape Plan





Item 3 Attachment A: Detailed Concept Plan - Hunter and Scott Street Intersection

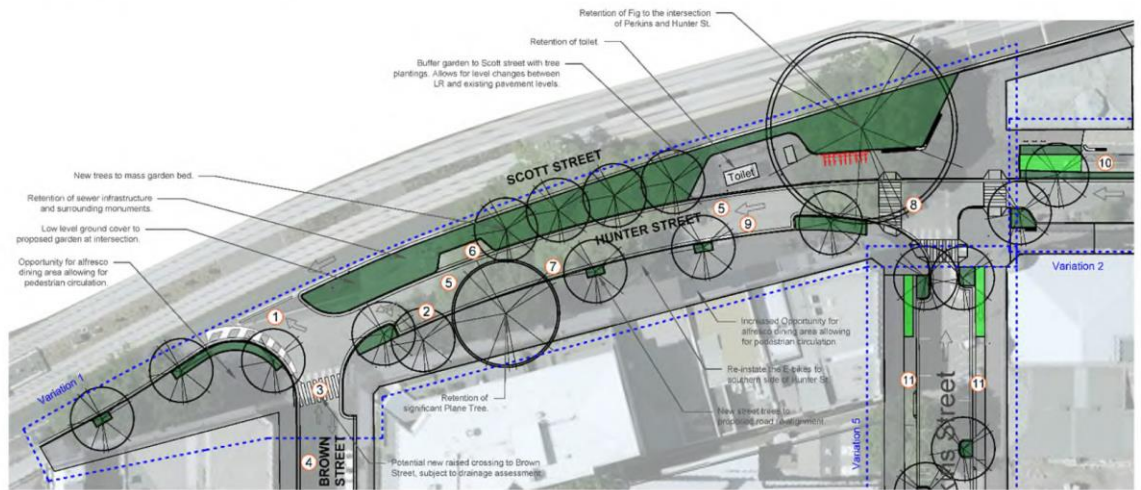
HUNTER AND SCOTT STREET INTERSECTION PROPOSED TRAFFIC CHANGES

Proposed traffic changes to Hunter St.

1. Re-alignment of intersection to Hunter, Scott and Brown Streets (approximately 66 degree angle) & 10-metre radius of the internal corner (SV). Re-alignment includes straightening of the parking bays, maintaining a consistent offset from the light rail tracks. A chevron will help define the parking bays, while allowing increased space for large vehicle movements.
2. Taxi zone near the intersection of Hunter and Brown Street
3. Raised pedestrian crossing at Brown Street with 9 metre offsets to parking bays.
4. Postal and loading zone to the western side of Brown Street.
5. Re-alignment of Hunter Street, creating a wider footpath to the southern side of the street. Road widths to be consistent with the adopted East End PDP, 6.4m wide road reserve inclusive of parking bays.
6. Retention of a Hunter Water service parking area.
7. Parking retained to the southern side including remove of a community bus parking in the west.
8. Additional pedestrian crossing to Hunter St for easier access to the Foreshore and public toilets.
9. Loading zone to Hunter Street.
10. Separated bidirectional cycleway located on the northern side of Hunter St.
11. Separated single direction cycleway located on either side of Perkins St.

Legend

-  Traffic Committee Note - plan locations.
-  Tree to be retained
-  Proposed tree.
-  Proposed garden



DRAFT DETAILED CONCEPT PLAN - JAN 2020

