

The City of Newcastle

# Annual Report 2010-2011

**Production**

2010/11 Annual Report - The City of Newcastle

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November 2011

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Main image:

*Newcastle* 1965

watercolour and ink on paper

Bequeathed by Anne von Bertouch OAM through the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation 2003

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Ocean Baths at night.

Bottom right:

*Newcastle Harbour* 1970-71

oil on board

Gift of Margaret Olley AC, AO 2005

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Bottom centre:

*State dockyard*, Newcastle 1974

oil on board

Gift of Lady Drysdale 1986

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Bottom left:

*Westerly day in Newcastle* 1971

oil on board

Bequeathed by Anne von Bertouch OAM through the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation 2003

Newcastle Art Gallery collection

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# The Lord Mayor's Message



*I would like to acknowledge the work done over the past year by caretaker General Manager Rob Noble and thank him for his dedication to improving Newcastle.*

*Over the past year Council officers and Councillors worked diligently to contain and reduce costs through greater efficiency so that we could begin the year with a balanced budget. This paved the way for Council to undertake its largest capital works program yet, spending more than \$30 million on renewing and maintaining infrastructure including roads, footpaths, drains, parks and community facilities.*

*Some examples of the major developments in the past year include the generation of Brand Newcastle to focus the way that Newcastle is promoted. The brand focuses on four key attributes (hard working, authentic/real, world class and ever changing) and was chosen by industry to help it attract investment, business, employees, students and visitors using a consistent message, look and feel.*

*In March this year, Council endorsed the Newcastle 2030 Vision and Community Strategic Plan. This visionary document is the result of extensive community consultation taking place over 18 months. More than 1,500 people had direct input into the plan, which will now help shape policies and actions throughout the city for the next 20 years.*

*The \$23.5million Newcastle Museum development is the most significant project the City of Newcastle has undertaken in recent years. The new museum showcases a wide range of cultural, educational and entertainment programs for the Newcastle community and draws many visitors to the region.*

*Projects nearing completion include the Wallsend to Glendale shared pathway, the Wallsend Park skate facility and the Newcomen Street retaining wall. In addition, a number of major projects were commenced or progressed. Work on the \$7.2 redevelopment of No 2 Sportsground also continued with major construction starting in February. The project is on budget and on track for completion at the end of 2011.*

*This annual report will outline many other initiatives and achievements of Council during 2010/2011. While there are many challenges ahead, there are also countless opportunities to be realised and Council will continue to work closely with the community to identify and meet its needs as well as deliver key civic projects that will enhance quality of life for, and the services delivered to, Novocastrians .*

**John Tate**  
Lord Mayor

# The General Manager's message



*The 2010/2011 reporting period was one of great change for The City of Newcastle when three people were responsible for leading the administration of the Council.*

*I would like to thank Lindy Hyam for her contribution to the city's development during her 14 months as General Manager, and to Rob Noble who acted as caretaker General Manager until I arrived in August 2011.*

*I would particularly like to thank Judy Jaeger, Director of Future City for acting as General Manager in the period between Lindy's leaving and Rob's appointment.*

*Given these changes in management, it is particularly pleasing to report that Council continued its high level of service to the community and maintained its focus on delivering 69 service areas.*

*During the year, Council prepared its first Asset Management Strategy that supports delivery of the Community Strategic Plan endorsed by Council in March 2011 and provides direction to the management of community infrastructure assets.*

*A number of key community projects were funded including revitalising No 2 Sportsground, adding to our libraries collections and replacing the Stockton Beach Tourist Park cabins.*

*Council has continued to successfully engage with the community on important projects. Stockton residents attended a workshop to discuss upcoming improvements to the Stockton Beach Tourist Park and hear about progress on local coastal revitalisation.*

*In addition, community consultation sessions were held for the proposed upgrades to Ironbark Creek in Elernmore Vale and drainage rehabilitation works in Hamilton and Cooks Hill. Also, more than 100 people dropped by a special community event to provide feedback on the recently completed Islington Park Draft Concept Masterplan.*

*The year saw the completion of a number of significant infrastructure projects including the Fernleigh Track, Empire Park and Wallsend skate facilities and King Edward Park retaining wall and the opening of the new Museum that was completed on August 4.*

**Phil Pearce**  
General Manager



# The City of Newcastle

## *Great Place - Great Lifestyle - Great Future*



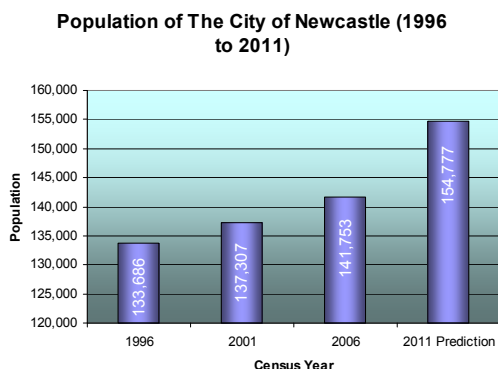
The City of Newcastle includes a vast and diverse natural environment. Our beaches are a key focus of our City as are our coastal headlands. We also have a number of bushland areas including Blackbutt Reserve which provides a wonderful green canopy in the middle of our City.

Situated on the Hunter River, the City is located two hours from Sydney, one hour from the world renowned vineyards of the lower and upper Hunter Valley and 30 minutes to beautiful Lake Macquarie.

Council acknowledges the Awabakal and Worimi peoples as the traditional custodians of the land and waters of Newcastle. In the language of the Awabakal people, Newcastle is known as Muloobinba, '*place of sea fern*' and the Hunter River as Coquun. Council respects the deep spiritual connection of the traditional owners to the land and waters of Newcastle and is advised on matters affecting local Aboriginal people by its Gurakai Committee.

Newcastle is also celebrated as a historic city on the sea with a working harbour, a charming blend of new and old architecture, and a fascinating history of Novocastrian resilience and pride that is uniquely Newcastle. A great place to live and visit, Newcastle contains many cultural and heritage attractions including Fort Scratchley, the Newcastle Region Art Gallery and Newcastle Museum.

## Our population is growing



In 2011, the population of Newcastle is predicted to be 154,777 of which 2.2 per cent (or 3,405 persons) are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait and Islander descent.

Household occupancy rates have stayed relatively the same at approximately 2.5 persons per dwelling, with the total number of private dwellings predicted for 2011 at 55,994.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2006 and Estimated Resident Population 2009

The City of Newcastle manages on behalf of the community a vast range of buildings and structures, roads, footpaths, parks, reserves and natural habitats to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability and lifestyle of our city. These facilities and assets include:

Local Roads	7.5 million sqm
Kerb and gutter	1.5 million m
Bus shelters	124
Retaining walls	18 km
Stormwater pipes	423 km
Playgrounds	115
Garden beds	589
Creeks	67 km
Bushland	5.7 million sqm
Library - general collection books	370,235
Art Gallery - study collection	94 objects
Local footpaths	1.2 million sqm
Bridges	260
Sea and river walls	10.9 km
Buildings and structures	591
Stormwater pits	16,000
Sports fields	146
Trees	105,472
Wetlands	2.1 million sqm
Library - Local Studies collection	44,634
Art Gallery - permanent collection	5,611 objects

Source: The City of Newcastle Strategic Asset Management Plans

## Summary of Assets by Ward

Ward	Buildings and structures	Trees	Road pavement
Ward 1	249	24,414	374 km
Ward 2	123	21,097	257 km
Ward 3	157	27,843	257 km
Ward 4	113	32,118	327 km

Total projected expenditure on services for the 2010/2011 financial year was \$192.9 million with \$30 million expended on the Major Asset Preservation Program and a further \$27.5 million on major projects including:

Newcastle Museum Redevelopment	\$23.5 million
Coastline Cycleway Stockton	\$1.3 million
Hunter Street/Civic Precinct Revitalisation	\$3 million
No 2 Sportsground Redevelopment	\$7.2 million
Stockton Beach Tourist Park Improvements	\$1.2 million
Corporate Asset Management System	\$1.2 million
Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan	\$5 million



*Councillor Boyd participates in a Hunter Street Charette Working Group*

# Our Vision

Great Place    Great Lifestyle    *Great Future*

# Our Mission

Providing services to the ratepayers,  
residents and visitors to Newcastle that:

- Enhance quality of life
- Ensure a sustainable future
- Make best use of our assets
- Are community and customer focused

# Our Values

- Strong leadership
- Customer and community focus
  - Community connected
- Continuous improvement and teamwork
  - Develop our people
  - Adapt to change
  - Decisions based on fact
- Behave responsibly and ethically
  - Sustainability





# Strategic Objectives

Key Focus Areas	Objectives	
<b>Economic and Asset Development</b>	Strengthen the focus on economic development and tourism and managing our assets effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Invest in tourism and economic development based on Return on Investment</li> <li>1.2 Sustainable asset management</li> <li>1.3 Revitalisation of city and coastal assets</li> <li>1.4 Accessible and efficient traffic and transport infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Cultural Development</b>	Improve the quality of life in Newcastle through effective place management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Enhance city presentation, place management and safety</li> <li>2.2 Support arts, culture and community facilities</li> <li>2.3 Deliver appropriate parks and open spaces</li> <li>2.4 Deliver appropriate youth, aged and disability services</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Enhancement</b>	Position Newcastle to provide an environmentally sustainable future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Environmental planning, protection and enhancement</li> <li>3.2 Implement energy, water, waste and carbon management City wide</li> <li>3.3 Responsible coast and estuary management</li> <li>3.4 Deliver sustainable urban planning</li> </ul>
<b>Governance &amp; Organisational Development</b>	Provide a well performing, customer focused, open and transparent organisation that engages the community and encourages participation in Council matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Comply with occupational health and safety systems and legislation</li> <li>4.2 Build a sustainable organisation</li> <li>4.3 Provide good governance and risk management</li> <li>4.4 Actively engage with the community, government and agencies</li> <li>4.5 Responsible building and development and regulatory compliance</li> </ul>

## How to read this Annual Report

The 2010/2011 Annual report, prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, is divided into three distinct documents:

Part A: Annual Report (this document)

Part B: Statutory Financial Report

Part C: State of Environment Report

### Part A: Annual Report

The Annual Report shows the governance framework under which The City of Newcastle operates and reports Council's achievements against the Strategic Objectives (page 6) developed by Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team.

The Document is divided into the four key focus areas of:

- Economic and asset development
- Community and cultural development
- Environmental enhancement; and
- Governance and organisational development

Statutory components of the report are shown with the Section from the *Local Government Act* ie s428(2)(j). A compliance matrix is included as Attachment 3.

### Part B: Statutory Financial Report

The Statutory Financial Report provides the results of Council's audited financial reports prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* guidelines for the 2010/2011 financial year.

### Part C: State of Environment Report

The State of Environment Report is a supplementary report for the 2010/2011 financial year and reports on environmental issues managed by Council.

This will be the last State of Environment Report delivered in this format. Under changes required by the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the State of Environment Report will move to a four yearly report and reflect achievements against environmental activities identified in the four-year Delivery Program.

### Previous Annual Reports

A copy of this Annual, Statutory Financial and State of Environment Reports, as well as previous year's reports can be found on Council's website at:

[http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/council/plans\\_and\\_reports/annual\\_report](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/council/plans_and_reports/annual_report)

# Economic and asset development

*Strengthen the focus on economic development and tourism and managing our assets effectively*

## Goals

- 1.1 Invest in tourism and economic development based on return on investment
- 1.2 Sustainable asset management
- 1.3 Revitalisation of city and coastal assets
- 1.4 Accessible and efficient traffic and transport infrastructure

## Service delivery area

Airport	Planning - Asset Management
City Hall	Project Management
Depot Management	Reprographics
Fleet Management	Ticketing Services
Mainstreets	Waste - Disposal
On-street Parking	Cemeteries
Planning - Infrastructure	Construction works
Environmental Health & General Compliance	Development Assessment
Survey	Golf Course
Trade services	Off-street Parking
Caravan park	Planning - City
Civic Theatre	Property Management
Design	Road Maintenance
Fort Scratchley	Tourism and Economic Development
Marketing and Promotion	Workshop

## Key Priority 1.1 - Invest in tourism and economic development based on return on investment

### Transition from Mainstreets to Business Improvement Associations

During 2010/2011 staff worked closely with committees from five commercial centres to develop structures and governance to transition from s355 Committees of Council to independent Business Improvement Associations.

Council staff will become economic development partners, increasing the competitive advantage of each commercial centre.

### Tourism Plan Implementation ahead of schedule

As at 30 June 2011, approximately 60 per cent of the Newcastle Tourism Plan 2009 had been implemented.

Developed as a three-staged approach with a strong emphasis on reforming the marketing of the city, the Plan objectives are to attract private sector investment and subsequent economic benefits for the city.

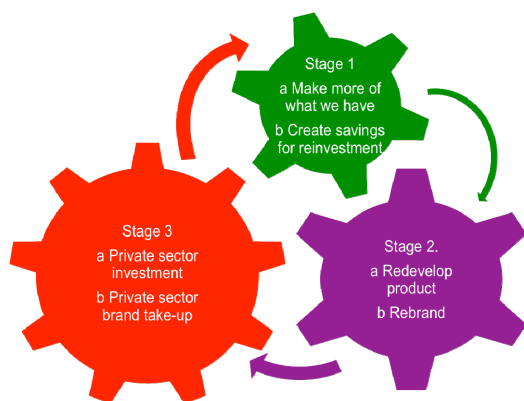
## Awards and recognition



Australian Catalogue Awards, Travel and Tourism Category for the Newcastle and Hunter Convention Events and Facilities Guide



NSW Planning Institute of Australia Awards for Excellence, Urban Design Plans and Ideas - Merewether Beach Public Domain Plan



Implementation of the plan is strongly supported by the Newcastle Tourism Industry Group, which grew from 20 to 80 members during the financial year.

Key projects emanating from the plan are included in the following highlights.

## Highlights

### Development and release of Brand Newcastle

Brand Newcastle was generated to focus the way that Newcastle is promoted. The brand focuses on four key attributes (hard working, authentic/real, world class and ever changing) and was chosen by industry to help it attract investment, business, employees, students and visitors using a consistent message, look and feel. Consistency in marketing will increase its power, reach and effectiveness.



*The logo part of brand Newcastle is being promoted by various industry players, such as Newcastle Coaches*

### Introduction of 20 Touch-Screen Visitor Information Kiosks

Council has introduced touch-screen kiosks to provide a contemporary and flexible approach to visitor information services. Experiences with short durations, such as events and Renew Newcastle art businesses can now be promoted for the first time via the new Kiosks. The tourism industry bought 16 of the kiosks, demonstrating strong support to work with Council and promote the City in a consistent manner. Council can now market in a quicker and more responsive manner reaching more visitors in a more powerful medium than Visitor Information Centres and brochures.



*Touch screen visitor information kiosks are located all over Newcastle – from hotel lobbies to railway stations and function centres*

Touchscreen Kiosks are located as follows:

- Quality Hotel NOAH'S On the Beach
- Boulevard on Beaumont Hotel
- The Gateway Inn, Newcastle
- The Executive Inn, Newcastle
- Newcastle Herald
- Ibis Newcastle
- Stockton Beach Tourist Park
- Civic Theatre
- Grant Mercure Apartments, Newcastle
- Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club
- Maritime Centre
- Hunter Wetlands Centre
- Newcastle Wetlands Centre
- Newcastle Railway Station
- Marketown
- Newcastle Museum

More information can be obtained at [tourism@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@ncc.nsw.gov.au).



## Shift from event delivery to contracting and bidding

The restructure of Tourism and Economic Development services shifted its role from delivering the same tourism events each year to contracting them to the private sector. The shift empowers Council to utilise the latest professional and creative skills from the private sector, and reinvest 25 per cent of the saved costs to attract new events.

Changing our focus from event delivery to one-off events allows Council to diversify the event calendar, increase the profile of the city, attract new overnight visitors and add new economic benefit to the city.

The following table shows the events calendar for 2010/2011:

Month	Event stimulus	Number of events in the month	Total event days in month	Airport demand for stimulus	Accommodation demand for stimulus
July	Mild	4	17	Maybe	Maybe
August	Little	3	3	Maybe	Maybe
September	Little	6	6	Yes	Maybe
October	Good	13	29	No	No
November	Mild	10	11	Maybe	Maybe
December	Mild	7	10	Yes	Maybe
January	Mild	6	12	No	Yes
February	Good	5	23	Yes	No
March	Good	7	32	No	Yes
April	Mild	5	13	No	Yes
May	Little	8	9	Yes	Yes
June	Little	6	22	Yes	Yes

*An event calendar is used to shift regular events and attract one off events towards projected low occupancy periods*

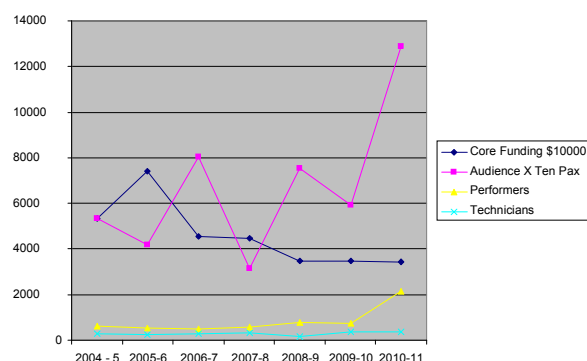
## L!vesites

L!vesites is a partnership created by a memorandum of understanding between The City of Newcastle and Hunter Development Corporation (HDC). The mostly free event program aims to attract people to and activate Newcastle's great outdoor spaces. L!vesites is equally funded by The City of Newcastle and HDC plus funding from commercial sponsors and ArtsNSW.

L!vesites was first established in 2004 to assist develop Newcastle as a culturally vibrant city through place making activities and business activation events. Council took up hosting L!vesites in 2008 and in 2009 it moved into Tourism and Economic Development Services to increase synergies with events and economic development.

The 2010/2011 year has been a significant year of business development and growth for L!vesites. A Business Officer and a Marketing Officer were appointed and the business was re-orientated to also pursue commercial opportunities.

L!vesites increased its partnerships with the local Business Improvement Associations and was awarded significant commercial work, including the opening of Charleston Square Shopping Centre and extension of Cinema under the Stars into a tour of NSW regional areas.



Performance of L!vesites since its inception in 2004

A major benefit of commercial business expansion has been the piloting of new programs and the procurement of new infrastructure and props for future Newcastle-based L!vesites programs.

Audience exposure to L!vesites has increased by 60 per cent to over 12,000 people. An additional \$270,000 has been invested into the local performance economy through their engagement for these commercial propositions. A Business Plan will be prepared to continue broadening financial support for L!vesites, moving it towards becoming less dependent on its original business incubators and more self-sustaining over the coming years.

## City Evolutions night illumination walk

City Evolutions will be a major tourism development project that was initiated in 2011 for delivery in 2012. The aim is to provide a tourism attraction that operates automatically every night of the year, to continuously activate the city, stimulate commercial activity and overnight visitation.

Clusters of projections and illuminated sculptures will interpret key stories from the past that shaped our city. The clusters will be located in Watt Street, Civic and along the foreshore.

## Community Assistance Program

The City of Newcastle Community Assistance Program funds projects which benefit the community of Newcastle and supports community-led initiatives that have a community benefit for the people of Newcastle and/or an economic benefit for the city or local business precincts.

The program specifically supports projects that bring people together, express cultural values, help those in need, protect the environment, attract visitors to Newcastle and contribute to the local economy.

Total Community Grants and Subsidies awarded for the 2010/2011 financial year were \$130,960. Full details of the grants and subsidies awarded are included in Attachment 1 to this report.

Council's Sustainability Review which looked at the long term sustainability of Council, and a Council resolution in late June 2011, recommended a review of the Community Assistance Program. Potential reforms will be presented to Council in the latter part of 2011.

## Key Priority 1.2 - Sustainable asset management

### Highlights

- Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Corporate Asset Management System
- Property Information Management System
- Total contracts awarded \$57.8M

## Achievements

### Strategic asset management planning

Council prepared its first Asset Management Strategy to support delivery of the Community Strategic Plan. The Community Strategic Plan was endorsed by Council on 15 March 2011.

The Strategy has been developed under guidelines distributed by the Division of Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting framework for NSW councils.

Aimed at providing direction to the management of community infrastructure assets, the Strategy ensures that services are provided:

- in the most cost effective manner
- through the creation, acquisition, maintenance, operation, rehabilitation and disposal of assets
- for present and future consumers
- without harm to the environment
- while controlling risk

Council's asset framework consists of an overarching Strategic Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy with asset management plans supporting specific asset classes including:

Buildings and structures	Community, cultural and operational buildings, and accommodation, parking stations, pools, shade shelters and sporting facilities
Transport	Roads, bridges, tunnels, culverts, footpaths, bus shelters, cycleways, kerb and gutter
Parks and recreation	Sporting fields, garden beds, playgrounds, park lighting, irrigation, park furniture and small retaining walls
Stormwater drainage	Pits, pipes, culverts, stormwater quality improvement devices and headwalls

Natural assets	Watercourses, bushland, wetland, urban trees, cliff lines - inland and coastal, river and sea walls
Waste facility (Summerhill Waste Management Centre)	All assets comprising the facility with exception of buildings, fleet, plant and light vehicles, septic system, natural assets and sediment dams
Library collection	General collection and local studies collection
Art Gallery collection	Permanent collection art works
Museum collection	Exhibition pieces

To achieve our desired asset management capacity, The City of Newcastle is implementing new business processes and systems to:

- Provide information to assist in the wise management of infrastructure that supports services to the community
- Implement a life-cycle approach to management of infrastructure assets
- Ensure service delivery needs form the basis of infrastructure management and funding allocation
- Provide a sustainable funding model that meets community needs
- Demonstrate environmental leadership and minimise impact on the environment
- Develop and implement an integrated decision support system
- Ensure compliance with NSW legislation and the National Frameworks for asset management

### Stormwater management

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In 2010/2011, The City of Newcastle levied a Stormwater Management Service Charge (SMSC) of:

- \$25 per residential property
- \$12.50 for residential strata lots

- \$25/350m<sup>2</sup> for business properties capped at a maximum charge of \$1,000
- Business strata units were subject to a minimum of \$12.50 per strata lot for additional works and services

The projected expenditure on SMSC drainage works and services was \$1.9M with actual expenditure of \$817,865.

The difference in projected expenditure and actual was due to deferral of a number of projects including:

- Selwyn Street Mayfield drainage rehabilitation, pending approvals from the Australian Rail Transport Corporation
- Bar Beach Avenue drainage rehabilitation, pending Hunter Water Corporation approval for the stormwater outlet connection to the Bar Beach channel

The SMSC program of works comprised 22 projects, incorporating rehabilitation of:

- 13 tide gates
- one sand filter
- one rain garden
- 334m of pipe
- eight metres culvert; and
- 52 pit entries

Other activities included education, maintenance and compliance outcomes. Major achievements for the year include:

- Bruce Street Cooks Hill drainage replacement
- Treatment of stormwater outlets entering Blackbutt Reserve
- Installation of 13 tide valves at Carrington which saw a 99 per cent improvement in localised road flooding due to tidal inundation
- Installation of a quality control device at Archer Crescent, Maryland
- Maintenance works at Coalmine and Dark Creek, Kotara and New Lambton

## Contracts, capital works and private works

The total value of contracts awarded was \$57.8 million, funding a number of key community projects including:

- No 2 Sportsground - \$4.9 million
- Newcastle Museum - \$3.4 million
- Library books and materials - \$2.4 million
- Replacement telephone system (VOIP) - \$5 million
- Corporate Asset Management System - \$1.2 million
- Stockton Beach Tourist Park cabin replacement contract - \$1.2 million

A full list of awarded contracts in excess of \$150,000 is included in Attachment 2.

## Condition of public works

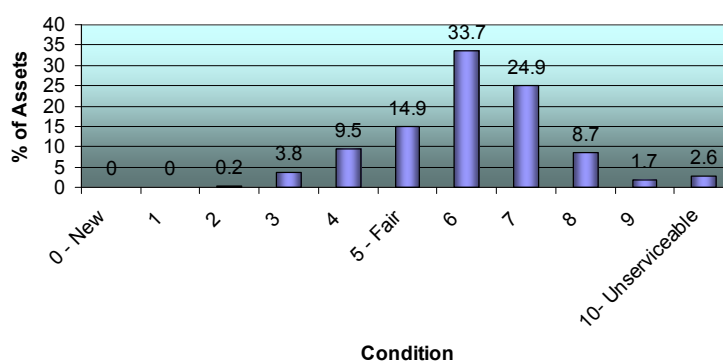
s428 (2) (d)

In assessing the condition of public works management by Council, a review was undertaken of all Council's infrastructure assets. The review identified all public assets, their condition, suitable intervention levels, costs to upgrade infrastructure above this intervention level, asset renewal values and the required maintenance costs to maintain assets at an acceptable level. This review was then used to produce our Strategic Asset Management Plans.

The following graphs summarise the condition of assets within each major asset class. The review is based on a standard scale for asset condition ranging from 0 (new) to 10 (unserviceable). Major asset categories have been grouped into roads, stormwater drainage, building and structures, natural and recreation assets.

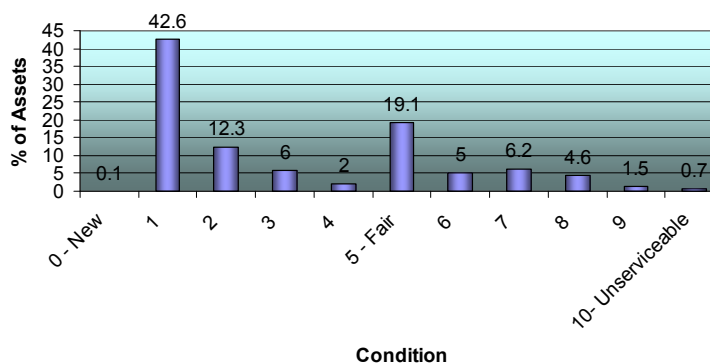
### Condition rating of Roads

**Present Condition Distribution by per cent of Asset Base**



### Condition rating of Buildings and Structures

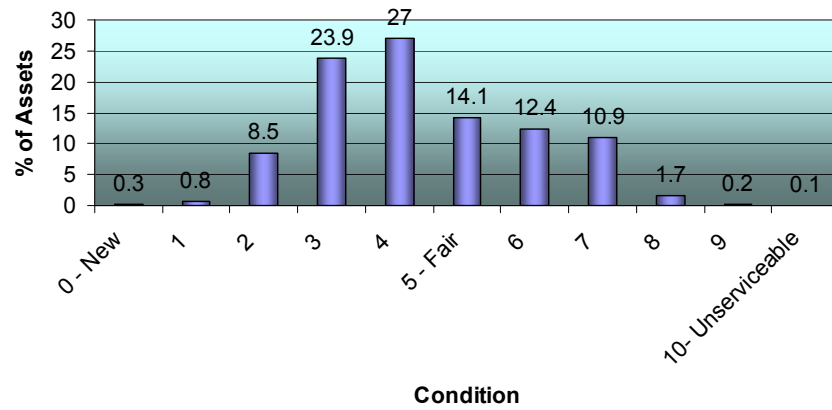
**Present Condition Distribution by per cent of Asset Base**





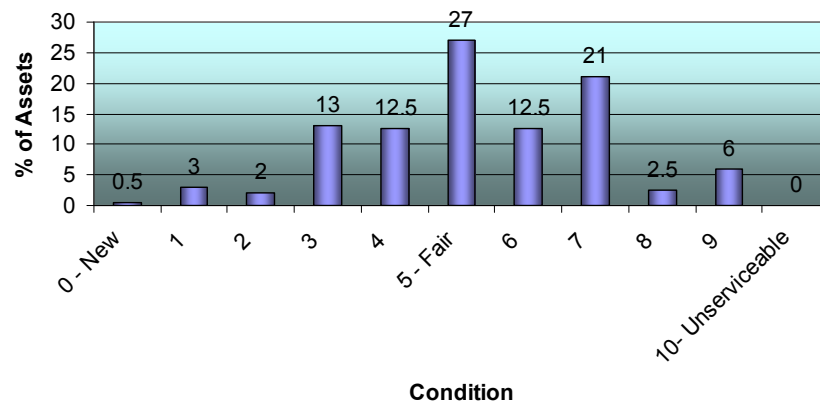
## Condition rating of Stormwater Drainage

**Present Condition Distribution by per cent of Asset Base**



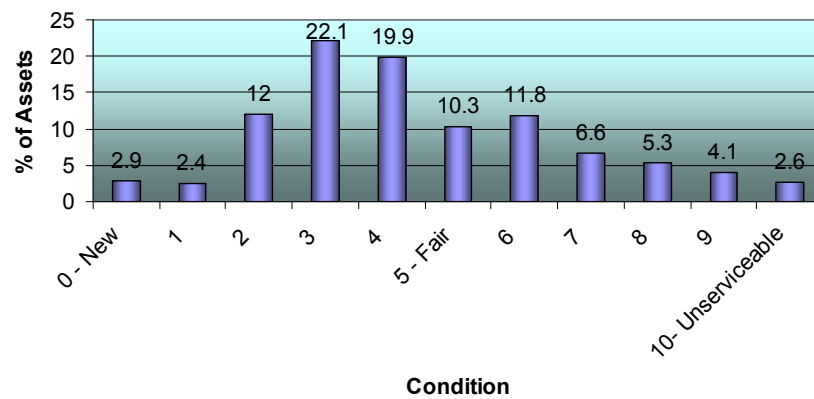
## Condition rating of Recreation

**Present Condition Distribution by per cent of Asset Base**



## Condition rating of Natural Assets

**Present Condition Distribution by per cent of Asset Base**



Below is a summary of the extent of infrastructure, restoration costs and annual current and required expenditure to renew the assets over their lifecycle.

Asset Class	Asset Type	Number	Length (Km)	Area (m2)	Estimated cost to bring to a satisfactory standard \$'000	Required Annual Maintenance Expense \$'000	Current Annual Maintenance \$'000
Buildings & Structures	Buildings and structures	674			83,738		12,808
	Retaining walls		19		448		6,447
	River walls		11		1,098		166
	Total				85,284	26,265	19,421
Roads						15,450	
	Pavement			7,501,777	10,882		8,664
	Footpath			1,203,090	2,349		2,040
	Kerb and gutter		1,487		27		1,998
	Bridges and culverts	263			134		949
	Total				13,392	15,450	13,651
Stormwater Drainage						3,090	
	Pits	16,921					645
	Pipes and culverts		439		14,077		974
	Total				14,077	3,090	1,619
Recreation	Parks	130			922	5,200	4,751
	Total				922	5,200	4,751
Natural Assets	Trees	106,463			840	3,000	2,200
	Creeks		67		7,384	500	315
	Total				8,224	3,500	2,515
Total Classes	Total - All Assets				121,899	53,505	41,957

#### Notes

- Recreation Parks is active recreation only.
- Details for road pavement includes the wearing surface of the roads.
- A review of the way Council models its data resulted in significant decreases in the estimated cost to bring roads and stormwater drainage up to a satisfactory standards and a significant increase in the cost to bring buildings and structures up to a satisfactory standard.
- A very significant portion of the cost to bring buildings up to a satisfactory standard comprises a small number of assets including large parking stations and the City Hall.
- The changes in Trees estimated cost from 2009/2010 is due to further data analysis of tree population refining the condition distribution.

#### Summary of resolutions made under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land – s428 (2) (k)

No works were carried out on private land during the 2010/2011 financial year.

## Key Priority 1.3 - Revitalisation of city and coastal assets

### Highlights

A number of key projects have commenced during the 2010/2011 financial year, including:

- Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan
- No 2 Sportsground
- Newcastle Museum
- Surf House
- Stockton Beach Sandscoping Study
- Merewether Beach Public Domain Plan
- Major Asset Preservation Program

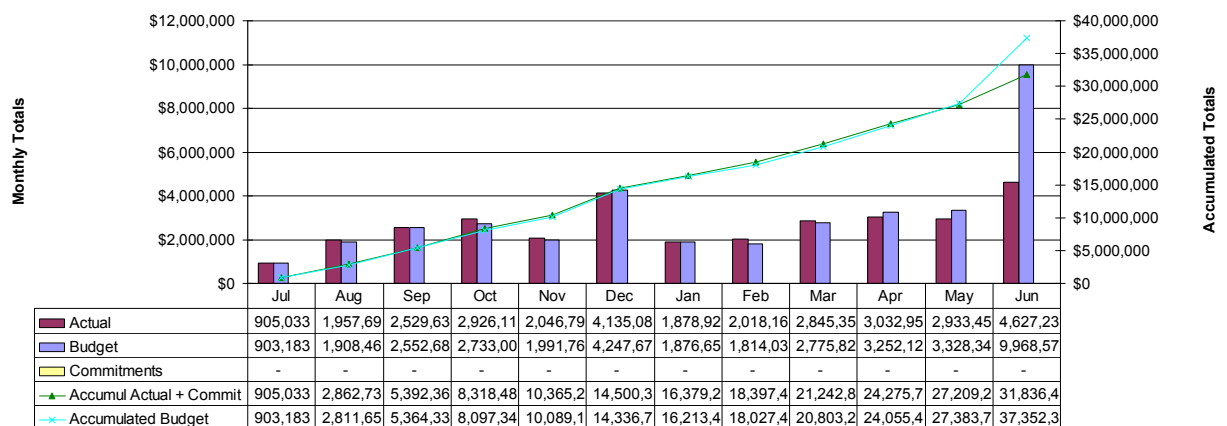
## Achievements

### Major Asset Preservation Program Summary

The Major Asset Preservation Program (MAPPs) consists of 630 projects, with a budget including carried forwards of \$37.4M and final expenditure totalling \$31.8M for 2010/2011.

At year end, 85 per cent of the MAPPs budget was expended with \$4.1M worth of work carried forward into the 2011/2012 financial year for projects that had commenced but were not yet complete.

**Major Asset Preservation Program**



The final under-expenditure for the financial year is a result of a 48 per cent increase to the buildings and structures program of works, scoping changes and delays in the tendering process for several large projects. MAPPs is broken down into three works programs comprising:

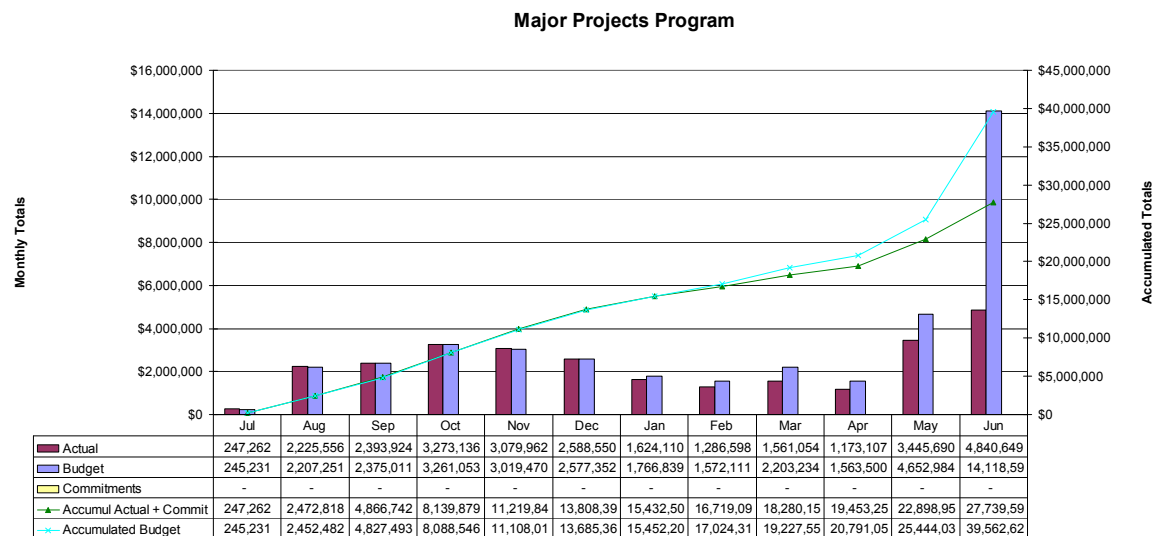
Program	Total Budget	% Complete
Buildings and structures	\$19,629,825	91%
Roads	\$11,411,184	80%
Environment	\$6,311,630	75%

Works completed under the roads program including \$1M for kerb and gutter works, 41 resurfacing projects, 52 resealing projects, 10 major road rehabilitee and 10 major footpath projects. 77 per cent of projects were completed within the environment program.

### Major Projects

Major projects consisted of 178 projects with an adopted budget of \$27.5M and a total expenditure for the 2010/2011 financial year of \$27.7 M.

The major projects program as a whole finished behind target with 70 per cent of the final budget expended. \$11.2M has been requested to be carried forward into 2011/2012 for projects that have commenced but are not yet complete.





## Newcastle Museum

The \$23.5M Newcastle Museum opened on 4 August 2011 after a 16 month construction phase.

The Museum provides a number of key exhibits including:

- Newcastle Story - provides information on the character of our city exploring the natural environment, early Aboriginal life and Newcastle's history and beliefs. The journey takes visitors through times of war and immigration and introduces us to our early pioneers, sports and famous Novocastrians
- Fire and Earth - showcases the region's two major industries, BHP and Xstrata coal mining. It includes a fantastic BHP audio visual experience simulating the steel process with noise and flashing lights to create the realism of the steel making process
- Supernova - returns to the Museum with updated interactive areas for children to explore science, maths and engineering



*An exhibition at the new Museum*

## Key Priority 1.4 - Accessible and efficient traffic and transport infrastructure

Transport infrastructure, planning and service provision is largely the responsibility of State Government. Local Government assists in the provision of support infrastructure, such as local roads and footpaths.

Currently the car is the dominant mode of transport for Newcastle residents with the lack of congestion, low parking costs and limited public transport services giving little incentive for travel behavioural change.

Community consultation undertaken as part of the Community Strategic Plan development shows that alternative transport systems including walking and cycling tracks are a high priority for residents. This highlighted the community's desire for a connected city, in which public transport, cycling and walking are viable options.

## Highlights

- Newcastle cycling strategy and action plan endorsed for public exhibition
- Production and printing of a revised version of the Lower Hunter Transport Guide
- \$1.4M allocated over four years in the 2011-2015 Delivery Program for Transport Stop Upgrades and an additional \$400,000 over four years allocated for Transport shelters
- Completion of the Newcastle City Centre Traffic and Transport Study
- Completion of the traffic study of the Kotara precinct
- Completion of the Fernleigh Track (constructed by Lake Macquarie City Council under a joint funding arrangement) and substantive completion of the shared path on the Wallsend-Glendale former tramway reserve

## Issues

- Lack of regional autonomy in transport planning and service provision
- Low patronage of public transport
- Low frequency of services
- Difficulty in implementing parking restraint measures and to discourage car use in the absence of viable alternatives
- Uncertainty regarding the future of the rail line into Newcastle

## Key projects

### Kotara Traffic

The Kotara and Adamstown Heights Traffic and Parking Study is currently being prepared by The City of Newcastle based on a petition containing approximately 300 signatures from Kotara residents concerning traffic and parking issues in the area. Residents also made representations to Council at a Ward Forum.

The residents noted that since the expansion of the Westfield Shopping Centre at Kotara and the introduction of paid parking, the surrounding area is experiencing a marked increase in the volume and speed of traffic using local streets. This situation was made worse with the opening of the Homemaker Centre. The intersections of Joslin Street and Park Avenue and Grayson Avenue and Park Avenue are bottle-necks where local traffic finds it almost impossible to enter Park Avenue.

Parking is also another issue where long day parkers are encroaching onto residential streets, with residents finding it hard to find parking during the day.

A draft report was released in May 2010 and a public meeting was held on 8 June 2011 with about 160 residents attending. An overwhelming response was also received from the resident's survey.

A revised report has been prepared following the consultation. A second round of community consultation is scheduled for the end of September 2011. The matter will be tabled to Council for final approval before the end of 2011.



*An aerial view of Westfield Kotara and surrounding streets*

## Black Spot and Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan projects

A number of projects were completed under the Black Spot and Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) during the 2010/2011 financial year to a total value of \$721,659. Projects included:

- PAMP footways generally - this project responds to community needs for small projects that are safety, access or amenity issues and include small sections of footpaving to complete missing links, bus and courtesy seats and concrete slabs, pedestrian fencing, bollards and kerb and gutter construction
- PAMP King Street Shortland footpaving - Stage 2 continues footpaving and kerb and gutter works on the eastern side of King Street between house Nos 8 and 40 adjacent to Tuxford Park

In the MAPPs \$0.9M was spent on footpath rehabilitation, \$0.7M in roadside furniture rehabilitation, \$2.1M in road rehabilitation and \$5.6M in road resurfacing 13km. Major traffic and transport capital projects in 2010/2011 include:

- Scenic Drive, Merewether road rehabilitation
- Coastline Cycleway, Stockton
- King Street, Shortland footpaving
- Wharf Road, Newcastle East raised threshold
- Workshop Way, Honeysuckle roundabout
- Wallsend to Glendale Cycleway
- Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle speed cushions
- Minmi Road, Maryland traffic signals
- Union Street, Cooks Hill Traffic Signals; and
- Fernleigh Track cycleway (Stage 5)
- Stockton Foreshore cycleway
- Shared pathways through parks eg Lambton Park and Empire Park

In 2010/2011 3km of new concrete pathways, 475m of new cycleways and 2.5kms of roads were constructed in new subdivisions.

# Community and cultural development

*Improve the quality of life in Newcastle through effective place management*

## Goals

- 2.1 Enhance city presentation, place management and safety
- 2.2 Support arts, culture and community facilities
- 2.3 Deliver appropriate parks and open spaces
- 2.4 Deliver appropriate youth, aged and disability services

## Service Delivery area

Aged and Disability Services	Community - Safety
Aquatic - Inland Pools	Libraries
Childcare	Youth Services
Community - Halls	Aquatic - Beaches and Baths
Family Day Care	Art Gallery
Planning - Sport and Recreation	Cleaning - Buildings and Conveniences
Aquatic - Beach Cleaning	Museum
Architectural - Landscape	Parks and Reserves
City Presentation	

## Key Priority 2.1 - Enhance city presentation, place management and safety

### Achievements

#### Place Making

Collaborative place making is the creation of safe, inclusive and welcoming places where people feel a strong sense of ownership in their communities and a commitment to make things better. It is a process that aims to involve all stakeholders in achieving this objective.

In April 2011 Council endorsed the pilot Place Making Program that had been initiated in October 2009.

The program consists of three elements:

- engagement and inspiration
- small grants up to \$2,000 to encourage neighbourhood improvement projects
- integration of place making principles into Council's projects in public places

## Awards and recognition



Newcastle Regional Library received an award at the Public Libraries New South Wales conference for Libraries with populations of 100,000+ for their *New Lives, New Australians - Greta Migrant Camp project*



Loft - 2011 NSW Local Government Association Cultural Industries Award for Promoting and Mentoring Youth Entrepreneurs

For inspiration, the city invited Ethan Kent, Vice-president of Project for Public Space (New York) to visit Newcastle in November 2010. Ethan presented a public lecture, staff training and a workshop for businesses. During the year Council staff also conducted community engagement workshops in Islington, Lambton, Minmi and New Lambton.

The Make Your Place small grant program awarded a total of \$21,775 for 33 projects with a community contribution amounting to \$72,000. Projects included community events in parks, community gardens, tree planting, a neighbourhood newsletter, laneway improvements and a photography exhibition.

All the projects brought people together to improve and activate public places in various ways, thus building those vital connections that make a safe and welcoming neighbourhood.



*Council staff working with the community on playground design Islington Park*

With the aim of integrating a collaborative place making approach into Council projects in the public domain, the community engagement for improvements to Islington Park began with a visioning workshop to establish the community values about the park. There is now a Concept Master Plan for the Park including actions for the community and Council.

As a result of the strong community 'buy in' the funding available for Stage 1 (new playground) has been augmented with funding of \$110,000 from the State Government. Ideas from the community are being incorporated into the playground design. Meanwhile, community members are taking the initiative to activate the park through events and a community garden.

The pilot place making program was based on a Position Statement on Place Making endorsed by Council in February 2010. Council is now building on the principles in this statement to develop a policy and guidelines, expected to go on public exhibition during 2011/2012.

## Pride of Place

The Pride of Place Committee continues to be involved in the revitalisation of our city through the painting of murals on key focus areas of our city and the revitalisation of city centres.

The City of Newcastle and the Lions Club of Jesmond joined together in a Pride of Place initiative at Shortland. The Lions Club 'adopted' a shared pathway around the University and are now armed with nifty nabbers and a year's worth of garbage bags with waste collection by Council's waste collection service. The Lions Club is demonstrating the values of place making and community partnership.



*The Lions Club Jesmond Team and Council's City Presentation Services Manager Lisa Scully*

Community murals depicting 25 years of the Wallsend Winter Carnivale were unveiled in collaboration with the Wallsend Town Committee, Telstra and Pride of Place Taskforce. The community artworks were created by local school children and depicted their reflections of the Carnivale.

Murals were the first graffiti deterrent project undertaken by the Pride of Place Task Force in 2008 as part of the Graffiti Management Strategy. Since that time, the mural program has flourished with positive feedback from the community as well as decreased vandalism in hot spot areas.



## Community Safety

A primary focus for Council's community safety activities has been to reduce the levels of alcohol related violence and antisocial behaviour in Newcastle. The Safe Newcastle - Alcohol Management Strategy (AMS) 2010-2013 was developed and adopted by Council in December 2010. The AMS seeks to address alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour in Newcastle through measures including planning, collaboration, education, enforcement, infrastructure, transportation, communication, and community engagement.

A number of initiatives have commenced under the AMS including the identification of safer pedestrian routes through the Walk Smart Program. Council is working with local businesses, commercial property owners and Ausgrid to improve lighting on Walk Smart routes and maps of routes are available in local venues. Investigations were also undertaken into the installation of a city wide CCTV system for Newcastle. This has been done through consultation with stakeholders including NSW Police, Liquor Licencees, and Ausgrid.

## Key Priority 2.2 - Support arts, culture and community facilities

### Highlights

- Addressed University of Newcastle students about the role of local government in cultural planning and cultural development
- Supported the annual Art Bazaar
- Partnered in the development and delivery of the Art Sounds program in July 2010. Art Sounds was a partnership-based project providing local musicians with performance venues, ie gallery spaces. Art Sounds was also an industry incubator giving emerging and established artists the opportunity to perform professionally
- Partnered in the development and delivery of the Hunter Regional Art Forum in January 2011 with a place making and urban renewal theme. It drew speakers and participants from the region and Sydney

- Ran Short+Sweet, a script writing competition for 10 minute plays, in conjunction with Livesites. The aim of Short+Sweet is to encourage and support local theatre talent by providing opportunities for emerging writers. Over 150 scripts were received and 10 were produced.
- The Art Gallery acquired 123 individual works of art. Of these acquisitions, 35 were works of art by artists new to the collection.
- 73 works of art were gifted to the Art Gallery by a range of benefactors and from a range of artists.
- 13 mayor exhibitions were presented at the Art Gallery, 12 of which were developed by the Gallery and included works of art from its significant collection

## Community facilities

Council's community facilities throughout the Local Government Area (LGA) continue to deliver spaces for community groups to meet and undertake skill-building activities. They also give targeted service providers the opportunity to run programs for socially, financially and health disadvantaged groups.

The neighbourhood centres are a strong focus for local communities and have provided the impetus and support for groups to establish community gardens, out-of-hours care for children, opportunities for learning, social meetings and development spaces for people with a disability.

Newcastle's Community Arts Centre provides studio space for artists, runs classes for the community, holds open days so members of the community can meet and speak to artists, mounts exhibitions and provides a network hub for information about artistic activity in the region.



*A new mural was designed and painted for the Lucky Country Hotel by local artist Trevor Dickinson.*

## Newcastle Art Gallery

Newcastle Art Gallery is the custodian to one of Australia's most substantial public art collections outside the major capital cities. The collection includes significant Indigenous and non-Indigenous works of art, and presents a comprehensive overview of Australian art from colonial times to the present day as well as the largest collection of modern Japanese ceramics in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Gallery continues to grow in popularity as a place for local, national and international visitors. In the last year 57,644 people visited the Gallery, which included 9,105 adults participating in organised events and public programs, 5,073 primary, secondary and tertiary students and a further 2,458 children and their families through the very popular ArtCart Family Program and School holiday workshops.

In response to the community's desire to see more of the Gallery's collection more regularly, along with a diverse range of exhibitions and programs, the Gallery has announced a comprehensive building redevelopment program. The proposed design will include increased collection storage and exhibition space, education workshop, lecture theatre, Gallery shop and café.

The Gallery continues to raise funds to redevelop the building including a submission to the Regional Development Australia Grants on 13 May 2011. Fundraising has continued over 2010/2011 with significant support from Council, as well as private and corporate benefactors.

In January 2011 the Gallery enhanced the ground floor exhibition spaces with the refurbishing of the gallery floors and stairs, removing the original carpet and replacing it with polished wood boards.

This enhancement has refreshed the Gallery spaces in readiness for the impending redevelopment of the building, has increased the durability of the space through easier maintenance and has enhanced the display of works of art.

The Newcastle Gallery Society continued to develop its membership, growing from 875 to 970 in the last year, one of the highest memberships of any regional gallery in Australia.

In the past year the Gallery continued its conservation program of works in the collection. Works from the collection required for exhibition were also targeted. 39 works of art were conserved including those by Joseph Lycett, Rupert Bunny, Julian Ashton, William Rose, Margo Lewers, Thea Proctor, Lloyd Rees, Margaret Olley, Ian Fairweather, Brett Whiteley, Grace Cossington Smith, Donald Friend, Albert Namatjira, Judy Cassab, Arthur Streeton, Gloria Petyarre and Emily Kame Kngwarre.

During the year the Gallery also loaned for exhibition to regional, state and national galleries, 47 works of art, that were seen by over 450,000 people around Australia while on display outside of Newcastle.

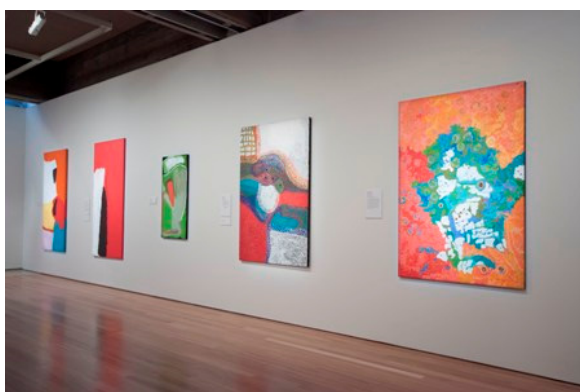
This underscores the importance with which the Gallery's collection is considered by our colleague institutions, especially in the areas of Australian colonial to modern painting and Japanese Ceramics.

## Exhibition highlights

- Curious Colony: A twenty first century Wunderkammer - 10 July - 29 August 2010
- Virtual Encounters: Paula Dawson holograms - 11 September - 7 November 2010
- Hans Heyesen: An Art Gallery of South Australia traveling exhibition - 20 November 2010 - 30 January 2011



- Less Is More Morandi and Hanssen Pigott - 5 March - 8 May 2011
- Speaking In Colour - 19 March - 29 May 2011



- Lavery 2 - 21 May - 14 August 2011
- Curious Colony A twenty first century Wunderkammer S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney - 11 January - 20 February 2011

- Exhibitions promoting various cultures and artists
- Guided tours and workshops for those with a disability such as Young Stroke Survivors
- International Women's Day Talk by artist Penny Byrnes
- Free Seniors Week event including guided tours, light lunch and music
- Program of guided tours for U3A groups
- Specialist tours for people with Alzheimers and their minders
- TAFE and University students (682 attended as part of booked groups, with many of others visiting as individuals)



*Disabled access Newcastle Ferries*

## Multiculturalism and Equity

### Details of programs promoting services and access

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### Highlights

Council provides a number of services promoting Multiculturalism and Equity including:

- Artist talks
- Music in the Gallery which provided free community concerts, was provided in collaboration with the Conservatorium of Music

### Indigenous Culture

July 2011 saw NAIDOC Week celebrations commence in Newcastle. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. The group is dedicated to increasing awareness in the community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.

Celebrations in Newcastle commenced at the City Hall with the Newcastle Knights helping to celebrate the event. A flag raising ceremony was held before moving to the foreshore for a solidarity event.

Sorry Week activities sponsored by the Guraki Committee, were held at the Newcastle Art Gallery on 26 May 2011.

These events attracted 120 indigenous and non-indigenous participants.

Art workshops were also held by indigenous artists with over 270 in attendance over a two day period.

### Council's performance in relation to access and equity activities to meet residents' needs outlined in its management plan

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Council's Major Asset Preservation Program delivered 25 new and replacement ramps under its Pedestrian Access Mobility Program including:

- Armstrong Street Lambton – at school crossing (two ramps)
- Elizabeth Street Tighes Hill – at Union Street (four ramps at intersection)
- Elder Street Lambton – at Grainger St (two ramps on north side)
- Bourke Street Carrington – at Hargrave Street (two ramps)
- Hudson Street Hamilton – at Swan Street (two ramps on east side)
- Blackall Street Hamilton – at Gulliver Street (four ramps at intersection)
- Blackall Street Hamilton – at Lindsay Street (one ramp on north west corner)
- Blackall Street Hamilton – at Percy Street (two ramps on west side)
- Anderson Drive Beresfield – at Fletcher Street (two ramps on east side)
- Anderson Drive Beresfield – at Delprat Avenue (replace two ramps on east side)
- Durham Road Lambton – at Karoola Road (two ramps at intersection) – to be constructed in conjunction with footpaving project in Lambton Park - \$2,000 allocated from Kerb Ramp Program.



Kerb Ramp

## Key Priority 2.3 - Deliver appropriate parks and open spaces

The City of Newcastle manages 115 playgrounds, 146 sports fields, 589 garden beds and 1,200 ha of open space.

Parks and open spaces support active living within our community by providing facilities for sport and recreation including walking, cycling, and sporting facilities. They also support healthy living through the provision of green spaces.

Each of these facilities includes a variety of components that need to be managed and maintained to ensure the upkeep of the facility as well as the safety of park users.

Asset category	Sub categories
Garden beds	Floral gardens, native gardens, rose gardens
Sports fields	Goal posts, boundary and oval fencing, turf, sub surface drainage, turf wickets, concrete wickets
Furniture	Waste bins, bubblers, wood BBQs, electric BBQs, flag poles, signs, log fencing, tables, seating, benches
Retaining walls	Walls <1.5m eg treated pine, dry stacked walls



Playgrounds	Playground equipment, safety surfacing, edging
Park lighting	Post top lights, up lighting, floodlighting for sports grounds
Irrigation	Irrigation pipes, sprinklers, solenoid valves, control cables, valve boxes
Skate Parks	Provision of new skate plaza youth spaces

## Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan

Council developed a Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan. The plan establishes a framework for managing assets in a continuous improvement environment throughout the asset's lifecycle. This involves a balance between delivering asset services to meet community needs and Council's ability to manage and resource the asset portfolio.

The actions from this asset management plan are:

- Implement the Corporate Asset Management System (CAMS) to track and maintain horticultural assets
- Develop performance measures to identify service levels to inform and prioritise future works programs. This will assist in aligning horticultural assets with agreed service levels
- Undertake and complete the Parks Audit in 2011/2012, integrate the information and register data into the CAMS system
- Review horticultural service levels for open space areas in line with present usage and park hierarchy
- Develop a program to review the plans of management and the Newcastle Recreation Plan 2006.

## Highlights

### No 2 Sportsground

The redevelopment of No 2 Sportsground was initiated by the community and involved transforming No.2 Sportsground from a run-down condition with limited functionality into a venue that has the capacity to attract medium scale regional, intra and interstate sporting activities.



The venue has been designed to accommodate cultural and community events ranging from outdoor cinema, youth concerts and Christmas carols through to outdoor community celebrations. The design simulates a natural amphitheatre together with an appropriate quality ground surface, concourse seating and public amenities.

The project objectives are:

- Act as a catalyst for recreational and sports tourism promotion and economic benefit
- Provide a venue that supports and promotes cultural and recreational activities
- Assist in the revitalisation of the western end of the Newcastle Central Business District
- Provide a venue that promotes and supports a healthy lifestyle and well being through sports participation.
- Enhance social and cultural well being
- Create job opportunities in the construction phase and future operation. The project is designed to target those employment segments within the region currently under threat including construction, maintenance and greenkeeping trades together with the services that support the cultural and tourism industry

- Promote community awareness of the environment and environmental sustainability through design and operation
- To be financially sustainable

Work commenced on the \$7.2M No 2 Sportsground project in December 2010 through a funding partnership between Council, private partnership and a \$2M Federal Government grant.

It is anticipated that all major building works will be completed by December 2011, with field and final landscaping works completed by March 2012.

### King Edward Park Playground

Work on installing an adventure playground at King Edward Park was completed in May 2011. It includes a large jungle bridge and ladder.

The play equipment is designed to provide children with a fun combination they can scramble and climb over. Additional works included extensive earthworks, retaining walls, drainage, paving, seating and planting.



*King Edward Park Playground*

### Empire Park

Works were undertaken in Empire Park for a new playground, paths, tree planting, skatepark and bat ball courts. Empire Skate Park was completed in January 2011 and a demonstration day attended by several world class BMX riders and skateboard riders, which was held on 26 February 2011 to highlight the skate facility.



*Skateboarding Exhibition Empire Park*

The official opening of the Park was held on 2 April 2011. A family fun day celebrated completed works including new playground equipment, paths, bat ball courts and tree plantings.

A BBQ and shade structure will be completed in 2012 with additional tree planting to assist in the shade and ambience of the site.

### Wallsend Skate Park

Stage 1 of Wallsend Skate Park was completed in April 2011 with the opening celebrated on 6 May 2011.

The design included a bike and scooter theme in line with the outcomes of the skate park review which involved on site meetings with the community, surveys and workshops. Official opening of the park was held on 6 May 2011.

Stage 2 will be undertaken in 2012 this will incorporate the redesign and relocation of the existing rose garden.



## Corroba Oval

Works commenced in February 2011 on the Corroba Oval redevelopment but were delayed due to a need to undertake significant research in aboriginal heritage for the site.

Input and feedback was sought from archaeologists and representatives from the local land council.



*Corroba Oval*

Further delays occurred due to wet weather with major construction works completed in August 2011 with cricket wicket and turfing to be finalised in late 2012. A playground has been installed with amenities and storage design currently in draft form.

## Key Priority 2.4 - Deliver appropriate youth, aged and disability services

### Activities promoting services and programs for children

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### Children's Services - Newcastle Libraries

Reading programs at the libraries provided plenty of opportunities for children to let their imagination run wild. Activities included the annual Summer Reading Program, the Newcastle Permanent Wacky Wombat Program, writing workshops, fairy parties and lively shows of songs and story times.

The Ten Minutes a Day program was supported by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation. Thousands of parents and their babies attended the program in the Newcastle LGA and the program was expanded to include Taree, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Forster.

A giant inflatable fish in Lambton Park was used to entertain children with stories, costumes and crafts held in the belly of the fish. This event was part of The City of Newcastle Placemaking program.

## Achievements

### Newcastle Art Gallery

The Newcastle Art Gallery provided activities for schools, families, children and youth throughout the year.

School activities included guided tours for 1,208 primary school and 2,379 high school students and hosted Teachers' Study Days involving 72 teachers, provided in conjunction with the exhibitions *Artexpress* and *Curious Colony*. Activities also included a cultural day in conjunction with a visit by representatives from Council's sister city in Japan, Ube.

Activities organised for children and families included school holiday workshops attended by 315 school age children between the ages of five and 12. Artcart activities held in October 2010, targeting children between three and eight and attracted 2,143 children.

The Art Gallery also hosted collaborative cultural events such as Artsounds and L!vesites that attracted 565 people.

Youth activities including *Quickdraw*, a free drawing workshops for over 12s and *Artexpress* events including exhibition opening, guided tours and a student artist forum that attracted over 3,000 students.



*Artexpress participants at the Gallery*

## Newcastle Libraries

More than 900,000 people visited Newcastle library branches and over 133,000 books were loaned during the 2010/2011 financial year. A further 100,000 visitors enjoyed a range of library programs and exhibitions held in the Newcastle LGA.

Newcastle residents had the chance to look back on 25 years of political satire when the library hosted *But is it Art?*, an exhibition of cartoons by Newcastle Herald cartoonist Peter Lewis.

At Wallsend District Library children had a chance to take a closer look at nature with the *Up Close and Spineless* exhibition from the Australian Museum.

*Hooked on Books*, an exhibition of more than 90 original illustrations from Australia's most-loved children's books showcased leading contemporary illustrators from the past 40 years. The exhibition was a celebration of Newcastle's appreciation for art and literature and provided an opportunity for children to step into the enchanted world of children's books.

The exhibition included Australian illustrators such as Jeannie Baker, May Gibbs, Peter Gouldthorpe, Bob Graham, Leigh Hobbs, Elizabeth Honey, Robert Ingpen, Alison Lester, Ann James, Andrew McLean, Patricia Mullins, Donna Rawlings, Gregory Rogers, Shaun Tan, Jane Tanner and Julie Vivas.

The library's exhibition program included *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, which attracted over 11,000 visitors to the library. Other popular exhibitions included the *Nikon Walkley* exhibition and *Newcastle's Missing Years*.

The Library's author program included bestselling authors such as Susanne Gervay and social researcher Hugh Mackay.

A former Novocastrian man who racked up close to \$5,000 in fines for an overdue book honoured his debt with a donation in the same amount to Newcastle Region Library. Raymond McLaren borrowed the craft book *Knots, Splices and Fancy Work* back in August 1957 and returned it in November 2010.

The story of Mr McLaren attracted national and international media coverage for the Library. Mr McLaren was more than happy to make the donation because the book he borrowed became the first step in building a multi-million dollar business.

Newcastle Region Library supplied books to the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community of Newcastle.

The library's webpage provided access to over 40,000 digitised photographs and records of Newcastle's history. The site also gave the community online access to statistics, encyclopaedias and reference materials.



## Family Day Care

The Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care Coordination Unit provided support to approximately 70 Family Day Care and In-Home Care educators providing childcare for 950 children. This support included regular visits to the educator's home to ensure continued compliance with regulations and quality care for children.

Registered Family Day Care educators are small business operators in the Newcastle area who provide quality care and education for up to seven children under 12 years of age, including a maximum of five children who do not yet attend school. One quarter of the children enrolled with Family Day Care are aged under two years of age.

The service registered an additional four educators throughout the year providing them with orientation training and ongoing support which assisted some families on the waiting list to engage in sought after childcare.

Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care, in collaboration with Samaritans Foundation, provides additional childcare and supported playgroup to vulnerable families in the Brighter Futures Program.

The service has worked in an ongoing partnership with other local family day care groups under the Five Star banner to actively promote the recruitment of new educators through TV and print advertising.

In preparation for national changes to the administration of the family day care services, the Newcastle family day care team used the collective knowledge, experience and planning skills of surrounding Family Day Care services to develop strategies to implement changes commencing in 2012.

## Loft Youth Arts and Cultural Centre

The City of Newcastle supports a range of youth cultural development activities including festivals and events at the Loft Youth Arts and Cultural Centre. The Centre is based in the Newcastle Central Business District but provides activities across the LGA.

The Loft recognises the important role that social interaction and artistic and cultural expression plays in the wellbeing of an individual and the broader community. It provides programs that encourage the incubation of young people's ideas and develops their skills as organisers and managers of their own activities and events. These are all undertaken in a safe, secure, drug and alcohol free environment.

The Loft supports youth-driven programs with resources, mentoring and a space for a diverse range of activities and events including a comprehensive music production and performance program, Inzine (a publication for local young writers) and a visual arts program with workshops and exhibitions. Internet access, school holiday programs and a drop-in service is also provided.

Weekly and holiday activities are offered throughout the LGA in partnership with community organisations, libraries and other sections of Council.

Activities of the Newcastle Youth Council are also facilitated by the Loft. The Newcastle Youth Council organised a series of consultations with young people across the LGA during 2010/2011 and was responsible for the organisation of Newcastle's Youth Week activities. Our Newcastle Youth Council was also finalist in the NSW Youth Week Awards.



*Emu Egg carving - Aboriginal youth arts program*



Community partnerships play an important role in the development of young people. The Loft is engaged in a number of partnership programs including an employment pathway and skill development program with secondary students and the TAFE music course.

The Loft has also developed a strong partnership arrangement with the local Aboriginal community to undertake its Aboriginal youth arts program. Since 2009 the Loft has hosted an Aboriginal Youth Arts Officer funded jointly by Arts NSW and the Indigenous Cultural Support Program. Funding for this position has been secured until at least October 2012.

Other partnerships include:

- Samaritans – Early intervention art workshop series in conjunction with Francis Greenway High School
- Hunter Institute of TAFE – Mentoring support for TAFE music students for Newcastle Music Week activities and employment pathway and skill development program for secondary students
- TAFE Media Course – Development of a series of ads and promotional videos for the Loft
- ALESCO – Mural project
- Wakefield School – Music program
- Newcastle Youth Council and Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Committee in the organisation of a statewide meeting of youth councils in Newcastle/Lake Macquarie scheduled for November 2011
- Maryland Multipurpose Centre, Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, Elmore Vale Community Centre, Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre, Woodberry Neighbourhood Centre and Francis Greenway High School, Minmi Public School and Minmi Progress Association, Wallsend Town Committee. Each of these partnerships involved development of local workshops and event programs with the local organisations
- Local Aboriginal community and local schools in the Loft's Aboriginal youth arts program
- Woodberry Public School, Waratah West Public School, Newcastle High, Callaghan College, Hunter School of Performing Arts, Lambton High and Francis Greenway High were all involved in the Loft's Aboriginal Youth Arts program



*Ray Kelly and participants in a cultural camp organised as part of the Loft Aboriginal youth arts program*

## Highlights

- 21,276 young people actively participating in Loft programs
- 64 all-ages drug and alcohol free events run in association with the Loft, providing significant audience development opportunities for new and emerging bands and artists
- 25 events and workshops held in partnership with community organisations across the LGA
- 25 individuals and groups of young people intensively mentored through the process of organising and managing their own event
- 56 events and activities conducted away from the Loft headquarters as outreach activities
- Winner of the Cultural Industries Award category in the NSW Local Government Cultural Awards
- Recipient of a 2011 MUSIC NSW Indent Awards, the ISAACS, for Best Event
- For the second year in a row, funding for the Aboriginal Youth Arts Officer position was sourced from Arts NSW and the Indigenous Cultural Support program. Funding for a third year has also been secured
- Funding for individual project components for the Aboriginal youth arts program was sourced from the Australia Council and the Communities NSW Better Futures Fund
- External funding for programs sourced from the Australia Council, NSW Better Futures Program and Music NSW

## Newcastle Youth Council

The Newcastle Youth Council completed its first year of operation in December 2011. Terms of Reference developed for the group are:

- To give life to Council's commitment to the young persons of The City of Newcastle
- To provide strategic advice and guidance to the STC on, and assist in the development of Youth strategies for The City of Newcastle
- To guide the implementation of youth strategies for The City of Newcastle
- To engage young people in local government
- To monitor and review progress of Council's youth strategies
- To raise local awareness of youth issues
- To investigate, consider and assist Council to prepare applications for grants, sponsorships and federal and state government funding related to these terms of reference

Activities undertaken by the Committee include:

- Involvement in YAPA conference 2010
- Newcastle 2030 Vision forums in particular the South OUT! Youth Forum
- Wallsend Winter Carnivale information stall
- Youth Week 2010 facilitation, organisation and advertising
- Development of a Newcastle Youth Council logo
- Development and planning of the State-wide Youth Council Conference for 2011

Proposed improvements include the Youth Council leading youth consultations in the city and the attendance and participation at community forums relating to a wide range of topics.

The Youth Council aims to continue responding to the needs of young people and to deliver the 2011 State Wide Youth Conference scheduled for November 2011.

## Beresfield Child Care Centre

A highlight for 2010/2011 was the successful completion of the new baby room catering for eight babies aged six weeks to six years. Doors opened on the new service on 31 January 2011.

Families and the community raised funds to build the purpose-built baby room. New facilities include a new meeting room, an outdoor dining deck and a new storeroom. The centre has operated at capacity for the entire year with a growing waiting list. Customer satisfaction remains high at the centre which has been reflected in the high rate of new enrolments.

Commitment to the community is an important aspect of the centre, with visits to Beresfield Senior Citizens Centre and Beresfield Library undertaken with the children. Community groups also visit the centre, including Woodberry School choir, Beresfield School Recorder Group and school readiness evenings with local schools attending.

Beresfield Child Care Centre applied to the Cancer Council to be a sun smart child care centre. The centre had to provide details of the playground, program and times that the children venture outdoors as well as plans in place to ensure children are safe from the sun. A review of the centre's sun protection policy was also undertaken and submitted with the application.

As a result of this, the centre received sun smart status which included a certificate of recognition and a sign to erect on the fence for families and the community to be aware of.



*SunSmart sign Beresfield Child Care Centre*

## Aged & Disability Services

Council continues to implement the Access Policy 2003 and the Senior Novocastrian Policy 2007 to ensure access and equity for older people and people with a disability.

Key goals to address barriers to access identified in the Disability Action Plan, 2005-2010 include:

- Organisational development
- Community information
- Partnerships
- Community facilities and city services; and
- Employment Practices

## Highlights

- Delivered 'Equity, Diversity and Respect' training packages to The City of Newcastle staff. Trained Council managers and coordinators in interview skills, employment opportunities and workplace adjustments for people with disability
- Included accessible features in the Blackbutt Reserve Visitors Information Map. Completed five mobility maps for the inner city and Mayfield area
- The Outdoor Dining Policy was approved as an element of the Newcastle Development Control Plan ensuring a continuous path of travel against the building line through the placement of outdoor dining against the kerb
- Participated in partnerships through International Day of People with a Disability, the Home and Community Care Network and Disability Network Hunter. Numerous public facilities and parks have become more accessible with major works undertaken to public amenities and the installation of access ramps, picnic shelters and walkways
- Held a day of celebration to commemorate International Day of People with a Disability on 1 December 2010. This was attended by over 100 people with a disability and their carers and involved 12 services, entertainment and arts and craft activities
- Engaged in ongoing consultation on access issues with expert stakeholders from the disability and aged sector through the Access and Inclusion Working Party
- Implemented Council's kerb ramp, Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan and Access Improvement Program to improve access for people with a disability to Council facilities and infrastructure
- Connected to the broader community as a member of the Disability Network Hunter, the Newcastle Disability Employment Advisory Group and the Hunter Regional Ageing Plan Working Group
- Upgraded Beresfield Swimming Centre through the Access Improvement Program to include an accessible change room and toilet facility, with funding carried over to 2011 for the upgrade of Stockton Swim Centre
- Sourced funding through the Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trusts, NSW Department of Primary Industries matched by The City of Newcastle for the development and construction of an Accessible Fishing Platform over the Hunter River, Stockton. This project was completed in 2010, increasing the opportunity for recreational fishing outings for people with disability and their families, while providing improved access to harbourside recreational fishing for the general community
- Facilitated the Newcastle Seniors Week Advisory Panel to organise Seniors Week events in partnership with Council. The City of Newcastle partnered with nine separate organisations to deliver the 2011 Seniors Week program. The Advisory Panel delivered 19 activities ranging from social media, an art exhibition, indoor bowls and an old time dance and services expo throughout the annual Seniors Week celebrations in March 2011
- Provided a range of library services for people with a disability. Newcastle libraries provide a free Home Library Service for residents of the Newcastle Local Government Area who find it difficult to come to the library due to frailty or sickness, disability or immobility. Items available for borrowing include books, audio books, DVDs, magazines and music CDs. The service delivers to an average of 105 individuals living in their own homes each month and bulk loan to 25 nursing homes across Newcastle LGA. Outreach Services loaned 33,397 items in individual and bulk loans to housebound people



- Provided facilities for the home and community care target group of frail aged persons, people with a disability and their carers. A booklet *Independent Seniors Housing, gardening and lifestyle options for over 55's* was launched in January 2011. The booklet, produced by Council's Life Services department in collaboration with Valerie and David Woodman, provides information for older people to age-in-place with guidelines on how to stay active and healthy
- The Alice Ferguson Centre in Merewether is designed specifically for the home and community care target group. The service tenants include Novacare Inc, Meals on Wheels and New Lake Peer Support. A number of our community facilities provide affordable regular meeting spaces for organisations that service the needs of frail aged, people with a disability and their carers. We have five Meals-on-Wheels kitchens housed in Council owned facilities
- We also provide four general-focused Senior Citizen centres, managed by volunteer committees, who organise and facilitate a diverse range of programs for people over 65 years of age including a meals-based service, social activities and guest speakers
- Newcastle Region Library offered books in large print and CD format to library customers and aged care institutions in the Newcastle LGA. Adaptive technology devices were made available to customers with sight impairment and the Home Library service provided material for home bound residents of Newcastle



# Environmental enhancement

*Position Newcastle to provide an environmentally sustainable future*

## Goals

- 3.1 Environmental planning, protection and enhancement
- 3.2 Implementation energy, water, waste and carbon management city-wide
- 3.3 Responsible coast and estuary management
- 3.4 Deliver sustainable urban planning

## Service Delivery area

Environmental Management	Waste - Collection
Pest and Weed Control	Community Greening, Tree Planting and Maintenance

## Awards and recognition



Australian Business Award for Enterprise for 2009 - Treetop Adventure Park, Blue Gum Hills Regional Park



Gold Award Hunter/Central Coast Tourism Awards for Ecotourism - Blackbutt Reserve



ClimateCam for Schools Star Ceremony - 15 ClimateCam schools were awarded 27 stars for their achievements in energy, water and waste reduction

## Key Priority 3.1 - Environmental planning, protection and enhancement

### Heritage

The focus of heritage management has changed considerably since the *Heritage Act 1977* came into force. The Heritage Council was the principal body involved in the statutory listing of heritage items in the eight years to 1985. In that year, a Ministerial direction issued to local councils by the then Planning Minister Bob Carr, gave local government the primary responsibility for managing local heritage in New South Wales.

Following the adoption of amendments to the *Heritage Act* in 1999, heritage management in NSW is now a two-tiered system in which items of local heritage significance are listed and managed by local councils. Items of state heritage significance are listed on the State Heritage Register by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, and are managed by the Heritage Council.

The principal tools that guide local government management decisions are the heritage study and the local environmental plan.

A heritage study identifies and assesses heritage items in accordance with the key historical themes for an area. It also makes recommendations on policies the local council should adopt to protect and conserve the identified heritage items.

The *Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2003* (NLEP) translates the recommendations of the heritage study into a legal document that provides a broad framework for future management of the area's heritage.

The NLEP is prepared in accordance with principles laid down in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the heritage items identified in the heritage study are listed in a schedule to the NLEP.

The City of Newcastle's approach to heritage conservation is underpinned by a City-Wide Heritage Policy, adopted in 1998 along with a City-Wide Heritage Study and an Archaeological Management Plan adopted in 1997.



*Newcastle City Hall Construction circa 1929*



*Newcastle City Hall Restoration 2011*

The items identified in the Heritage Study gained statutory protection as heritage items in the NLEP and are subject to regulation through the local environmental planning framework.

Council has in place a number of planning strategies to manage heritage, including development guidelines contained in the Newcastle Development Control Plan, web based advisory material, the resources provided by a heritage officer and the Urban Planning and Design Strategic Advisory Committee.

Council owns a significant property portfolio, including buildings, parks, trees and community facilities. A total of 123 heritage items are owned or managed by Council, accounting for around 25 per cent of the total number of heritage listed items in the NLEP. A significant number of these items are of high heritage significance including City Hall, Fort Scratchley and the Honeysuckle Railway sheds (now Newcastle Museum).



*Fort Scratchley Gun Restoration 2010*

Under changes to the *Local Government Act 1993*, councils are required to prepare an Asset Management Strategy which in future iterations will include identification of heritage listed assets.

Initiatives undertaken in the 2010/2011 financial year include:

- Completed a trial to conserve the façade of Newcastle City Hall
- Completed the New Lambton Heritage Study Review – a heritage assessment of seven potential heritage properties in New Lambton
- Obtained grant funding under the NSW Heritage Council Hunter Region Works program and commenced conservation improvements to Cathedral Park as part of two-year project

- Heritage issues considered by Council's Urban Design and Planning Advisory Committee (UPDAC)
- Assessed development applications involving heritage places and precincts
- Updated the Newcastle Heritage Inventory and uploaded the database to the NSW State Heritage Inventory at [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au)

## Newcastle City-Wide Floodplain Risk Management Plan

70 per cent of the Newcastle Local Government Area is built on natural pre-existing floodplains, affecting 20,000 properties. Flooding in Newcastle is complex due to the impacts of ocean, river and flash flooding, combinations of these events, and by rising sea levels due to climate change.

The Newcastle City-Wide Floodplain Risk Management Plan is the first plan of this scale in NSW addressing an LGA wide approach to flood risk management. It is being developed with substantial funding assistance from the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage.

Initial findings show that:

- It is not possible to remove all flooding risks
- There is no single answer to managing flood risk management in the Newcastle LGA
- Managing the risks requires an integrated approach from all levels of government and community

Given these findings, the main objective of the study is to assist the community in living with these risks. To do this we need to manage the key risks of loss of:

- life
- property
- critical infrastructure
- community function

In consultation with the community, and guided by the *NSW Government Floodplain Development Manual 2005* and the initial risk management study phase, the plan has identified a number of measures to manage key risks, including:

- Safety of people
- Social sustainability
- Economic losses
- Impacts of blockages (eg shipping containers in culverts)
- Development impacts
- Cumulative impacts on flooding (from new development)
- Environmental impacts
- Governance issues (integrated approach between levels of government and community strategic priorities)
- Future development (compatibility with flood risks)
- Climate change

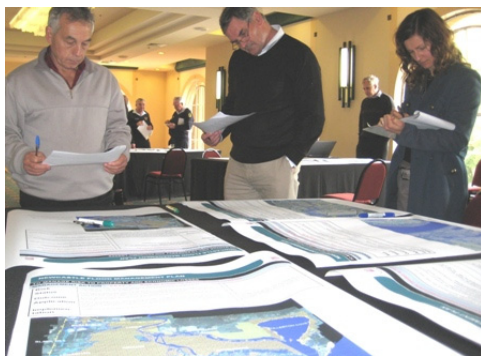
The following figure shows the process undertaken in developing the Plan and Council's actions to date:

Data Collection	Flood Study	Floodplain Risk Management Study	Floodplain Risk Management Plan	Plan Implementation
Data collection completed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terrain data</li> <li>• Channels data</li> <li>• Bridges/culverts</li> <li>• Historic rain events</li> <li>• Historic flood events</li> <li>• 20,000 floor levels</li> <li>• Building data</li> <li>• Building outlines</li> <li>• Social impacts</li> <li>• Economic impacts</li> <li>• Environmental impacts</li> </ul>	Flood studies completed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunter River</li> <li>• Wallsend</li> <li>• Dark Creek</li> <li>• Throsby/Cottage Creek</li> <li>• Extreme Ocean Sea level rise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wallsend Commercial Centre - Community Consultation and Floodplain Risk Management study completed</li> <li>• City-wide Floodplain Risk Management Study in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wallsend Commercial Centre Plan Adopted</li> <li>• City-wide Floodplain Risk Management Plan in progress</li> </ul>	Grants Applied for Wallsend Commercial Centre Plan Implementation

Implementation of the plan will be one of the biggest challenges facing Council and the community. It will require:

- Significant government and private financial resources
- Timeframes measured in decades
- Community partnerships and monitoring

Development of the study has been guided by Council's Newcastle Floodplain Risk Management Working Party chaired by Councillor Tim Crakanthorp. The plan is scheduled for completion in 2012.



*Options discussion - Working Party*

## Bush fire hazard reduction activities

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The Newcastle urban bushland comprises a broad set of vegetation types including eucalypt forest, freshwater and saltwater wetlands, and coastal scrub. Bushfire is a threat to all these bushland areas.

2010/2011 bushfire hazard reduction activities include:

## Neighbourhood 'Safer Places'

Neighbourhood 'Safer Places' is a location where people facing immediate bushfire threat to their personal safety or property can gather and seek shelter from a bushfire. It is when people are forced to leave their home after plans to stay and defend their property have failed.

A list has been developed by the Newcastle Bushfire Management Committee containing information regarding suburban bushland areas within the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) that are of highest risk to bushfire impact as well as designated 'Safer Places' where people can seek shelter until the fire front has passed.

The Rural Fire Service has approved the areas that are nominated as being 'Safer Places' and has provided Council with 'Safer Places' signs that have been installed at the nominated areas. The Rural Fire Service is in the process of developing a brochure that will be distributed to the residents living in a high bushfire risk area to inform them of what a 'Safer Place' is and what they are to do in the event of a major bushfire.

## Newcastle Bushfire Risk Management Plan

The Draft Bushfire Risk Management Plan has been prepared by the Newcastle Bushfire Management Committee and its members comprising representatives from The City of Newcastle, NSW Police Force, NSW Fire Brigades, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hunter New England Health and Ausgrid.

The draft plan is a comprehensive document that maps and describes the level of bushfire risk across the LGA. The draft plan identifies assets within the LGA at risk from bushfire, as well as the level of risk to those assets and established treatments.

The draft plan is also used to determine where mechanical clearing or hazard reduction burns are conducted, areas that require specialised fire protection (ie hospitals, aged care facilities and schools) and areas that need to be targeted for community education.

The draft plan was placed on public exhibition for 42 days on Monday 5 July 2011 at Council's Customer Enquiry Centre, libraries as well as the Council and NSW Fire Brigades websites.



All submissions received will be considered by the committee and the draft Plan, along with a review report, will be forwarded to the Bushfire Coordinating Committee for its approval.

Once adopted, the plan will be reviewed and updated every five years.

## Living Streets Tree Program

The Living Streets Tree program was rolled out in Stockton in April 2011. A number of consultation, communication and education initiatives were introduced in Stockton prior to the arrival of the program.

A number of 'Living Streets' whole of street planting events were held over the last year in response to community requests. These took place in Ranclaud Street (Merewether), Darling Street (Hamilton South), Gow Street (Hamilton) and Hill Street (North Lambton). In addition, the third stage of an urban forest project was delivered in Tarro which included a school tree planting day held on Friday 20 May 2011 and a community planting day on Sunday 22 May 2011.

Four schools in the local area were invited to take part in the Tarro Schools Planting Day:

- Tarro Public School
- Beresfield Public School
- Woodberry Public School (Maitland LGA)
- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

Close to 60 community members came out to plant trees in Tarro Recreation Area on the community planting day.

Other Living Streets projects organised and implemented over the last financial year included:

- Meeting held at Dumaresq Street Hamilton to brief residents on drainage improvements and street tree remediation works. Interest was high with 40 residents meeting to listen to presentations and raise issues to improve their neighbourhood.

- Community members from Elmore Vale and surrounding suburbs listened to an information session on environmental restoration work planned for an upper section of Ironbark Creek.
- Community consultation was conducted with residents in Arnold Street, Mayfield. Generated from the new Street Tree Masterplan (still in draft form at the date of this document), residents had the opportunity to put forward a preferred tree species for Arnold Street.

## Voluntary Planning Agreement

Council has entered into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) under section 93F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in connection with a Development Application for at 288 Minmi Road, Fletcher.

In 2009 Landcom made an offer to Newcastle City Council to enter into a VPA. Under the VPA the developer is required to:

- construct a multipurpose community centre co-located with a local level sporting complex, including car parking
- make a monetary contribution towards the provision of a regional cycleway link
- construct two park lands/playgrounds
- dedicate to Council two Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Parks
- construct two Sanctuary Estate entry statements on each of the developments two entry roads off Minmi Road.

The agreement was publicly notified from 11 August 2010 to 7 September 2010. Three submissions were received during the exhibition.

The Voluntary Planning Agreement was adopted by Council on 14 December 2010 and was executed on 21 April 2011. Development contributions provided for in the agreement are not required from the developer until such time that the modified application is approved by Council. Approval is subject to a condition requiring the developer to make Development Contributions as outlined in the VPA and Council has approved the entry features to Sanctuary Estate (see clause 4).



## Key Priority 3.2 - Implement energy, water, waste and carbon management city-wide

### Energy Town Meeting and Carbon and Water Management Action Plan

Energy Town Meeting Three celebrated Newcastle's advancements over the past decade from a steel-making city to the diverse economy that we have today. Over 400 community members braved the wild weather and packed City Hall to attend the event hosted by Adam Spencer.



The Energy Town Meeting provided a valuable opportunity for the community to learn about the vision behind Council's draft Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan (Carbon and Water MAP). It also provided an opportunity to hear expert speakers from CSIRO, Ausgrid and Hunter Water on exciting technologies and initiatives our city can expect to benefit from over the coming decade, and how Council will be partnering with these organisations.

During the meeting there was a significant focus on preparing both Council and the community for cost increases in energy, water and waste in the years ahead.

A set of objectives has been developed for the plan for all to use. An assessment tool will essentially allow every business, school and household to develop a tailored action plan.

### Climate Cam for Schools

The ClimateCam for Schools program continued to work with schools to reduce their ecological footprint. In early 2011 an additional five schools from Newcastle LGA joined the program, bringing the total number of students to just over 23,000 in the 47 schools participating in the program.

A Star Ceremony was held in December 2010 where 27 gold stars were awarded to schools to recognise their efforts to reduce their energy and water use, and waste generation bringing the total number of stars awarded to 150.



Throughout 2010/2011 students participated in ClimateCam activities including workshops, school environmental audits and theatrical performances with over 30 teachers attending training sessions.

### City Administration Centre Office Lighting Upgrade

From February to May 2011, Council undertook an upgrade of office lighting in its main administration building. The upgrade involved replacing the existing 668 twin 'T8 36 Watt Fluorescent' fittings with new single 'T5 28 Watt Fluorescent' fittings with high output reflectors.

The project will result in an estimated reduction of 232,752 kWh pa in electricity consumption at the site with an anticipated pay back period of just over three years.

### Efficient Hot Water at Council Depot

The existing gas hot water system in the amenities building at the depot was old and failing. In June 2011 it was upgraded to a far more efficient system at no extra cost.

This system was a bright idea from two of Council's plumbers who suggested installation of an evacuated tube hot water system. The installation of the evacuated tube system has reduced this cost down to almost nothing with no reduction in water heat levels.



### Key Priority 3.3 - Responsible coast and estuary management

The City of Newcastle manages the coastline within the Newcastle LGA, from Glenrock Lagoon in the south to the southern boundary of the Rifle Range at Fern Bay in the north.

As well as the coastline, a number of small catchments drain to the south of the Hunter River including Glenrock Lagoon, Murdering Gully, and several heavily urbanised stormwater catchments in Merewether, Bar Beach and inner Newcastle.

A key challenge for our City, with such large and diverse coastal infrastructure, is to maintain focus on the principal issue of sustainable management of our coastline.

The Coastline Management Plan 2003 set out a number of strategic actions to support the effective management of our coastline including:

- Coastal processes and hazards
- Social, economic, cultural, recreational, ecological, aesthetic and tourism values
- Public access
- Land tenure, use and management
- Human impact on the coast
- The natural environment
- Coastal ecology

To ensure ongoing management coordination, Council convenes the Newcastle Coastal and Hunter Estuary Technical Working Parties. The working parties include representatives from the community, state agencies and Council and provide strategic advice on coast and estuary issues and oversee the development of the plans.

Key projects commenced during the 2010/2011 financial year include:

### Stockton Sandscoping Study

Stockton Beach is located in the Newcastle LGA and extends from the northern breakwater at the entrance to the Hunter River approximately 32 km to Anna Bay in the north.

The beach has experienced episodes of erosion over many years resulting in The City of Newcastle Council engaging WorleyParsons to prepare the *Stockton Beach Sand Scoping and Funding Feasibility Study* in 2011.



*Trailing suction hopper dredger pumping at least 50m from the bow*

Objectives of the study include:

- Identify potential sources of sand for beach nourishment
- Identify potential methods for extraction and placement of sand
- Provide a cost estimate for each beach nourishment option
- Recommend the preferred option for beach nourishment
- Identify potential funding opportunities for beach nourishment activities.

The draft study indicates that dredging spoils from the development of the Port of Newcastle, and beach scraping from Stockton Bight are the most favourable options for obtaining sand for beach nourishment purposes. The results of the study will be included in the preparation of the *Newcastle Coastal Zone Management Plan* scheduled to be completed in 2012.

### The Newcastle Coastal and Hazard Management Study (Coastal Hazard Lines Study)

In August 2010, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water released draft guidelines for preparing coastal zone management plans replacing existing coastline and estuary management manuals.

The Newcastle Coastal Zone Hazard and Management Studies are being prepared to meeting these requirements.

The objectives of the Newcastle Coastal Zone Hazard Study are to:

- Describe the coastal processes occurring in the study area to a level of detail sufficient to inform decision making
- Identify and map coastal erosion, inundation and cliff instability hazard areas
- Identify the potential impacts from coastal hazards on infrastructure and the environment
- Assign risk categories to public and private properties for coastal hazards.



*Geo-hazard #9 – Cliff top erosion resulting in 'necking' of cliff top. Hazard between Strzelecki Lookout and Shepherds Hill, along the proposed Memorial Walk alignment*

The objectives of the Newcastle Coastal Zone Management Study are to:

- Identify coastal hazards (identified in the Newcastle Coastal Zone Hazard Study), as well as key social, economic, aesthetic, recreational and ecological issues
- Identify potential management options to address these issues.

BMT WBM consultants have been awarded the tender to prepare a draft *Geotechnical Assessment of Newcastle Coastal Cliffs/Slopes*. The assessment will be included in the draft *Newcastle Coastal Zone Hazard Study* which is due in October 2011, with the Management Study, anticipated to be completed by May 2012.

Note: This study is a revision of the Newcastle Coastline Management Plan 2003.



*Geo-hazard #6 – Tension crack & settlement of coastal edge of Shortland Esplanade. Hazard associated with deep fill supported by an old mortar block retaining wall*



## Coastal Revitalisation Strategy

It has been a big year for coastal revitalisation with Council adopting the Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Masterplan on 5 October 2010.

The adoption of the Masterplan provides a strategic and conceptual framework for the implementation phase of the revitalisation process; more detailed planning, resource allocation and decision making. Since 5 October 2010, the implementation phase of the project has been progressing steadily to complete planning and the associated public works along the Newcastle coastline.

Consultants (Urbis) were engaged to develop the masterplan for the Newcastle coast. The draft masterplan went on public exhibition during April and May 2010. During July and August 2010 the submissions and survey results were reviewed by Urbis, NSW Department of Lands and Council to begin the development of a final Masterplan. A workshop was also held with Councillors to work through the submission and survey results.

Based on analysis of existing conditions and opportunities, previous reports, community input gathered during the exhibition period and meetings with stakeholders, Urbis developed the final masterplan with Council adoption on 5 October 2010.

A Councillor committee comprising Councillors Claydon, Nemes, Luke, Buman, Sharpe and O'Connell was formed to oversee the implementation phase of the project.

Revitalisation works have commenced up and down our coastline including the following projects:

- In Stockton
  - Corroba Oval upgrade
  - New shared pathway
  - Accessible Fishing Platform
- In Southern Sector
  - Empire Park general improvements and new playground
  - Empire Park Skatepark



*Empire Park - Skatepark*

Planning for implementation works has also commenced, including:

- Merewether public domain plan
- The Bathers Way public domain plan
- South Stockton public domain plan
- Bar Beach public domain plan

Other precincts along the coast will each have a public domain plan underway during 2011/2012.

## Key Priority 3.4 - Deliver sustainable urban planning

### Newcastle Local Environmental Plan

Two local environmental plans currently apply to the Newcastle LGA:

- The Newcastle City Centre LEP 2008 applies to Newcastle East, Newcastle, Newcastle West and Wickham. The extent of the area is shown in the maps section of the Newcastle LEP
- The Newcastle LEP 2003 (NLEP) applies to the rest of the Newcastle LGA

The NLEP aims to reinforce the importance of the existing centres within the City including the suburban business districts and City Centre, and anticipates social and economic trends as well as the need to protect the environment.

Due to changes in legislation, the draft Newcastle LEP 2011 was prepared to convert the existing Newcastle LEP 2003 and Newcastle City Centre LEP 2008 into the format of the new standard instrument required by the State Government.

During, exhibition of the draft Newcastle LEP 2011 October to December 2010, approximately 90 individual submissions were received from the community and state agencies and 900 form letters were received.

The draft Newcastle Local Environmental Plan (NLEP) 2011 was adopted by Council on 21 June 2011 and is currently pending approval from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

## Development Control Plan

The draft Newcastle Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 details Council's requirements for local development that requires consent under the NLEP 2011 (once approved). The draft DCP has been prepared to be compatible with the draft NLEP 2011.

The aim of the draft DCP review is to:

- Provide consistency with the draft Newcastle LEP. For example, the principal development standards of height, density (floor space ratio) and subdivision lot size are now within the draft NLEP 2011 and this needs to be reflected in the DCP. As well, the draft NLEP 2011 includes a new suite of standard definitions and clauses which need to be reflected in the DCP
- Improve usability and readiness for future 'e-planning'

## Other planning documents

There are a number of different plans and policies in addition to the LEP and DCP that Council uses when making decisions on land use and development.

Some policies are prepared by the NSW State Government and can be viewed on the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure internet site.

Other planning policies currently in use by Council include:

Newcastle Urban Strategy 2005	Newcastle Industrial Land Analysis 2009
Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006	Various Plans of Management

## The Newcastle Urban Strategy

The Newcastle Urban Strategy 2009 (NUS) provides direction for the development and management of Newcastle over a 25 year period. It reflects planning practices flexible enough to accommodate future economic trends, social and environmental needs, and aspirations of the community.

The strategy's key objective is to promote existing neighbourhoods as mixed use centres or 'urban villages' with higher employment and housing densities than in the past, and with buildings and streetscape works that celebrate local identity and respect local character.

At the core of the NUS, are:

- The principles of Newcastle Urbanism that establish an approach to urban growth, planning, management and urban design
- Strategy statements that establish Council's approach to various matters such as place management, regional planning, transport planning and density.

## Newcastle Industrial Land Analysis and Employment Lands Strategy

Industrial development has historically been located around the Newcastle harbour and inner city. In recent time there has been increasing development pressure on this land and rezoning inquiries for residential development in these areas. As a result, Council commissioned the Newcastle Industrial Lands Analysis 2005 to identify the amount, location and availability of industrial land across the City of Newcastle to determine how much industrial land was available, where it was located and how much would be needed into the future.



In 2009 Council commissioned a review and update of the 2005 Industrial Lands Analysis to reassess its current stock of industrial zoned land, current trends and demands.

The Industrial Lands Analysis 2005 recommended that Council also consider commercial employment land not covered by the industrial lands study so that a total picture was provided of the land required to allow employment growth within the City.

While the Newcastle Urban Strategy identified existing commercial centres, their place in the urban hierarchy and locations for potential new centres, little monitoring has been undertaken to understand how these centres are currently functioning.

Council commissioned consultants to prepare an Employment Lands Strategy in 2010 to provide a total picture of industrial and commercial development within the City of Newcastle. The aim of the Strategy is to ensure that employment lands are provided in appropriate locations to encourage economic growth and complement population growth in the Newcastle LGA.

The Employment Lands Strategy will be included in an over arching planning strategy, the Newcastle Local Planning Strategy, being prepared in 2012. The Newcastle Local Planning Strategy will provide a framework for sustainable land use in the City and include strategies not only for the management of employment lands but also open space and recreation, environmental lands and residential lands.

### Lower Hunter Regional Strategy

The Lower Hunter Regional Strategy has been prepared by the Department of Planning and applies to five LGAs: Newcastle; Lake Macquarie; Port Stephens; Maitland and Cessnock.

The aim of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy is to ensure that adequate land is available to sustainably accommodate the projected housing and employment growth in the Hunter Region over the next 25 years.

The Lower Hunter Regional Strategy identifies the hierarchy within the Lower Hunter Region. This includes regional cities, major regional centres, specialised centres, town centres, renewal corridors and stand-alone shopping centres. The strategy also covers the future needs for employment, transport, housing, the environment, heritage and water. The plan is currently under review by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and should be complete in 2012.

### Plans of Management

A Plan of Management sets out goals and objectives for managing public or community land. It establishes where the land is, how it can be used, and how it must be cared for.

The *Local Government Act (1993)* requires all councils in NSW to prepare Plans of Management to ensure that they manage public land in a responsible way for their communities.

Council has grouped Newcastle's parks and reserves into categories of similar function and prepared generic Plans of Management for them. There are six generic plans covering the majority of parks, and there are five individual plans for larger and more complex sites: the foreshore; National Park; Beresfield Golf Course; Wallsend Brickworks Park; and Blackbutt Reserve.

Current Plans of Management include:

- The Bushlands Plan of Management
- The Foreshore Plan of Management
- Heritage Places Strategic Plan and Plans of Management
- National Park Plan of Management
- Neighbourhood Parks Plan of Management
- Parks – General Community Use Plan of Management
- Playgrounds Plan of Management
- Sportslands Plan of Management
- Beresfield Golf Course Plan of Management

- Wallsend Brickworks Park Plan of Management
- Blackbutt Reserve Plan of Management

All documents are available on Council's web site at [http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/building\\_and\\_planning/city\\_and\\_urban\\_planning](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/building_and_planning/city_and_urban_planning)

## Blackbutt Reserve

Newcastle is fortunate to have a 170 hectare nature reserve in the heart of the city. The reserve is highly regarded by Newcastle residents and visitors to the area and forms an outstanding natural setting of native bushland with outstanding scenic opportunities over the city.

Carnley and Richley Recreation Reserve Areas provide the focus for a range of recreational and educational pursuits such as picnicking, animal displays, education programs, functions and events. Other areas of the Reserve contain habitat that supports threatened species such as the Powerful Owl and Grey-headed Flying-fox.



A draft Plan of Management has been prepared for Blackbutt Reserve in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant Federal, State and local planning documents. The Plan of Management will assist Council in meeting its statutory requirements and broader strategic goals as set out in the Community Strategic Plan.

The Plan of Management has been developed in consultation with the community. During 2009 and 2010, Council engaged the community through Newcastle Voice in the development of a Draft Concept Masterplan for Blackbutt Reserve. The primary objective of the consultation was to determine the profile of current users and gather opinion on the current and future services and facilities at Blackbutt Reserve.

A Draft Concept Masterplan was placed on public exhibition between 15 November 2010 and 13 December 2010 but not adopted, pending the development of a specific plan of management for Blackbutt Reserve.

A plan of management was clearly necessary to establish Blackbutt Reserve's future functions, to provide strategies for handling divergent or conflicting interests and to present guidelines to conserve its valuable qualities.



Further consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders in June 2011 to discuss and confirm community values, objectives, issues and opportunities and develop management strategies.

Consultation has also been undertaken with Council's Environmental and Recreation Strategic Advisory Committees. The Plan is currently on public exhibition and is scheduled for completion in 2012.

## Climate change

The projected impacts of climate change will affect all areas of local government responsibility. For The City of Newcastle, climate change impacts will have significant short, medium and long term social, environmental, governance and economic consequences.

With its significant natural and built assets, its diversity of land uses, and low-lying coastal topography, Newcastle is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Council has adopted a climate change policy framework to guide decision making and to develop and implement Adaptation and Mitigation Action Plans. The Strategic Climate Change Policy was developed to provide Council and the community with the guiding principles to begin the process of embedding climate change considerations and responses within existing policy, planning and decision making frameworks.

The policy broadly considers all potential impacts of climate change and is not limited to one aspect, such as sea level rise. This is considered essential as the planning response to many of the potential impacts, such as sea level rise and increased rainfall intensity, would be cumulative and be best dealt with holistically rather than incrementally with separate policy statements. As such, the Policy will seek to:

- address Council's legislative responsibility to apply the precautionary principle in a risk management framework to strategic planning, operational and management decision making when considering the potential implications associated with climate change
- comply with applicable legal requirements and implement any relevant State Government policies, guidelines and/or directives

- reduce the risk from natural hazards, including the projected effects of climate change, by avoiding areas with high exposure and establishing adaptation strategies to minimise vulnerability to climate change impacts
- provide a commitment to being innovative, flexible and adaptive in our approach to climate change
- provide effective and strong leadership to the Newcastle community to respond to climate change and build a sustainable city
- provide timely, coordinated and balanced information to the community on climate change in order to create a more holistic response and build community resilience
- develop and implement adaptation and mitigation actions as a response to climate change
- contribute to achieving the climate change objectives from Newcastle 2030.

Local government authorities are well placed to work together with the community to address climate change impacts, as they are the level of government closest to the community and provide essential community services.

# Governance and organisational

*Provide a well performing, customer focused, open and transparent organisation that engages the community and encourages participation in Council matters*

## Goals

- 4.1 Comply with occupational health and safety systems and legislation
- 4.2 Build a sustainable organisation
- 4.3 Provide good governance and risk management
- 4.4 Actively engage with the community, government and agencies
- 4.5 Responsible building and development and regulatory compliance

## Service Delivery

Governance and organisational development is supported by a diverse range of services including:

Communication	OH&S
Customer Service	Records
Human Resources	Training
Legal	Council Services
Rates	Information Technology
Supply	Internal Audit
Environmental Health & General Compliance	Planning - Organisational
Community Consultation	Risk Management
Financial Services	Workers' Compensation
Insurance	

## Awards and recognition



The City of Newcastle EEO Management Plan nominated for a Bronze Award under the 50:50 Vision: Councils for Gender Equity Awards conducted by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government



The City of Newcastle is a finalist in the category of best workplace health and safety management system in the NSW WorkCover Safe Work Awards for 2010/2011 for the second year running



Newcastle Voice, The City of Newcastle's community reference panel, was joint winner of the Excellence in Communication category of the RH Dougherty Awards 2010.



## Key Priority 4.1 - Comply with occupational health and safety systems and legislation

The City of Newcastle and its senior management are committed to zero harm for all employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors and the public from our operations. This is demonstrated by the successful reduction in workplace incidents that have occurred throughout the financial year.

In recognition of Council's coordinated and consistent approach to OH&S, our OH&S Management System was a finalist for best workplace health and safety management system in the NSW WorkCover Safe Work Awards for 2010/2011 for the second year running. These Awards recognise and reward organisations and individuals in NSW who have gone the extra mile to make their workplaces safer.

Council has implemented an OH&S System Compliance Framework that has seen greater acceptance of compliance audits as an educational experience and a continuous improvement tool to:

- increase awareness of OH&S
- allow employees to gain further knowledge on their roles and responsibilities and
- identify areas that require improvement.

A further example of Council's focus on OH&S is the significant improvement to workers compensation claims for workplace injuries and compliance with WorkCover NSW requirements.



*Council's acting General Manager Rob Noble and OH&S Manager Cary Hughes demonstrate the three points of contact program*

Our OH&S team have been reviewing procedures and Council practice to ensure compliance with the new legislation due to commence in January 2012.

Health promotion at Council has included:

- fit for life challenge
- walk to work day
- men's health seminars and
- free cholesterol/blood pressure checks for employees concerned about their own health
- ride to work day
- weight watchers

## Key Priority 4.2 - Build a sustainable organisation

### Financial Summary

The following information relates to the Financial Statements attached to this annual report including:

- financial result
- total revenue
- percentage income from rates and charges
- total expenditure
- loans and borrowings and
- total reserves

### Revenue

Council's 2010/2011 financial year revenue totalled \$227.6M. This result was an 8.6% increase from \$209.6M in 2009/2010.

The revenue increase was mainly attributable to Council receiving increased grants and contributions from both State and Federal Governments to fund the Museum and Art Gallery redevelopment projects.

Council also received a net gain from disposal of plant, equipment and a number of properties during the year resulting in an increase to revenue of \$1.4M.



As part of its ongoing efficiency reviews, Council will continue to review all funding sources to ensure that Council:

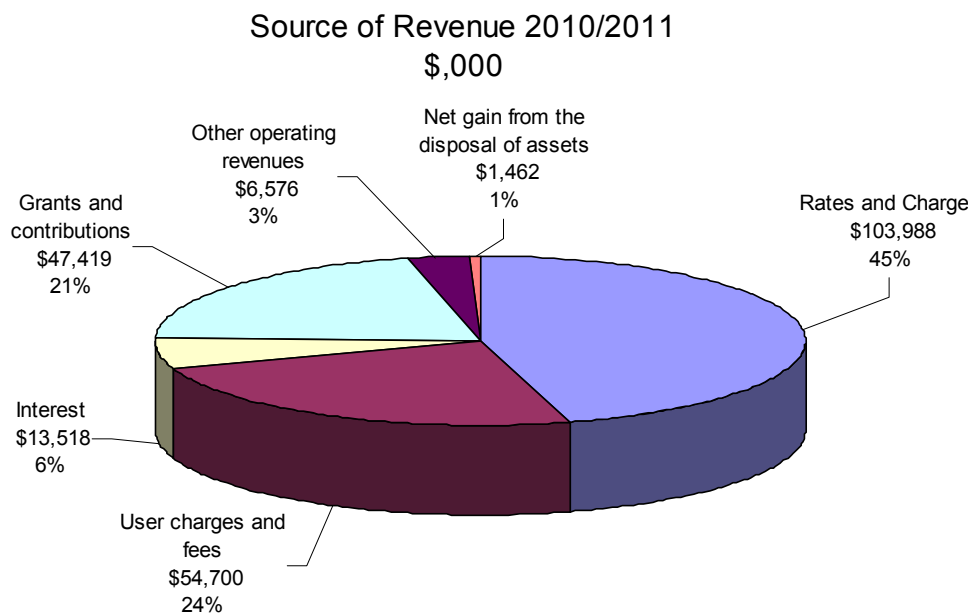
- charges fair and equitable prices for services and
- reviews all available funding sources including grants and contributions to support on-the-ground works

The expenditure increase was mainly attributable to employee related expenses for leave entitlements and workers compensation, increase in materials and contracts related to Council's infrastructure renewal program and increased depreciation costs due to the impact of the revaluation of roads and drainage assets in the 2009/2010 financial year, that were effective from 1 July 2010.

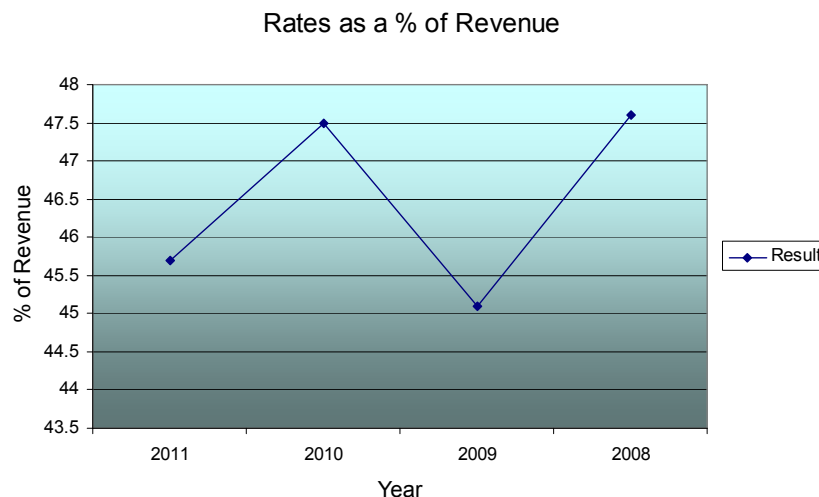
## Expenses

Council's 2010/2011 financial year expenditure totalled \$227.9M. This result was a 16.3% increase from \$195.9M in 2009/2010.

The following graphs show the sources of revenue and expenditure for the 2010/2011 financial year.

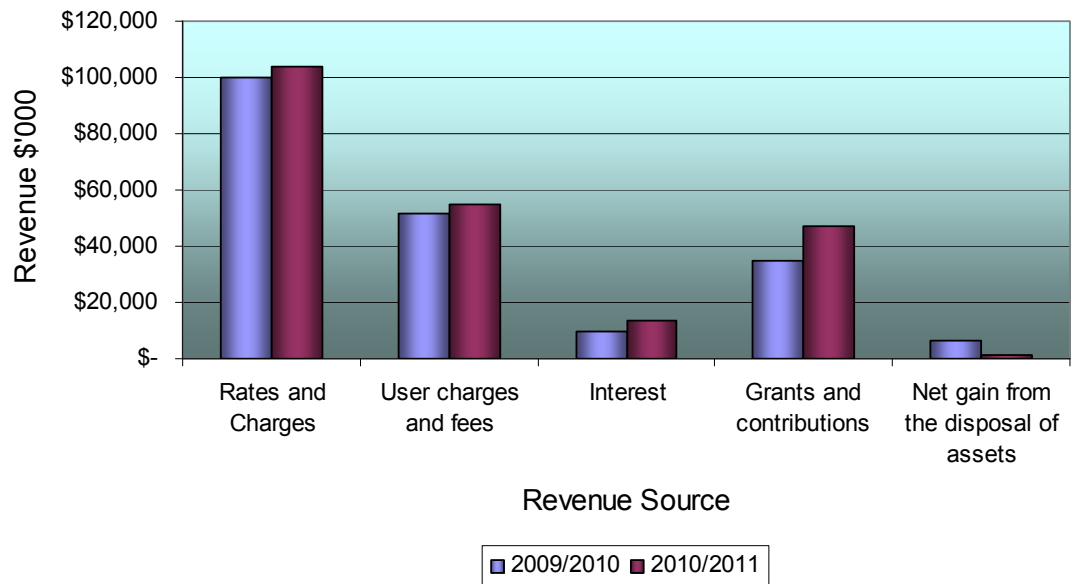


As can be seen from the graph below, rate income forms 45.8% of Council's revenue.

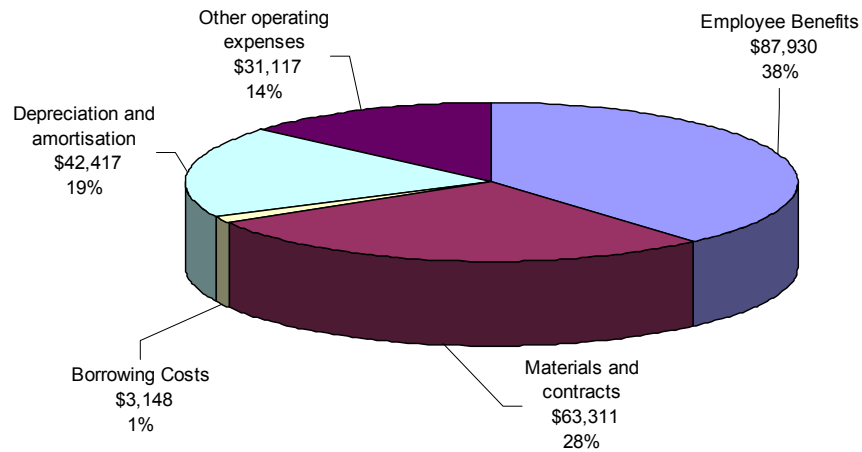


Comparative revenue data 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 is shown below:

## Revenue Source Comparison 2009/2010 - 2010/2011

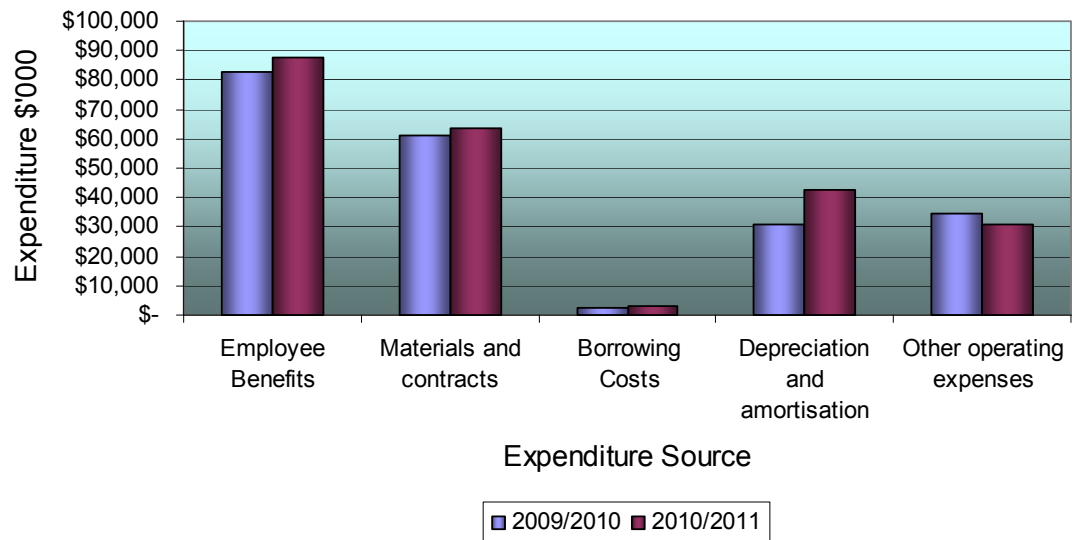


## Source of Expenditure 2010/2011



Comparative expenditure data 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 is shown below:

### Expenditure Source Comparison 2009/2010 - 2010/2011



### Amount of rates and charges written off during the year

cl 132

Rate and Charges Type	2010/2011 \$
Pensioner write-offs	1,389,822
Postponed rates and charges	17,185
Written off as a result of rounding down	15
Changes in category/exemptions	44,417
Write off debtors/rates	11,848
Section 600	341,153
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,804,440</b>

## Financial Assistance

S428 (2) (I)

Council resolved on the 15 June 2010 to provide \$237,776 in Community Assistance Grants for the 2010/2011 financial year as well as \$130,960 for continuation of grants awarded in 2009/2010 grants and completed in 2010/2011.

Full details of grants awarded are included in Attachment 1 to this report.

## Special Variation

S508 (2), s508A

The City of Newcastle applied for, and was successful, in obtaining a special rate variation of 6.55 per cent to support the costs associated with infrastructure rehabilitation and renewal.

Income received from the special rate variation for financial years 2007/2008 to 2010/2011 is detailed below:

Financial Year	Income
2007/2008	\$4,696,129
2008/2009	\$4,846,405
2009/2010	\$5,016,029
2010/2011	\$5,146,446

This income has been used to support a \$10M increase in funding for the MAPPs. Increased expenditure is detailed below:

Financial Year	MAPPs		
	Roads	Buildings and Structures	Environment
2006/2007*	\$4,706,000	\$6,608,752	-
2007/2008	\$8,161,748	\$8,277,100	\$1,256,000
2008/2009	\$11,050,580	\$8,859,300	\$2,955,500
2009/2010	\$7,760,905	\$9,669,100	\$4,970,500
2010/2011	\$9,929,910	\$13,204,590	\$6,865,500

\* Expenditure prior to special rate variation

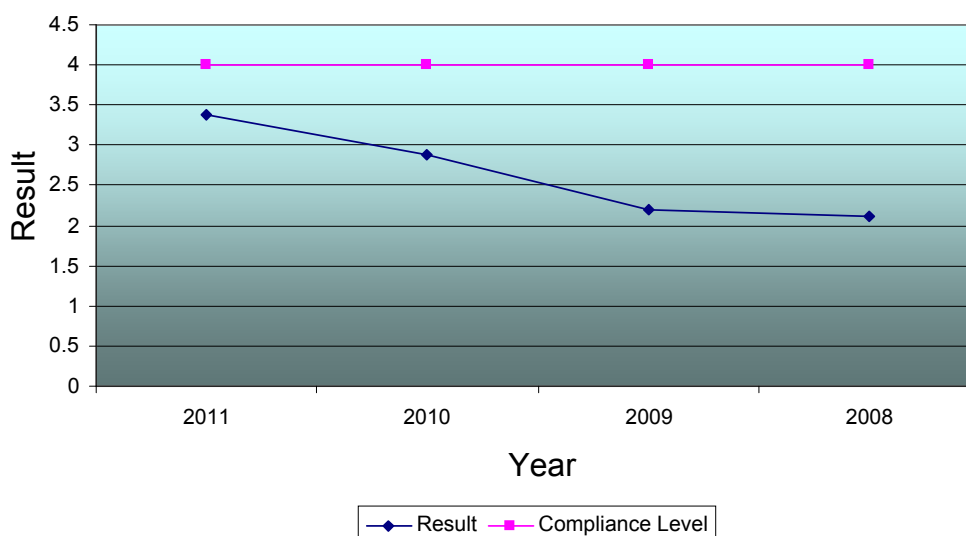
## Financial Performance Indicators

Financial performance indicators are set in the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Report Guidelines.

Council's performance compares favourably with previous years as shown.

Increase in the debt service ratio for 2010/2011 is due primarily to the increase in borrowings used to support Council's MAPPs.

## Debt Service Ratio



Other financial information	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual
Debt service ratio (%)	2.19%	2.88%	3.38%
Unrestricted current ratio (%)	243%	299%	288%
Rate coverage ratio (%)	45.16%	47.58%	45.68%
Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage (%)	5.44%	5.70%	5.35%
Asset renewals (building and infrastructure) (%)	7.40%	12.45%	7.7%
Total capital additions (%)	118.75%	117.28%	149.78%

## Statutory Financial Statements

The Statutory Financial Statements show Council's financial performance and overall position for the 2010/2011 financial year as at 30 June 2010 and forms Part B of this report.

Statutory financial reporting is required under the *Local Government Act 1993 Division 2 - Accounting records, financial reports and auditing* and is set out in accordance with the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*, March 2011. The Director City Assets has the delegated authority for the preparation of the Statutory Reports.

## Category 1 Business Activities

s428 (2) (r), cl217 (1) (d) (ii)

Council manages the following Category 1 businesses as defined by the *Local Government Act 1993* as having income in excess of \$2M.

<b>Summerhill Waste Management Centre</b>	Summerhill Waste Management Centre provides disposal facilities for domestic, commercial and industrial waste streams, construction and demolition waste separation, green waste stockpiling and processing. The centre also has a small vehicle receival centre and an on-site resource recovery and recycling operation.
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### Waste Management Collection Services

Council provides more than 6.5 million services each year to the community through waste collection. The three bin system has been introduced which incorporates a weekly domestic and commercial waste collection service, and fortnightly kerbside recycling and green waste collections. A monthly green waste drop off service is also operating as well as the bi-annual kerbside bulk waste service. Daily services are performed for street, park and beach litter bins.

### Civic Theatre / The Playhouse

Civic Theatre and The Playhouse present cultural, social and community events and live performances generating income from ticket sales and/or facility hire fees.

Community based and not-for-profit organisations are supported through discounted facility hire fees. The venues promote a program of performing arts featuring original local, Australian and international productions.



Newcastle Civic Theatre at night

## Category 2 business activities

cl217(1)(d)(iii)

Council has five Category 2 business activities:

### Commercial properties

Council owns four properties for 'investment purposes' as defined under the Act. These are managed by Strategic Property and Fleet Management Services, along with many other leased properties owned for public purposes. Leases are negotiated and rentals assessed on a commercial basis with independent valuation and commercial advice obtained wherever necessary to ensure appropriate market returns are achieved.



## Stockton Beach Tourist Park

Stockton Beach Tourist Park is located on Crown Land adjacent to Stockton Beach with Council the appointed Trust Manager under the *Crown Land Act 1989*. The Tourist Park is operated under a contract management arrangement overseen by Commercial Enterprise Services.

The Tourist Park has approximately 250 sites comprising powered and non-powered caravan and tent sites, cabins and static holiday van sites. Fees are set annually with regard to market forces and industry trends and the operation and development of the facility is fully self-funded.



*Stockton Beach Tourist Park*

## Beresfield Golf Course

Beresfield Golf Course is located adjacent to the western boundary of the city and provides an 11-hole public golf course, public amenities, an unlicensed club room and a golf pro shop.

Fees are set annually with regard to the course's business plan and its positioning in the market place. A golf professional operates the course under contract and Council staff carry out green keeping and grounds maintenance for the facility.

## Off-street parking

Approximately 1,900 paid parking spaces are provided in three multi-deck parking stations and several at-grade car parks located throughout the Newcastle CBD.

The parking stations are operated by Commercial Enterprise Services. Fees are set annually with regard to market forces and the objectives outlined in Council's adopted Parking Strategy and Business Plan.

## City Hall

Newcastle's historic City Hall provides a number of meeting rooms and live concert facilities and six purpose-built rooms which are hired out for events. The facilities are hired out for meetings, conferences and performances for groups up to 800 people.

Sales and event management offices and a commercial kitchen operating under contract are located on the ground floor. Income is generated from casual room hire, catering sales commissions and the supply of conferencing and audio visual services.

City Hall operations are coordinated by Commercial Enterprise Services which integrates similar activities at the Civic Theatre, Playhouse, Wheeler Place, Civic Arcade and the Fort Scratchley Historic Site.

A combination of commercial and community access rates are set annually for the casual use of City Hall spaces alongside exclusive use areas for the Lord Mayor, Councillors and Council's Information Management Services who pay an annual rent for usage of the facilities.

## Competitive Neutrality

*cl217 (1) (d) (v) (vi) (vii)*

The Commonwealth Government Competitive Neutrality Policy June 1996 requires that:

*'Government business activities should not enjoy competitive advantages over their private sector competitors simply by virtue of public sector ownership'.*

Council has adopted the principle of competitive neutrality to its business activities as well as implemented the *'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'* issued by the Division of Local Government in July 1997.

These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, return on investments (rate of return) and dividends paid. No complains have been received regarding competitive neutrality for the 2010/2011 financial year.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements.

Council's Category 1 businesses have full-cost attribution to satisfy competitive neutrality requirements.

## Statement of Expenses, Revenues and Assets

Service Element	Operating Income Actual 2010/2011 \$'000	Operating Expenditure Actual 2010/2011 \$'000	Operating Surplus / (Deficit) Actual 2010/2011 \$'000	Net Assets Actual 2010/2011 \$'000
Site operations Summerhill	26,656	24,916	1,740	13,020
Waste management collection services	13,101	14,580	(1,479)	2,673
Civic Theatre / The Playhouse	1,886	3,664	(1,778)	8,250

## Actual -v- projected performance for Category 1 activities

cl217 (1) (d) (viii)

Service Element	Performance Standards		
	Measures	2010/ 2011 Target	2010/ 2011 Actual
Site operations Summerhill	Compaction density of landfill	0.755 t/m <sup>3</sup>	0.765 t/m <sup>3</sup> *
	Waste diverted from landfill	>=12%	13%*
Waste management collection services	Reduce the number of missed services	< 200	184*
Civic Theatre / The Playhouse	No breaches of the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice	0	0

\* Yearly Average

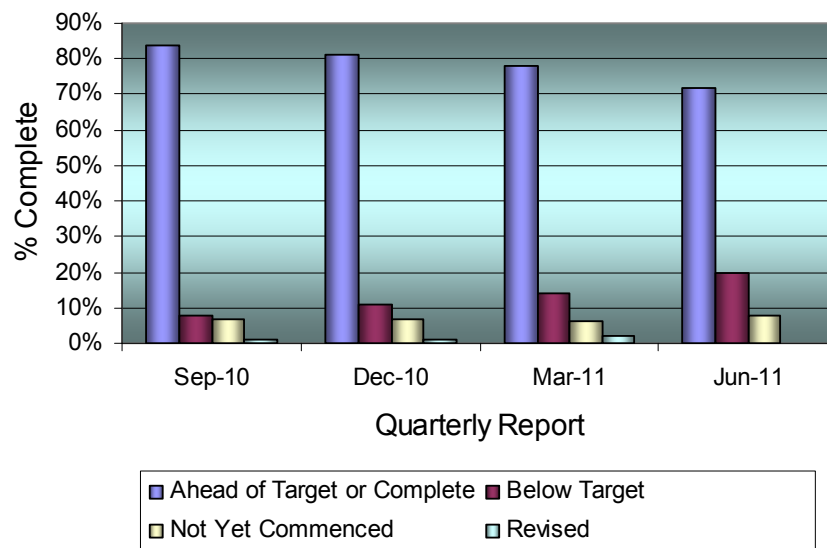
## Performance Culture

Each year, The City of Newcastle develops a set of performance indicators to measure our performance against key result areas. For the 2010/2011 financial year:

- 72% of key performance indicators were achieved ahead of or on, time
- 100% of Stage 1 Sustainability Review recommendations have been completed
- 63% of Stage 2 and 3 internal Sustainability Review recommendations have been completed
- 1,766 development applications were received by Council for the financial year, with 1,656 approved to a total value of approximately \$376M with a median process time of 41 days
- 1,765 requests for graffiti removal were received with 21,635 m<sup>2</sup> cleaned

Council adopted 106 key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of the 2010/2011 Management Plan. The aim of the indicators is to measure Council's performance against the activities identified in the Management Plan.

## 2010/2011 Key Performance Indicator Results



### Organisational Performance and Improvement Program

The City of Newcastle is committed to using rates wisely to deliver efficient and effective services to the community. To achieve this, Council has embraced business excellence principles and a culture of continuous improvement.

Like other local governments throughout NSW, Council operates in a challenging financial environment, with limited resources to provide the services and facilities expected by the community. It is critical to actively seek internal cost savings and improvement opportunities to maximise revenue for community benefit. Council has ensured this internal scrutiny and efficiency drive is embedded as a fundamental part of our daily business practice.

Our aim is to be a leader in local government in Australia by being a progressive, internally driven organisation focussing on high performance, customer service and continuous improvement.

Since 2009, Council has undertaken a number of performance and improvement programs aimed at achieving long term sustainability for Council, operational improvements and efficiency in service delivery and improve customer satisfaction.

Programs include:

- Sustainability Review (external review)
- Strategic Internal Audit Program (internal and external review)
- Business Excellence (internal review)
- Project management

### Sustainability Review (external review)

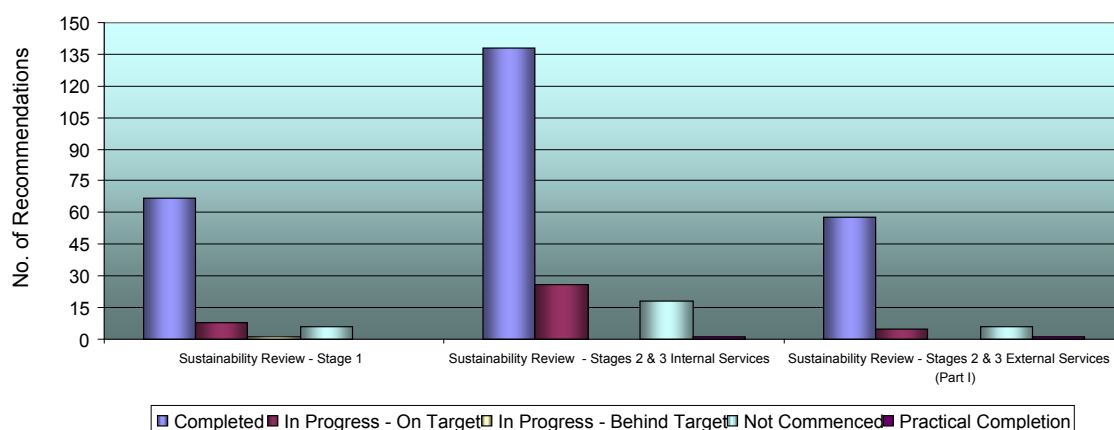
The Sustainability Review commenced in 2009 and continued to be implemented during the 2010/2011 financial year achieving savings of \$871,890. Total savings to date from implementing Sustainability Review recommendations total approximately \$2 million which has been removed from the base operating budget of the organisation.

Objectives of the review involved Council:

- being sustainable in the long term
- regaining community confidence
- building a cohesive, forward looking and winning culture and
- being a responsible employer

The status of recommendations as at 30 June 2011, are:

Status	Stage 1	Stage 2 and 3 Internal Services	Stage 2 and 3 External Services (Part I)	Total
Completed	82%	75%	83%	79%
In Progress - On Target	10%	14%	7%	12%
In Progress - Behind Target	1%	-	-	0%
Not Commenced	7%	10%	9%	9%
Practical Completion	-	1%	1%	1%



### Internal audit within Council

The role of internal audit is a key element of governance. Internal auditors review internal controls, accountability, governance, compliance and risk management.

Council uses external service providers to undertake audits that have been scheduled in an annual plan. A Council coordinator supports the work of internal auditors, the Audit Committee and Council officers in the implementation of audit recommendations.

### Audit Committee

Council established an Audit Committee in March 2010. It provides a forum for Councillor and independent expert input into Council's audit activities and communication between Council, the General Manager, senior management, Council's (external) internal auditors and external auditors.

Audit Committee terms of reference include the provision of independent assurance and assistance to Council on risk management, control, governance and accountability.



The Audit Committee reviews financial statements, internal and external audits and links between the performance management framework and organisational objectives and outcomes.

Since inception, the Audit Committee has provided independent oversight and monitoring of 11 internal audit reports. As a result of these reports, Council is in the process of implementing 152 improvement actions.

### Future Improvements

Five internal audits are scheduled for the 2011/2012 financial year. Internal self-review programs have also been approved for two areas within Council.

During August 2011, Council conducted a self-assessment to review the performance of the Audit Committee and internal audit function. Four key result areas were identified for improvement.

### Business Excellence (internal review)

Council adopted The Australian Business Excellence Framework (ABEF) as it supports business transformation and creates an environment for continuous improvement that leads to sustainable business success.

The framework uses a combination of relationship and process improvement tools and techniques, such as system views and process maps.

System views help staff understand who their customers, suppliers and other key internal stakeholders are. They also identify inputs, outputs, result measures and targets for their service.

Business process maps are used to analyse how processes operate across Council to deliver services to the community. Maps highlight any inefficiencies, capture knowledge, ensure consistent delivery of service and identify opportunities for improvement.

The framework has been used over the past 12 months to benchmark core service areas within Council. Opportunities for improvement have been identified in the following areas:

- Road Construction – determine a strategy to better manage land fill: \$1.9M (approximately)
- Road Construction – reduce instances of duplication of effort: \$30,000
- Trades – building and metal fabrication – Reduced cost of future work around: \$25,000
- Digital Print – maximise the opportunity to generate profit for Council: \$35,000
- City Presentation – better service for increased efficiency: \$30,000
- Workshop – automate the service scheduling methodology for light vehicles: \$15,000

### Project Management

Council has implemented a project management governance framework based on the Project Management Book of Knowledge (PMBok). This provides a practical, useful and consistent approach to project management. The framework will be used on all minor, medium and major projects undertaken by, and for, Council.

Forty Council staff have also completed a Diploma in Project Management from the Australian Institute of Management.

## Ward Councillors and Localities

Ward 1			
	Cr Buman	Cr Claydon	Cr Osborne
	<i>Cooks Hill, Newcastle, Stockton, Carrington, Islington, Mayfield and Warabrook</i>		
Ward 2			
	Cr Crakanthorp	Cr Luke	Cr Sharpe
	<i>The Junction, Merewether, Hamilton, Broadmeadow and Adamstown</i>		
Ward 3			
	Cr Boyd	Cr King	Cr Nelmes
	<i>Waratah, Lambton, New Lambton, Kotara and Jesmond</i>		
Ward 4			
	CI Cook	CI Jackson	CI Connell
	<i>Beresfield, Birmingham Gardens, Elernmore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Maryland, Minmi, Shortland, Tarro and Wallsend</i>		

## Key Priority 4.3 - Provide good governance and risk management

The decision making body for the Newcastle local government area comprises 12 Councillors and the Lord Mayor. The city is divided into four wards each represented by three Councillors. NSW local government elections are held every four years with the next local government election due in September 2012.

The *Local Government Act 1993* gives Councillors a number of roles including determining Council's budget, playing a key role in the development of policy and reviewing performance in the delivery of services. Councillors also represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, providing leadership and guidance to the community and facilitating communication between the community and Council.



The Lord Mayor, Councillor John Tate, is responsible for presiding at Council meetings, carrying out the civic and ceremonial functions of the Lord Mayoral office and, where required, undertaking the policy making functions of Council between meetings.

## Council Meetings and Committees

Council has formed a range of Strategic Advisory Committees to enable Councillors and the community to discuss issues and proposed projects with technical experts and stakeholders prior to Council decision making. The committees provide strategic advice and guidance to assist Council within their respective terms of reference.

Each committee comprises three Councillor members, three stakeholder members and three community members. Facilitators and technical experts are provided from specific areas of responsibility within Council.

Currently there are eight Strategic Advisory Committees.

Other committees include the Asset Advisory Committee, Audit Committee and Youth Council.

Council also holds community consultation meetings in each ward to provide local residents with opportunities to discuss future plans and challenges facing their ward. Meetings were held in August and November 2010 and in February and May 2011.



## Details of overseas visits by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons representing Council

s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(a)

Council Representative	Activity	Date	Cost
Project Exhibitions Officer, Museum	Inspection of Museum interactive modules with Philippines supplier	August 2010	\$1,830

## Functions delegated by Council to External Bodies

s428 (2) (o)

To better engage the community and reflect local community views and needs, The City of Newcastle delegates a range of its functions to volunteer committees and other organisations.

### Parks Committees

Parks Committees manage local parks and reserves on behalf of the community. Council supports Parks Committees for Adamstown Park, Beresfield/Tarro Park, Centennial Park, Elmore Vale Reserve, Federal Park, Heaton-Birmingham Gardens Park, Kotara Park, Myamblah Crescent Oval, New Lambton Oval, Stevenson Park, Stockton Park, Tuxford Park, Waratah Park and Wickham Park.

### Community Facility Committees

Community Facility Committees manage local community facilities on behalf of the community. Council supports Community Facility Committees for Alice Ferguson Community Centre, Beresfield Child Care Centre, Carrington Community Centre, Elmore Vale Community Centre, Hamilton South Community Centre, Henderson Park Hall, Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre, Maryland Multipurpose Centre, New Lambton Community Centre, Newcastle Elderly Citizens Centre, Tarro Community Hall and Warabrook Community Centre.

## BBC Housing Management and Development Committee

BBC Housing Management and Development Committee is a committee of Council that aids in the revitalisation of Newcastle through the management and allocation of grant funds for housing projects in partnership with the private and community housing sectors.

In addition to Council's volunteer committees, Newcastle Airport provides civil aviation and associated services at Williamtown Airport as a delegate of Council, and Theiss Services provides waste collection services as a delegate of Council.

## Controlling interest statement

s428 (2) (p)

Council held no controlling interests in companies during 2010/2011.

## Payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors

s428(2)(f)(r), s428(2)(f), cl217(1)

Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy was approved on 7 December 2010. The policy meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* by ensuring that:

- councillors are provided with reasonable expenses and facilities to carry out their civic functions and
- this expenditure is appropriate, transparent and reasonable

### Councillor Allowances

Lord Mayoral allowance	\$91,443.40
Councillors Fees (per Councillor)	\$23,360.40



Councillor Expenses	
Travel	\$14,952.58
Communication devices	0
Communication expenses	\$8,102.82
Internet expenses	\$4,575.09
Carer expenses	\$509.32
Incidental expenses (including meals)	\$613.38
Professional development (including registration, accommodation and materials)	\$3,288.17
Annual conference	\$1,462.72
Accompanying person	\$543.63
Total	\$34,047.71

## Partnerships, cooperatives and joint ventures including public-private partnerships

s428 (2) (q)

### NSW Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme (Statewide)

The NSW Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme started in 1993 as a joint venture with 96 members forming a 'self insurance mutual' covering public liability and professional indemnity insurance.

Membership has expanded to include councils, the Local Government Association, the Local Government Shires Association, a rural Water Board and a Noxious Weed Eradication Board.

Over 18 years, Statewide has delivered many benefits including stable premiums, reduced premium outcomes for Council as well as cost containment and spread of risk.

### Hunter Councils

Hunter Councils brings together 11 councils to promote cooperation and collaboration to benefit local communities. This has achieved:

- strong communication between councils
- sharing professional expertise and
- inter-council collaboration

With the ever-increasing pressure on local government to do more with less, Hunter Councils is constantly striving to reduce the cost of 'doing business' for local government through offering economies of scale and efficiencies.

The General Manager's Advisory Committee, made up of all the Hunter Council General Managers, meets monthly to progress issues of regional importance.

### Together Today

Together Today is a world-first, world-class environmental initiative with the aim to create Australia's most energy and water-efficient region in the Hunter. Council is a partner in the initiative, with more than 25 other organisations working to reduce the impact on the environment by facilitating and enabling action-based change programs for the Hunter region. This is achieved through media campaigns, education, community assistance and stimulating the market for energy and water-efficient products.

### Smart Grid Smart City

Newcastle has been chosen to be the site of Australia's first commercial-scale smart grid. The \$100M Smart Grid Smart City project will help households and businesses in Newcastle and ultimately the rest of the country to save energy, connect renewable energy to the grid and deal with climate change.

Smart Grids combine advanced telecommunications and information technology applications with 'smart' appliances to improve the energy efficiency of the electricity system and help people save on their energy bills. Smart grids will provide the ability to manage energy consumption by giving consumers information about how much energy they are using as well as the costs.

Newcastle won the right to be the site of the demonstration project in partnership with EnergyAustralia (now called Ausgrid), IBM Australia, AGL, GE Energy, Transgrid and the NSW Government.

### Newcastle Airport Limited (NAL)

Newcastle Airport Limited (NAL) was created in June 1993 to stimulate economic development for aviation/airport industries and to provide civilian airport infrastructure for the region.

Formed on 25 May 1993 by The City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council, the company is limited by guarantee and reinvests all operating surpluses back into the airport.

NAL has undergone significant improvements in recent years and is today serviced by all the major domestic airlines to destinations along the east coast.

NAL is a significant contributor to the domestic and international growth of business and tourism in the Hunter. Since the introduction of jet services into Newcastle Airport, the number of passengers has grown from 214,000 in 2003 to more than 1.1M in 2010/2011.

### Information and privacy

Council collects, stores and uses personal information in accordance with the:

- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*; and
- Council's Privacy Management Plan ([www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au))
- *State Records Act 1998*

Council received six informal privacy complaints under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act* during the 2010/2011 financial year.

*The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA) manages how and what public information Council provides in order to maintain a 'system of responsible and representative democratic Government that is open, accountable, fair and effective'. GIPA replaced the *Freedom of Information Act* (FOI) from 1 July 2010. Public requests for information outstanding under the FOI act as at 1 July 2010 and under the GIPA Act are detailed in Attachment 3 to this report.

### Workforce Planning

Council's Workforce Management Plan has been developed to support the delivery of the Newcastle Community Strategic Plan and associated resourcing strategies, including the Long Term Strategic Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan and Information and Communication Technology Strategic Plan.

Our aim is to have a robust, yet flexible human resource strategy in place to meet the staffing needs of Council into the future.

### Current employment at The City of Newcastle comprises

Division	EFT	% of total EFT
General Manager/Lord Mayor's Office	11.00	1%
City Assets	160.50	16%
City Engagement	77.65	8%
Future City	164.62	16%
Liveable City	599.33	59%
Total EFT	1013.10	100%

## Senior staff employment

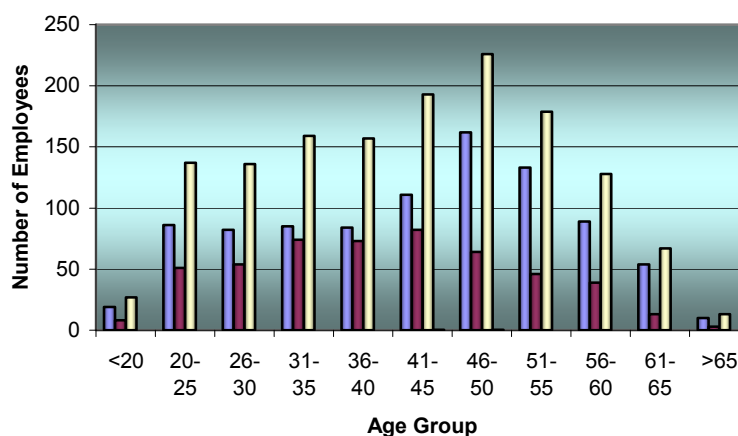
S428(2)(g)

The total number of equivalent full-time (EFT) positions across Council as at June 2011 was 1,013.1 EFT as detailed. Council currently employs five senior staff being the Directors of each division and the General Manager as follows:

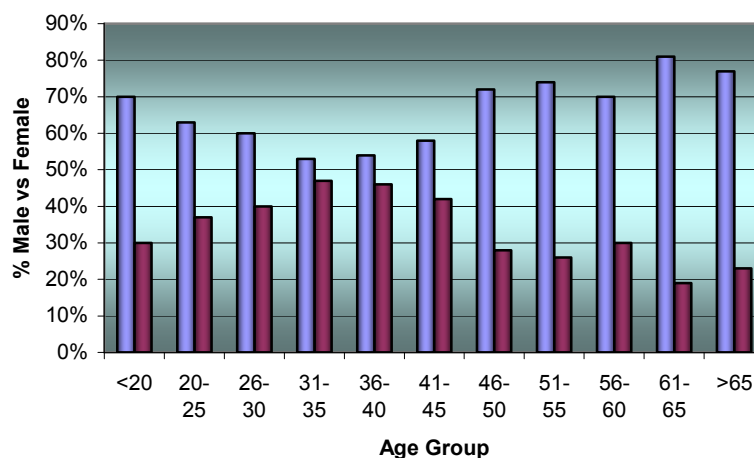
Name	Title	Employment 2010/2011
Lindy Hyam	General Manager	1 July 2010 – 31 Dec 2010
Rob Noble	Acting General Manager	31 January 2011 – 30 June 2011
Martin Coates	Director City Engagement	1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011
Frank Cordingley	Director Liveable City	1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011
Judy Jaeger	Director Future City	1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011
Steve Edmonds	Director City Assets	1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

Note: Phil Pearce started as General Manager on 4 August 2011

### Age Profiles of Current Workforce



### Percentage Male vs Female Employees



## Summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings and status s428 (2) (e)

Total legal expenses incurred, in relation to legal proceedings, for the 2010/2011 financial year were \$194,938 of which \$165,044 was related to the Laman Street Figs.

### Summary of legal expenses:

Matter	Type	Status	Costs
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$0
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$0
Companion Animals	Local/court prosecution/ District courts appeal	Finalised	\$5,249
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$506
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$363
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$0
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$1,560
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$193
Companion Animals	Local court prosecution	Finalised	\$352
Class 1 Appeal	Land & Environment Court	Finalised	\$165,044
Class 1 Appeal	Land & Environment Court	Finalised	\$21,670
Class 4 Appeal	Land & Environment Court	With-drawn	\$0

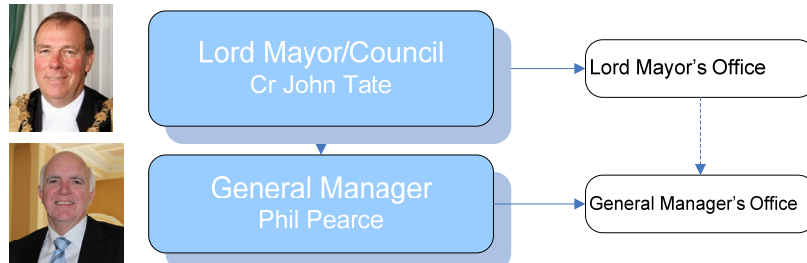
## Senior Staff Remuneration

(S428(2)(g)/C/217(1)(b))

	Acting General Manager	General Manager	Director Future City	Director City Assets	Director City Engagement	Director Liveable City
Date range in financial year	31 January 2011 - 30 June 2011	1 July 2010 - 31 December 2010	1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011	1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011	1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011	1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011
Total value of salary component of the Package	\$116,716.13	\$146,261.37	\$211,141.68	\$218,276.82	\$189,849.97	\$204,256.40
Total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary component	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total employer's contribution to superannuation (salary sacrifice or employers contribution)	\$11,667.18	\$13,163.43	\$16,674.39	\$15,986.02	\$15,867.39	\$16,453.38
Total value non-cash benefits	N/A	N/A	\$10,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits	N/A	N/A	\$2,485.52	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Figures provided in 'total value of salary component of package' are the amounts actually paid to staff excluding reimbursements for expenses.

## Our People



### Director - City Assets



Steve Edmonds

#### Goals

*Making our assets work for us*

#### Purpose

*This division focuses on our strategic assets – commercial, property, fleet, IT and financial – and brings together our commercial enterprises with a stronger economic development focus*

#### Service Units & Services

Strategic Property & Fleet Management Services	Fleet Management Property Management
Financial Services	Financial Services Rates Supply
Information Management Services	Information Technology
Commercial Enterprise Services	Airport Caravan park Cemeteries City Hall Civic Theatre Fort Scratchley Golf Course Off-Street Parking On-Street Parking Reprographics Ticketing Services Waste – Disposal (Summerhill)
Tourism & Economic Development Services	Mainstreets Marketing & Promotion Tourism & Economic Development

### Director - Liveable City



Frank Cordingley

*Enhancing quality of life*

*City presentation is critical to this division with a strong focus on place and infrastructure assets*

City Presentation Services	Aquatic – Beach Cleaning City Presentation Cleaning – Buildings & Conveniences Waste – Collection Workshop
Infrastructure Management Services	Design Planning – Asset Management Planning – Infrastructure & Traffic Project Management Survey
Road & Asset Maintenance Services	Construction Works Depot Management Pest & Weed Control Road Maintenance Trade Services
Parks & Recreation Services	Aquatic – Beaches & Baths Aquatic – inland Pools Architectural – Landscape Community – Safety Community Greening & Tree Planting & Maintenance Parks & Reserves Planning – Sport & Recreation
Compliance Services	Environmental Health & General Compliance
Museum	Museum



## Director - Future City



Judy  
Jaeger

*Positioning for a sustainable future*

*Centralised planning throughout Council will lead to a better focused organisation*

### Strategic Planning Services

Planning – City  
Planning – Infrastructure &  
Traffic  
Planning - Organisational

### Development & Building Services

Development Assessment

### Environment & Climate Change Services

Environmental Management

### Life Services

Aged & Disability Services  
Childcare  
Community Halls  
Libraries  
Family Day Care  
Youth Services

### Art Gallery

Art Gallery

## Director - City Engagement



Martin  
Coates

*Well performing and customer focused organisation with a connected community*

*Integrated community engagement together with a performance based customer focused organisation is the key driver for this division*

### Governance & Council Services

Council Services  
Insurance  
Legal  
Records  
Risk Management

### Human Resource Services

Human Resources  
OH&S  
Training  
Workers' Compensation

### Customer Service, Communication & Consultation

Communication  
Community Consultation  
Customer Service

## Human Resource Activities

s428 (2) (m)

Services provided by this key result area include:

- OH&S Management and support
- learning and development
- payroll
- recruitment
- EEO and diversity
- industrial relations
- workers compensation
- health and wellbeing

Highlights for the year:

- change management program
- payroll system upgrade
- continuance of self insurers licence
- successful WorkCover audit
- delivery of the Diploma of Project Management
- delivery of EEO, harassment prevention and grievance training for managers and
- delivery of manual handling training.

## Learning and Development

Our people are our most important asset – without them we would not be able to achieve our business goals.

### Trainees and Apprentices

To meet the challenge of an ageing workforce, Council has employed eight new apprentices this year across Parks and Recreation, Trade Services and Roads and Asset Maintenance Services.

These new recruits have joined 26 other trainees and apprentices as part of the Council's trainee and apprentice program. The program aims to ensure the valuable knowledge of experienced employees is passed. It also provides jobs for young people from the region.

## Project Management Training

In 2011 Council formed a relationship with the Australian Institute of Management (AIM) to deliver the Diploma of Project Management Nationally Accredited program. Forty employees were offered the opportunity to complete the accreditation.

The program was designed for employees who currently manage multiple, interdependent, high value or high risk projects within Council.

It provided participants with an in-depth understanding of the critical processes required to plan and organise projects successfully along with the practical elements of project management. The training combined tools and definitions currently applicable to project management within Council.

The program including training on:

- integrating projects within Council
- scope, time and cost management
- managing risk, communications, resources and procurement
- finalising the project and achieving business benefits
- leading the project team and
- getting problem projects back on track.

The employees had to commit many personal hours to complete the evidence required for accreditation.



Feedback from management and employees has been pleasing with common methodology and improved efficiencies in the completion of projects seen across Council.

## Training delivered

Council delivered a total of 482 courses across the organisation. Of these, 187 were professional development courses, 143 were OH&S courses and 152 were IT courses. Currently, 37 employees are being supported under Council's Employee Education Scheme.

## Implementation of Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

s428(2)(n)

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) focuses on recognising and valuing diversity within the workplace. This means having workplace policies, practices and behaviours that are fair and do not disadvantage people because they are attributed to particular diverse groups.

Council provides a large number of services to a diverse community and aims to promote an environment that incorporates freedom from harassment, bullying, victimisation and discrimination. Council implements EEO Management Plan strategies to assist members of EEO groups overcome past and present disadvantage.

The Executive Leadership Team understands the need for all directors and managers to be role models for EEO principles. Every single staff member is asked to make a personal commitment to improve the way we work with co-workers, customers and the community.

During 2010/2011 Council conducted a full review of its EEO Management Plan and practices to develop the EEO Management Plan 2011/2014.

EEO Management Plan objectives were developed in consultation with staff and management and a review of the previous EEO Management plan, analysis of the EEO survey results conducted in 2009 and benchmarking against the NSW Government employment targets.

This plan establishes a range of strategies to ensure Council operates within the principles of fairness and equity. It has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Council has developed five EEO priority areas to proactively promote equity and diversity and to ensure all forms of bullying, harassment and discrimination in the workplace are avoided. These include:

- communication and raising awareness
- recruitment, selection, appointment and promotion processes
- diversity in employment
- prevention of bullying, harassment and discrimination in the workplace
- implementation, evaluation, review and continuous improvement

Key achievements during 2010/11 include:

- continuing delivery of EEO Discrimination, Harassment Prevention and Grievance Handling Skills training to assist Managers, coordinators, supervisors and team leaders to understand anti-discrimination law, prevent bullying and harassment and handle grievances in the workplace
- development and delivery of EEO awareness training program for frontline staff
- revitalisation of Council's EEO Contact Officer Network, with specific training provided to nominated staff and
- creation of support materials for distribution to staff to raise awareness of their EEO responsibilities and our EEO grievance management process.

This program has been nominated for a Bronze Award under the 50:50 Vision: Councils for Gender Equity Awards conducted by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government.

## Emergency Management

Emergency Management is a role conferred on Council under the *State Emergency Service Act 1989* and *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*. Achievements for the year include:

- attendance at Local Emergency Management Centre meetings July and November 2010 and March 2011
- Participation at *Exercise Autonomy* held in October 2010
- development and distribution of *Emergencies Happen* brochure distributed via local rates notice to Newcastle residents and
- collaborating with Lake Macquarie Local Emergency Operations Centre to instigate a state of readiness on 15 June 2011 in anticipation of an east coast low weather event.

*Exercise Autonomy* included participants from agencies involved in emergency management in the local government area such as local police, ambulance, fire and SES staff. It was held in collaboration with the University of Newcastle.

The table top exercise ran for approximately two hours and was based on a 'mock' HazMat incident and vehicle collision on University Drive, Callaghan.

The key objectives of the exercise were:

- to test agency representatives in a controlled environment using problem solving, communication and decision making skills and
- information management and dissemination between key agencies.



*Local Emergency Management Centre in operation*

Information learnt from the exercise included:

- the participants' problem solving and decision making skills enabled them to handle issues even if they had not been directly involved in this type of incident before and
- debriefing after the event enabled the different agencies to communicate what they had learnt from the exercise and how they would manage their role in an actual incident more effectively as a result of the exercise experience.

## Laman Street and Civic Park Design Framework

The proposed removal of the Laman Street fig trees has been a focus for Council, the Community and in the media during the 2010/2011 financial year. While Council has been considering tree management options for Laman Street since 2006, a final decision on removal of the trees was only made in August 2010 after a significant process of review and including extensive public consultation.

The trees were planted in the 1930s and regularly topped to clear overhead power lines. When power and other services were located underground from the 1970s, the trees lost significant sections of their root systems due to the trenching associated with this work. This has greatly reduced the trees ability to remain stable in wind events and has resulted in the closure of the precinct including the art gallery and library. Tree failures were documented in 2007 and more recently on 16 June 2011 where branch failures occurred on three of the trees.

To assess the impact of this work on the stability of the fig trees, over 16 different reviews were completed by four qualified arborists between 2006 and 2010, including a number of peer reviews to ensure the validity of recommendations.

The resulting opinion of Council Officers based on these reviews, is that the Fig Trees continue to pose an unacceptable risk to traffic, property and persons in the use of Laman Street. It was also determined that the useful life expectancy for the remaining trees was 5-15 years.

Council initially resolved in February 2010 to remove the trees and enter into a community design process to prepare a Laman Street Civic Precinct design framework. Community workshops were held with 50 participants in March/April 2010.

In August 2010, Council resolved to again to remove the trees as soon as possible and to adopt the design framework developed through the Community Workshops.

The Parks and Playgrounds Movement commenced proceedings in September 2010 in the NSW Land and Environment Court to stop the removal of the trees under the Roads Act with Justice Briscoe ruling in Council's favour. An appeal was lodged in November 2010 by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement.

In January 2011, Statewide Mutual advised Council that by retaining the trees Council would be in breach of its duty of care and that any decision to retain the trees may prejudice Council's rights to indemnity in respect of any damage caused by the failure of the trees. Further advice was received on 15 June 2011 advising Council that Statewide Mutual will not cover any claims arising from the Fig Trees from the 31 August 2011. An extension of this deadline was received until 31 October 2011 to allow Council to further pursue alternative scenarios in consultation with the community.

As at 30 June 2011, Council had incurred \$648,000 on works relating to the assessment and management of the Fig trees with \$432,000 relating to legal proceedings, consultants, workshops, investigations and traffic management.

At the time of printing this report, and following a further resolution by Council on 19 July 2011, Community protests regarding the removal have been held and tree removal work was halted on 7 October 2011. Following this the General Manager, offered to appoint an independent arborist to review the risk assessments following community requests, but this resolution did not proceed due to the unavailability of the selected arborist.

The above actions have delayed work commencing and required significant security fencing and guards to prevent public access to Laman Street at the request of Council's insurer Statewide Mutual and local Police.

Costs to remove the trees including security, has now exceeded \$750,000.

## Key Priority 4.4 - Actively engage with the community, government and agencies

Community consultation continues to be a key priority at The City of Newcastle. Council actively listens to and values the different perspectives and aspirations of the community so they may be understood and considered by the elected Council.

In December 2008, Council embarked on a new approach to community consultation when it launched its community reference panel, Newcastle Voice, as a two year pilot. In May 2011, Council resolved to maintain Newcastle Voice as an ongoing in-house service supported by two full-time staff. A variety of consultation tools are used including the community reference panel, online and paper surveys, online discussions, ward community forums and community as well as stakeholder workshops.

During the financial year, 23 community and stakeholder consultations were held on a range of topics including Hunter Street Revitalisation, social planning, Stockton Beach Tourist Park, Blackbutt Reserve Plan of Management, road safety, customer service and communication, Islington Park and Council's Four-Year Delivery Program.

Newcastle Voice was recognized by industry peers claiming the 'Excellence in Communication' crown at the RH Dougherty Awards which recognize leading practice in communication management.



## Community Strategic Plan

Council developed the Newcastle Community Strategic Plan and Newcastle 2030 Community Vision in collaboration with the community.

Based on social justice principles, Council implemented an extensive engagement process to ensure that as many people as possible from all walks of life were able to take part.

Over 1,500 people were directly involved in the development of *Newcastle 2030 Vision: A Smart, Liveable and Sustainable City*.

A further 4,000 'conversations' were held about our future to identify the needs and aspirations of the community and determine future priorities based on our strengths, challenges and opportunities.

Engagement activities included:

- community events - visits to events and festivals, libraries and shopping centres. Postcards were distributed at these events with over 600 entries submitted from the community with ideas for a 2030 Vision for Newcastle
- a workshop with senior students from Callaghan College and the University of Newcastle
- a series of art workshops with primary school children to explore creatively what they liked most about Newcastle and what they would like to see for the future
- a youth forum for young people to talk about their aspirations for the future of Newcastle
- an online discussion forum facilitated through Council's online community Newcastle Voice. Over 830 people visited the 2030 discussion site
- strategic Directions Community Workshops - attended by over 300 people working towards a shared vision
- engagement with State Agencies and Corporations - invitations were made to state agencies and local business leaders to discuss the community priorities for our city and
- Wiyala Aboriginal Communities Workshop - Wiyala (lets talk together) was a forum to talk about the future of Newcastle for Aboriginal people living and working in the area and hosted by the Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

## Community Safety

Council works to address community safety concerns through collaboration with government and non-government partners, community groups and community representatives. During the financial year, Council continued to actively participate in the Newcastle Crime Prevention Partnership and Hamilton and Newcastle CBD Liquor Accords.

Another essential partnership developed as a result of the Alcohol Management Strategy (AMS) 2010-2013 is the Newcastle Licenced Premises Reference Group. This group brings together representatives of Council, NSW Police, Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing, and Health to review and comment on new liquor licence applications.

During 2010, Council continued its partnership with Mayfield Baptist Church and Catholic Care Hunter Manning to deliver the Nightcare van service as part of the Miromulliko project funded through the Federal Government's National Binge Drinking Strategy. This service was delivered in two hotspot locations in the city with the aim of reducing the impact of binge drinking through food and casual conversation. Volunteers provided opportunities for informal counselling and referral to support services.

## Key Priority 4.5 - Responsible building and development and regulatory compliance

### Companion Animals

Council uses a range of education and enforcement tools to comply with the *Companion Animal Act 1998*. Council spent \$948,816 on companion animal management and activities in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Education activities carried out by the Compliance Services team included the distribution of brochures and pooch pouches and attendance at a number of community events.

Council promotes the benefits of desexing animals and maintains a relationship with the RSPCA and Hunter Animal watch to facilitate low-cost desexing for persons in financial difficulty. Council has also provided microchips to assist in reducing the overall cost of desexing and registering an animal.

Enforcement activities included the investigation and management of straying, attacking dogs, dangerous, restricted, barking and nuisance dogs, as well as feral and nuisance cats. Council investigated 174 dog attacks during the 2010/2011 financial year with dog attacks reported to the Division of Local Government.

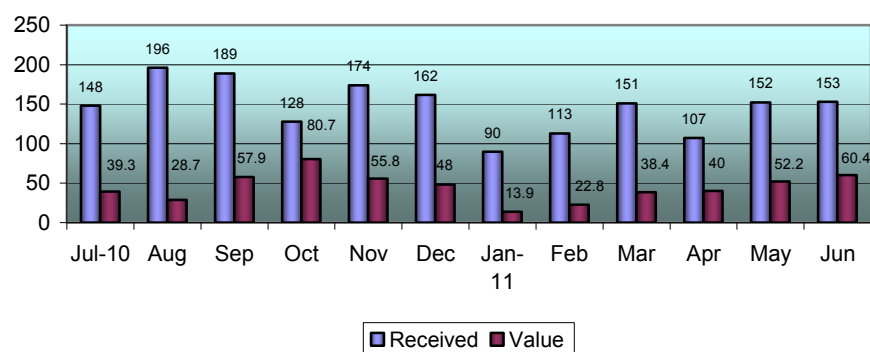
Council's pound is operated by RSPCA NSW. Running costs were \$316,336 with expenditure exceeding income received from the companion animal related revenue from registration and release fees which totalled \$159,611.

Unclaimed animals in Newcastle are transferred to the RSPCA where homes, if possible, are found for them. Animals are only euthanised when their health or behaviour makes it unsuitable for them to find a home. The RSPCA updates the pound data collection return every month and lodges it with the Division of Local Government on an annual basis.

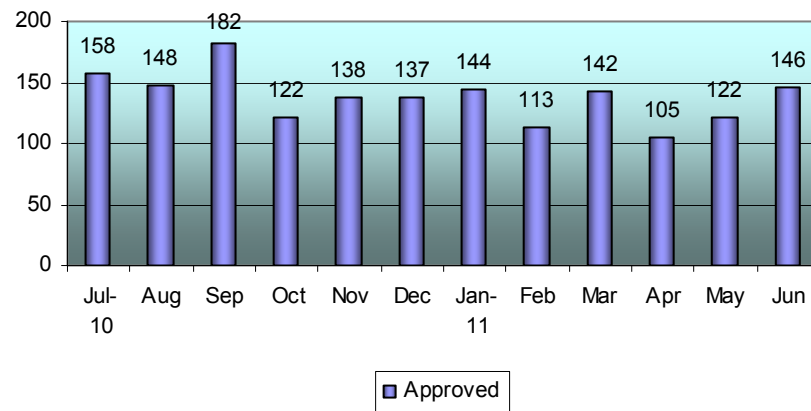
### Building and Development

In the 2010/2011 financial year 1,766 development applications were received totalling \$538.1M. A further 412 Section 96 modified assessments were also completed. The following graphs show the number of applications received and approved during the financial year.

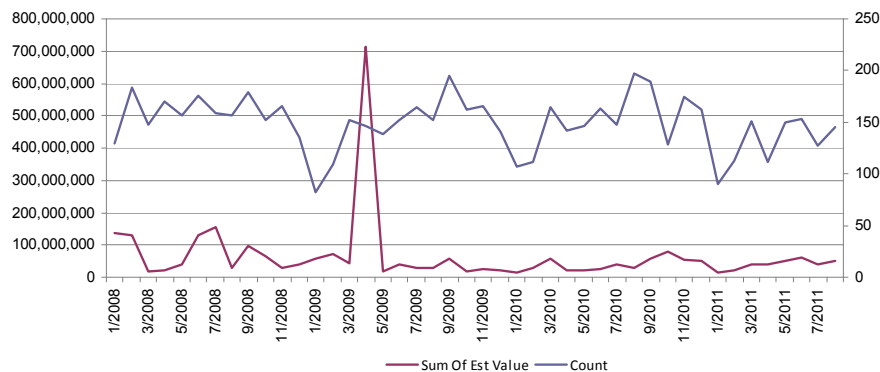
Number and Value of Development Applications  
Received  
Value in \$M



### Development Applications Approved



Council also processed 1,286 Post Development Consent Certificates. The following graph shows the last three years of applications including construction value per month. The peak in April 2009 was a \$698M Coal and Allied Major Project. All other DAs this month totalled \$35,799,417.



## Attachment 1

### 2010/2011 Community Grants and Assistance Program

s428 (2 (l))

Category	Organisation	Activity	Grants Total 2010/2011	Subsidy Program	Recommended Grants and Subsidy Total
Arts and Culture	Conda Incorporated	32nd City of Newcastle Drama Awards	\$5,700.00	3,300	\$9,000.00
Arts and Culture	Hunter Writers Centre	Newcastle Poetry Prize	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Arts and Culture	Italian Welfare Organisation	Racconta la tua storia	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Arts and Culture	Metropolitan Players	The Boy Form Oz	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Arts and Culture	Newcastle Community Art Centre	Emerging Artists Prize	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Arts and Culture	Newcastle Festival Opera	Bernstein's <i>Candide</i>	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Arts and Culture	NSW DET	Star Struck	\$8,800.00	\$0.00	\$8,800.00
Arts and Culture	Orange Pekoe Productions	"The Pillow-Book."	\$0.00	\$1,496.00	\$1,496.00
Arts and Culture	Orchestra Nova	Kaleidoscope Orchestral Concert	\$0.00	\$1,460.00	\$1,460.00
Arts and Culture	University of Newcastle Services	Cultural Awakenings Festival	\$4,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$5,600.00
Sub-total			\$26,500.00	\$16,256.00	\$42,756.00
City Revitalisation	Junction Business Group	"The Junction — Experience it" event	\$6,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$9,000.00
City Revitalisation	Yarnteen Creative Enterprises	Aboriginal Tourism product development	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Sub-total			\$21,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$24,000.00

Category	Organisation	Activity	Grants Total 2010/2011	Subsidy Program	Recommended Grants and Subsidy Total
Community Service	ARAFMI		\$500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00
Community Service	BCS Food 4 Life	BCS Food 4 Life	\$13,285.00	0.00	13,285.00
Community Service	Community Kitchen	Training program	\$0.00	850.00	850.00
Community Service	Hunter Life Education	Adopt-a-Class	\$900.00	1,050.00	1,950.00
Community Service	Newcastle Temporary Care	Family Fun Day	\$1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
Community Service	Technical Aid for the Disabled		\$5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Sub-total			21,185.00	5,900.00	27,085.00
Environment	Climate Action Newcastle	3rd Smart Energy Expo	\$5,600.00	2,400.00	8,000.00
Environment	Merewether Landcare	Merewether Heritage Park — Design Phase	\$10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Environment	NATF Inc Wildlife Rescue Service	Wildlife Rescue Discovery Day	\$4,550.00	1,050.00	5,600.00
Sub-total			\$20,150.00	3,450.00	23,600.00
Events	Maryland Activities Group	Flights, Kites and Wheels Event	\$4,285.00	0.00	4,285.00
Events	Mattara Festival of Newcastle Inc	Mattara Festival	\$20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Events	MG Car Club	MG National Meeting	\$5,000.00	75.00	5,075.00
Events	Newcastle Herald	Carols by Candlelight	\$6,000	2,500	8,500
Events	Newcastle Maritime Museum Society	Newcastle Maritime Festival	\$25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
Events	Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge	Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge	\$4,400.00	0.00	4,400.00



Category	Organisation	Activity	Grants Total 2010/2011	Subsidy Program	Recommended Grants and Subsidy Total
Events	Rainbow Visions- Hunter	Rainbow Festival	\$7,350.00	1,275.00	8,625.00
Events	Stockton SLSC	Australia Day Harbour Swim	\$7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
Sub-total			79,535.00	3,850.00	83,385.00
Sport	Hunter Academy of Sport	NIB Hunter Festival of Sport	\$5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Sport	Hunter Hurricanes	Hunter Hurricanes Home Game Series	\$0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Sport	Hunter United Diving Academy	State Age Diving Championships	\$1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
Sport	Newcastle and District Tennis Association	City of Newcastle Open Tennis Championship	\$5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Sport	Newcastle City Archers	Newcastle Festival of Archery	\$1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Sport	Newcastle Junior Cricket Association	Representative Carnivals	\$5,000.00	600.00	5,600.00
Sport	Newcastle National Park Croquet Club Inc	Annual Croquet Carnival	\$1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Sport	Newcastle Outrigger Canoe Club	State Outrigger Canoe Sprint Regatta	\$2,150.00	200.00	2,350.00
Sport	Newcastle Rowing Club	Annual District Regatta	\$1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Sport	Triathlon NSW	Newcastle Olympic Distance Triathlon	\$5,000.00	2,500.00	7,500.00
Sub-total			\$27,150.00	\$9,800.00	\$36,950.00
TOTAL			\$196,020.00	\$41,756.00	\$237,776.00

Council also agreed to fund commitments previously approved through multi-year agreements for 2010-11, and enter into Funding Agreements with the applicants, subject to successful acquittal of their 2009-10 contracts:

Category	Organisation	Event/Project	Grants Total 2010-11	Subsidy Total	Grants and Subsidy 2010/2011
Arts and Culture	Tantrum theatre Co-op	Tantrum Artistic Development	\$16,660.00	\$0	\$16,660.00
Category sub-total			\$16,660.00	\$0	
Community Service	Hunter Surf Lifesaving	Community Education Program	\$15,000.00	\$0	\$15,000.00
Category sub-total			\$15,000.00	\$0	
Events	Ethnic Communities Council	Australia Day Fiesta	\$19,500.00	\$1,000	\$20,500.00
Events	New Lambton Chamber of Commerce	New Lambton Garden and Lifestyle Festival	\$3,000.00	\$800	\$3,800.00
Events	Newcastle A. H. and I. Association	Newcastle Show	\$12,500.00	\$0	\$12,500.00
Events	Octapod — This Is Not Art	This is Not Art festival	\$18,500.00	\$0	\$18,500.00
Events	Shoot Out Film Festival	The Shoot Out 24 hour Filmmaking Festival	\$14,000.00	\$0	\$14,000.00
Events	Surfest	Surfest Wine and Waves Festival	\$20,000.00	\$0	\$20,000.00
Category sub-total			\$87,500.00	\$1,800	\$89,300.00
Sport	African Lions	African Lions	\$10,000.00	0	\$10,000.00
Category sub-total			\$10,000.00	0	\$10,000.00
Total			\$129,160.00	\$1,800	\$130,960.00

## Attachment 2

### Contracts awarded greater than \$150,000

s428 (2) (h)

Contractor Name	Description of goods or service	Contract price or estimate*
North Construction and Building Pty Ltd	No 2 Sportsground Redevelopment – construction contract	\$4,916,641.33
3 contractors accepted *	Road Pavement Repair Services – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$4,800,000.00
48 contractors accepted *	Hired Plant and Trucks – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$4,700,000.00
TRUenergy Pty Ltd *	Electricity supply — contestable sites	\$4,000,000.00
Iveco Trucks Australia Ltd	Supply 10 side loading waste collection vehicles	\$3,756,569.00
Sulo MGB Australia	Supply of mobile garbage bins	\$3,378,485.00
ISIS Group Pty Ltd	Newcastle Museum Redevelopment — exhibition fit-out	\$2,615,204.00
6 suppliers accepted *	Library Books and Materials – Standing offer contract – 3 years	\$2,400,000.00
Optus Mobile Pty Ltd *	Integrated Communications (VoIP) – mobile services – 6 years	\$1,836,000.00
Ipera Communications Pty Ltd *	Integrated Communications (VoIP) – IP Network provisioning and management – 6 years	\$1,728,000.00
7 contractors accepted *	Ready Mixed Concrete – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$1,600,000.00
Integ Communication Solutions Pty Ltd *	Integrated Communications (VoIP) – hardware – 6 years	\$1,559,000.00
Infor Global Solutions (ANZ) Pty Ltd	Corporate Asset Management System	\$1,234,460.00
2 contractors accepted *	Road Pavement Rejuvenation Services – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$1,200,000.00
Ticketek Pty Ltd *	Civic Precinct Ticketing Services <income payable to council (estimate)>	\$1,200,000.00
Timberline Cabins Pty Ltd	Stockton Beach Tourist Park — Cabin Procurement Stage 1	\$1,179,142.72
3 contractors accepted *	Sprayed Bituminous Services – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$1,000,000.00
5 contractors accepted *	Asphaltic road surfacing services and materials – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$1,000,000.00
Reino International Pty Ltd *	Ticket Parking Machines – standing offer contract – up to 3 years	\$1,000,000.00
Mental Media Pty Ltd	Newcastle Museum Redevelopment multi media AV presentation	\$755,000.00
Sea Coatings Australia Pty Ltd	Queens Wharf – steel piles corrosion protection	\$742,950.00
Corporate Express Ltd *	Office Supplies — 2 years	\$650,000.00
5 contractors accepted *	Road base and sub base materials – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$600,000.00

Contractor Name	Description of goods or service	Contract price or estimate*
Zipcom Pty Ltd t/a Newcastle Hino	Supply of two waste collection vehicles	\$569,722.24
MacDonald Johnson Pty Ltd	Supply of two road suction sweepers	\$547,160.00
Civica Pty Ltd	Property Information Management System – Stage 2	\$523,764.00
PlayRope Pty Ltd	Lambton Swim Centre — Aquatic Playground Design and Construct	\$495,607.75
C & W Constructions Pty Ltd	Stockton Beach Tourist Park – Stage 1 Civil and Services Construction	\$492,448.00
CBS Refurbishment Pty Ltd	Foreshore Carriage Sheds — structural upgrade	\$425,502.00
3 contractors accepted *	Soils – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$400,000.00
Data#3 Ltd *	Microsoft software licences – 3 years	\$400,000.00
LPMA – Soil Conservation Service	Riverbank restoration works Hexham	\$399,390.00
Ipera Communications Pty Ltd *	Integrated Communications (VoIP) – fixed line services – 6 years	\$396,000.00
Concrete Skate Parks Pty Ltd	Wallsend Park Skate Park — construction	\$384,000.00
Holcim Australia Pty Ltd t/a Humes *	Pre-cast Concrete Products – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$350,000.00
Hudson Caterers	Swim Centres (x 4) — turnstile attendant / kiosk services – 2 years	\$281,165.70
2 contractors accepted *	Mulch – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$280,000.00
Bruce Raffan Pty Ltd	Occupational Health Physician Services – 2 years	\$274,560.00
F & D deVitis	Heaton Park Grandstand — alterations and additions	\$265,730.00
D & P Fencing Contractors *	Road Safety Barrier Systems – standing offer contract – 1 years	\$250,000.00
Hi Vis Signs & Safety *	Supply of traffic signs and equipment	\$250,000.00
Knock Contractors Pty Ltd	Teralba Road — water main construction	\$232,735.00
Fair-Go Services Pty Ltd	Lambton Swim Centre — turnstile attendant / cashier services	\$217,643.85
2 contractors accepted *	Stormwater Pipes CCTV inspection and reporting – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$210,000.00
BMT WBM Pty Ltd	Newcastle coastal zone hazard and management studies	\$207,240.00
3 contractors accepted *	Road pavement crack sealing services – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$200,000.00
Auspsych NSW Pty Ltd *	Employee Assistance Program Services	\$200,000.00
Sharpe's Tractor Centre Pty Ltd	Supply of three (3) parks tractors	\$172,115.90
4 contractors accepted *	Turf – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$170,000.00
LPMA – Soil Conservation Service	Ironbark Creek Rehabilitation — Lower Reserve Wallsend	\$158,650.00
C & W Constructions Pty Ltd	Queens Wharf — timber kerb replacement on finger wharf	\$154,132.00
D & P Fencing	Guard Rail Installation at three locations	\$152,163.00
3 contractors accepted *	Road line marking services – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$150,000.00

Contractor Name	Description of goods or service	Contract price or estimate*
3 contractors accepted *	Sands and rock dust – standing offer contract – 2 years	\$100,000.00
JRAJ Pty Ltd trading as Woodberry Haulage and Earthmoving	Shortland Esplanade Area B — sub-horizontal drains construction	\$160,327.00
Michael Haley Precision Parks & Concreting	Empire Park Skate Park — Construction	\$505,553.20

Notes: \* means the amount is an estimate with some estimates based on historical expenditure. All amounts are GST inclusive.



## Attachment 3

### Formal applications received during the previous financial year under the Freedom of Information Act and carried forward to this financial year

1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

#### Section A – new FOI applications

Number of FOI applications received, discontinued or completed	Number of FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
A1 New	25	Nil	29	Nil	54	Nil
A2 Brought forward	2	3	2	4	4	7
A3 Total to be processed	27	3	31	4	58	7
A4 Completed	21	3	18	4	39	7
A5 Discontinued	2	Nil	8	Nil	10	Nil
A6 Total processed	23	3	26	4	49	7
A7 Unfinished (carried forward)	4	Nil	5	Nil	9	Nil

#### Section B – discontinued applications

Why were FOI applications discontinued?	Number of discontinued FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
B1 Request transferred out to another agency (s.20)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B2 Applicant withdrew request	2	Nil	8	Nil	10	Nil
B3 Applicant failed to pay deposit (s.22)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B4 Applicant failed to amend a request that would have been an unreasonable diversion of resources to complete (s.25(1)(a1))	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B5 Total discontinued	2	Nil	8	Nil	10	Nil

## Section C – completed applications

What happened to completed FOI applications?	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
C1 Granted or otherwise available in full	4	1	6	Nil	10	1
C2 Granted or otherwise available in part	16	2	11	4	27	6
C3 Refused	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
C4 No documents held	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil
C5 Total completed	21	3	18	4	39	7

## Section D – applications granted or otherwise available in full

How were the documents made available to the applicant?	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in full)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
All documents requested were:						
D1 Provided to the applicant	4	1	6		10	1
D2 Provided to the applicant's medical Practitioner	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
D3 Available for inspection	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
D4 Available for purchase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
D5 Library material	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
D6 Subject to deferred access	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
D7 Available by a combination of any of the reasons listed in D1-D6 above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
D8 Total granted or otherwise available in full	4	1	6	Nil	10	1

## Section E – applications granted or otherwise available in part

How were the documents made available to the applicant?	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in part)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
Documents made available were:						
E1 Provided to the applicant	16	2	11	4	27	6
E2 Provided to the applicant's medical Practitioner	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E3 Available for inspection	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E4 Available for purchase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E5 Library material	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E6 Subject to deferred access	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E7 Available by a combination of any of the reasons listed in E1-E6 above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E8 Total granted or otherwise available in part	16	2	11	4	27	6

## Section F – refused FOI applications

Why was access to the document refused?	Number of refused FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
F1 Exempt	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
F2 Deemed refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
F3 Total refused	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

## Section G – exempt documents

Why were the documents classified as exempt?	Number of FOI applications (refused or access granted or otherwise available in part only)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
Restricted documents:	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
G1 Cabinet documents (Clause 1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G2 Executive Council documents (Clause 2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G3 Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety (Clause 4)	9	1	3	1	12	2
G4 Documents affecting counter terrorism (Clause 4A)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Documents requiring consultation:						
G5 Documents affecting intergovernmental relations (Clause 5)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G6 Documents affecting personal affairs (Clause 6)	5	1	1	2	6	3
G7 Documents affecting business affairs (Clause 7)	1	Nil	6	1	7	1
G8 Documents affecting the conduct of research (Clause 8)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Documents otherwise exempt:						
G9 Schedule 2 exempt agency	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G10 Documents containing information confidential to Olympic Committees (Clause 22)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G11 Documents relating to threatened species, Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places (Clause 23)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G12 Documents relating to threatened species conservation (Clause 24)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Why were the documents classified as exempt?	Number of FOI applications (refused or access granted or otherwise available in part only)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
G13 Plans of management containing information of Aboriginal significance (Clause25)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G16 Documents subject to contempt (Clause 17)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G17 Documents arising out of companies and securities legislation (Clause 18)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G18 Exempt documents under interstate FOI Legislation (Clause21)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G19 Documents subject to legal professional privilege (Clause 10)	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
G20 Documents containing confidential material (Clause 13)	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
G21 Documents subject to secrecy provisions (Clause 12)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G22 Documents affecting the economy of the State (Clause 14)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G23 Documents affecting financial or property Interests of the State or an agency (Clause 15) G24Documents concerning operations of agencies (Clause 16)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G25 Internal working documents(Clause 9)	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
G26 Other exemptions (eg Clauses 20, 22A and 26)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G27 Total applications including exempt documents	17	Nil	11	Nil	27	Nil



## Section H – Ministerial certificates

How many Ministerial certificates were issued?	Number of Ministerial certificates	
	(previous year)	(current year)
H1 Ministerial certificates issued	Nil	Nil

## Section I – formal consultations

How many formal consultations were conducted?	Number	
	(previous year)	(current year)
I1 Number of applications requiring formal consultation	1	4
I2 Number of persons formally consulted	52	6

## Section J – amendment of personal records

How many applications for amendment of personal records were agreed or refused?	Number of applications for amendment of personal records	
	(previous year)	(current year)
J1 Agreed in full	Nil	Nil
J2 Agreed in part	Nil	Nil
J3 Refused	Nil	Nil
J4 Total	Nil	Nil

## Section K – notation of personal records

How many applications for notation of personal records were made (s.46)?	Number of applications for notation	
	(previous year)	(current year)
K1 Applications for notation	Nil	Nil

## Section L – fees

What fees were assessed and received for FOI applications processed (excluding applications transferred out)?	Assessed costs		Fees received	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
L1 All completed applications	\$2,175	\$570	\$2,175	\$570

## Section M – fee discounts

How many fee waivers or discounts were allowed and why?	Number of FOI applications (where fees were waived or discounted)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
M1 Processing fees waived in full	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
M2 Public interest discounts	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	3	Nil
M3 Financial hardship discounts – pensioner or child	6	Nil	1	Nil	7	Nil
M4 Financial hardship discounts – non profit organisation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
M5 Total	6	Nil	4	Nil	10	Nil

## Section N – fee refunds

How many fee refunds were granted as a result of significant correction of personal records?	Number of refunds	
	(previous year)	(current year)
N1 Number of fee refunds granted as a result of significant correction of personal records	Nil	Nil

## Section O – days taken to complete request

How long did it take to process completed applications? (Note: calendar days)	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
O1 0-21 days – statutory determination period	11	Nil	4	1	15	1
O2 22-35 days – extended statutory determination period for consultation or retrieval of archived records (S.59B)	6	2	7	Nil	13	2
O3 Over 21 days – deemed refusal where no extended determination period applies	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	3	Nil
O4 Over 35 days – deemed refusal where extended determination period applies	4	1	4	3	8	4
<b>O5 Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>

## Section P – processing time: hours

How long did it take to process completed applications?	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
P1 0-10 hours	17	3	12	2	29	5
P2 11-20 hours	4	Nil	4	1	8	1
P3 21-40 hours	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	2	Nil
P4 Over 40 hours	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>P5 Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>

## Section Q – number of reviews

How many reviews were finalised?	Number of completed reviews	
	(previous year)	(current year)
Q1 Internal reviews	2	1
Q2 Ombudsman reviews	Nil	Nil
Q3 ADT reviews	Nil	Nil

## Section R – results of internal reviews

Grounds on which the internal review was requested	Number of internal reviews					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied
R1 Access refused	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
R2 Access deferred	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R3 Exempt matter deleted from documents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R4 Unreasonable charges	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R5 Failure to consult with third parties	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R6 Third parties views disregarded	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R7 Amendment of personal records refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R8 Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

## GIPA Act

### Schedule 2

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Members of Parliament	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private sector business	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not for profit organisations or community groups	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	2	3	Nil	2	2	Nil	Nil	1
Members of the public (other)	4	17	1	1	4	3	Nil	Nil

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications	2	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	9	10	1	3	7	4	Nil	1
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	1	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



**Table C: Invalid applications**

Reason for invalidity	No of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	1
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	Nil
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	Nil
Total Number of invalid applications received	1
Invalid applications subsequently became valid applications	

**Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act**

	Number of times consideration used
Overriding secrecy laws	Nil
Cabinet information	Nil
Executive Council information	Nil
Contempt	Nil
Legal professional privilege	2
Excluded information	Nil
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	Nil
Transport safety	Nil
Adoption	Nil
Care and protection of children	Nil
Ministerial code of conduct	Nil
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	Nil

**Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of Act**

	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	5
Law enforcement and security	7
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	6
Business interests of agencies and other persons	Nil
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	Nil
Secrecy provisions	Nil
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	Nil

Table F: Timeliness

	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	43
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	Nil
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	4
Total	47

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	Nil	Nil	Nil
Review by Information Commissioner	1	1	2
Internal review following recommendation under Section 93 of Act	Nil	Nil	Nil
Review by ADT	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	1	2

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	Nil
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	Nil
Total	Nil

## Attachment 4 — DLG Compliance Matrix

Compliance Area		Act/Reg	Compliance	Page No
Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2005				
1	Completed within 5 months after end of financial year	s428(1)	15 November 2011	N/A
2	Copy provided to the Minister for Local Government (via the Department of Local Government)	s428(3)	30 November 2011	N/A
3	Copy of council's audited financial reports	s428(2)(a)	✓	Attached
4	Amount of rates and charges written off during the year	cl132	✓	52
5	Comparison of actual performance against projected performance of its principal activities measured in accordance with the management plan	s428(2)(b)	✓	56
6	Includes statement of reasons for any difference (check consistent with management plan — Module 1)	s428(2)(b)	✓	49
7	Report as to the state of the environment in the area (see separate checklist for specifics)	s428(2)(c) cl218-226	✓	N/A
8	Report on condition of public works (including public buildings, public roads and water, sewerage and drainage works) (check consistent with asset management plan and capital works program — Module 3)	s428(2)(d)	✓	13
	• Public works report includes estimate of amount of money required to bring the works up to a satisfactory standard	s428(2)(d)(i)	✓	15
	• Public works report includes estimate of annual expense of maintaining the works at that standard	s428(2)(d)(ii)	✓	
	• Public works report includes council's program of maintenance for that year	s428(2)(d)(iii)	✓	
9	Summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings	s428(2)(d)(e)	✓	66
10	Summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and result	s428(2)(e)	✓	66
11	Total amount of money spent on mayoral and councillor fees	s428(2)(f)	✓	62
12	Council's policy on the provision of facilities for use by councillors and the payment of councillors' expenses	s428(2)(f)	✓	63
13	Details of overseas visits by councillors, council staff or other persons representing council	s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(a)	✓	62
14	Total amount of money expended during that year on the provision of councillor facilities and the payment of councillor expenses, including separate details of the total cost of:	s428(2)(f) cl217(1)(a1)	✓	63
	• Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors	cl217(1)(a1)(i)	✓	63
	• Telephone calls made by councillors	cl217(1)(a1)(ii)	✓	
	• Attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars	cl217(1)(a1)(iii)	✓	

Compliance Area		Act/Reg	Compliance	Page No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training of councillors and provision of skill development</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(a1)(iv)	✓	63
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interstate visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(a1)(v)	✓	63
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(a1)(vi)	✓	62
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(a1)(vii)	✓	63
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a councillor</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(a1)(viii)	✓	63
15	Statement of the number of senior staff employed by the council during the year	s428(2)(g)	✓	65
16	Statement of the total remuneration comprised in remuneration packages of each senior staff member employed during the year. Includes for each such member, a total of the following:	s428(2)(g) cl217(1)(b)	✓	66
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total value of salary component of package</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(b)(i)	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total mount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary component</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(b)(ii)	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total employer's contribution to superannuation (salary sacrifice or employers contribution)</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(b)(iii)	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total value non-cash benefits</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(b)(iv)	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits</li> </ul>	cl217(1)(b)(v)	✓	
17	Details of contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000. Includes:	s428(2)(h)	✓	13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name of Contractor</li> </ul>	s428(2)(h)	✓	80
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature of goods or services supplied</li> </ul>	s428(2)(h)	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total amount payable under the contract</li> </ul>	s428(2)(h)	✓	
18	A report on bush fire hazard reduction activities	s428(2)(i1)	✓	38
19	Details of program to promote services and access for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds consistent with principles of multiculturalism (check consistent with social and community plan and management plan — Module 4)	s428(2)(j)	✓	25
20	Details of activities to develop and promote services and programs that provide for the needs of children (check consistent with social and community plan and management plan — Module 4)	s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(c)	✓	28
21	Report on the council's performance in relation to access and equity activities to meet residents' needs outlined in council's management plan (check consistent with social and community plan — Module 4)	s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(d)(i)	✓	25

Compliance Area		Act/Reg	Compliance	Page No
22	Summary of resolutions made under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land. Includes:	s428(2)(k)	✓	15
	• Summary or details of work	s428(2)(k)	✓	N/A
	• Cost of work fully or partly subsidised by council	s428(2)(k)	✓	
	• Total amount by which council has subsidised any such work	s428(2)(k)	✓	
23	Total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 (financially assist others)	s428(2)(m)	✓	53
24	Statement of human resource activities (check consistent with human resources plan — Module 5)	s428(2)(m)	✓	69
25	Statement of activities to implement EEO management plan	s428(2)(n)	✓	70
26	Statement of external bodies that exercised functions delegated by council	s428(2)(o)	✓	62
27	Statement of all companies in which council held a controlling interest	s428(2)(p)	✓	62
28	Statement of partnerships, cooperatives or other joint ventures including public-private partnerships to which council was a party	s428(2)(q)	✓	63
29	List of category 1 business activities. Includes:	s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(d)(ii)	✓	54
	• Statement of expenses, revenues and assets for each activity	s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(d)(iv)	✓	56
	• Comparison of performance with projected performance and statement of reasons for difference for each activity	s428(2)(r) cl217(1)(d)(viii)	✓	56
30	List of category 2 business activities	cl217(1)(d)(iii)	✓	54
31	Summary of progress of council in implementing principles of competitive neutrality	cl217(1)(d)(v)	✓	55
32	Statement as to whether competitive neutrality pricing requirements have or have not been applied to each category 1 business activity	cl217(1)(d)(vi)	✓	56
33	Statement re the establishment of a complaints handling mechanism for competitive neutrality complaints. Includes:	cl217(1)(d)(vii)	✓	56
	• Manner in which publicises and makes known to public	cl217(1)(d)(vii)	✓	N/A
	• Summary of complaints received	cl217(1)(d)(ix)	✓	
	• Subject matter or nature of complaints	cl217(1)(d)(ix)	✓	
	• Statement as to outcome of complaints, includes number disposed of and number outstanding	cl217(1)(d)(ix)	✓	
34	Comparison of actual stormwater management services with projected stormwater management services as proposed in the management plan. Includes	cl217(1)(e)	✓	12
	• Statement of reasons for any difference	cl217(1)(e)	✓	12

Compliance Area		Act/Reg	Compliance	Page No
35	Statement on activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation, including information on:	cl217(1)(f)	✓	74
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the development</li> </ul>	Guidelines on the exercise of functions under the Companion Animals Act	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodgement of date relating to dog attacks with the department</li> </ul>		✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of funding spent relating to companion animal management and activities</li> </ul>		✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Companion animal community education programs carried out</li> </ul>		✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies council has in place to promote and assist the desexing of dogs and cats</li> </ul>	Guidelines on the exercise of functions under the Companion Animals Act	✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies in place to comply with the requirement under section 64 (Companion Animals Act) to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals</li> </ul>		✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off leash areas provided in the council area</li> </ul>		✓	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed financial information on the use of Companion Animals Fund money for management and control of companion animals in the area</li> </ul>		✓	
36	Report on special variation expenditure if required to do so by the instrument made by the Minister	s508(2) s508A	✓	53
Freedom of Information Act 1989 and Regulation				
37	Information included on Freedom of Information activity	s68 cl10	✓	64
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998				
38	Statement of action taken by the council in complying with the requirements of the PPIP Act (check consistent with privacy management plan)	s33	✓	64
39	Statistical details of any review conducted by or on behalf of the council under Part 5. (Part 5 relates to the review of certain conduct being: contravention by council of an information protection principle or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure of personal information kept in a public register)	s33	✓	83
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979				
40	Particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year	s93G(5)	✓	39
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009				
41	Report submitted within 4 months after the end of the reporting year to the Minister for Local Government.	s125(1)	✓	64
42	The annual report of an agency (other than a Minister) required to be prepared under section 125 of the Act must include the following:	cl7	✓	83
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the review carried out by the agency under section 7 (3) of the Act during the reporting year and the details of any information made publicly available by the agency as a result of the review.</li> </ul>	cl7(a)	✓	



Compliance Area	Act/Reg	Compliance	Page No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year (including withdrawn applications but not including invalid applications).</li> </ul>	cl7(b)	✓	83
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year that the agency refused, either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act (Information for which there is conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure)</li> </ul>	cl7(c)	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information, as set out in the form required by the tables in Schedule 2, relating to the access applications (if any) made to the agency during the reporting year.</li> </ul>	cl7(d) Schedule 2	✓	



