

Newcastle

2030

Our Vision for a Smart, Liveable and Sustainable City



Newcastle 2030 Review Background Paper 2013



Purpose

This Background Paper provides information on the review of the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan, a summary of comments received from the community on the seven strategic directions outlined in *The Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan*, and priorities for achieving our shared vision for a smart, liveable and sustainable Newcastle.

This Paper contains a range of views on strategic directions, emerging issues, changing trends and future opportunities for consideration during the review of the strategic directions of the Community Strategic Plan. It also contains observations on the progress made towards achieving our goals and interprets the community indicators used to measure that progress. In addition, the paper highlights fundamental policies, planning instruments and projects that serve to meet the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan and drive us towards a smart, liveable and sustainable Newcastle.

How you can be involved

Newcastle 2030 is a living strategic document that will develop overtime as we re-evaluate or goals and adjust our priorities in line with social, environmental and economic trends. Participation and contribution from all sectors of the community is welcomed and encouraged. You can share your ideas on how we can work towards achieving a smart, liveable and sustainable Newcastle by email at

newcastle2030@ncc.nsw.gov.au.

Introduction

The Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the guiding document upon which all future planning decisions on economic growth, transport, housing, lifestyle and the environment will be based on, in the Newcastle Local Government Area. Incorporating the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights, the CSP articulates a vision for the future of Newcastle which focuses on seven strategic directions to guide planning and growth in Newcastle. Our community Vision for Newcastle 2030 is *'A smart, liveable and sustainable City'*.

Creating and Reviewing our Plan

The inaugural CSP was developed through a process of intensive community engagement over a period of eighteen months and endorsed by The City of Newcastle (TCoN) in March 2011.

Under the Local Government Act (1993), all Councils are required to review their Community Strategic Plans every four years and roll the planning period forward by at least four years so that it is always has a 10 year minimum horizon and is delivered within nine months of the NSW Local Government General Elections. The review of the CSP provides an opportunity to fine tune our objectives and strengthen partnerships between Council, community and other stakeholders.

The review of the CSP commenced in November 2012 with the TCoN City Expo. The Expo provided the opportunity for direct community engagement and encouraged feedback and comments on the seven strategic directions and asked for ideas for the future via postcards and email. TCoN staff spent an evening meeting residents and discussing opportunities and ideas and important issues faced by Newcastle.

In November - December 2012, a survey was conducted through TCoN's Newcastle Voice asking respondents to comment on each strategic direction and the objectives underpinning each of them. 963 responses were received and the data was collated and analysed to assess community's support for the Strategic Directions within the CSP and ideas on future directions. The outcomes of the survey, Expo feedback, postcards and emails have been included in the development of this discussion paper. Following further feedback, a draft of the revised CSP will be placed on public exhibition.

How will the vision be realised

The development of the CSP has enabled us to identify the steps we, as a community, need to take within the next 10 years to move towards achieving our vision of a smart, liveable and sustainable city. The Plan will be continually developed and delivered as a partnership with the community and other agencies working in Newcastle. The Plan will identify strategic actions for Council and provide a framework for other stakeholders to understand the community's vision for the future, enabling them to plan works and services for our local area. This collaboration will ensure that Council and the community are taking steps towards achieving outcomes that will create our vision for Newcastle in 2030.

To measure progress towards our goal of achieving a smart, liveable and sustainable Newcastle, a set of community indicators has been developed for each strategic direction. These indicators are measured using data collected by Council, government and community organisations, and give us an understanding of how effectively we are contributing to positive change.

Why plan for the future

Creating sustainable communities for the future requires planned action. We need to proactively shape the growth and liveability of cities. A sustainable community is not a static end product, but more a state of becoming. Core components of a sustainable community include social cohesion, functional economy, robust environment and sound infrastructure. In planning for the future it is important that we recognise and build on our strengths and assets that exist within the Newcastle community.

A snapshot of Newcastle in 2013

The story of Newcastle is an ever changing one, from its blue collar industrial past, Newcastle has evolved into a sophisticated world class city of opportunity. Its beautiful environment offers a vibrant, energetic and interesting place in which to live, work, invest and visit. As the city has grown and changed so have the characteristics and attributes that define it.

Newcastle is the second largest city in NSW and has an internationally competitive regional economy. Newcastle's significant contribution to the NSW and Australian economy makes it an ideal city for investment and fostering innovation and excellence. The city has a wealth of high quality metropolitan and regionally significant infrastructure focused around transport, government, health and education facilities and is strategically important to NSW in planning terms.

Newcastle is an important Regional Centre in the Hunter Region, which is forecast to accommodate 150,000 more people by 2036. The City Centre Plan (2008) for Newcastle proposes 10,000 new jobs and 6,500 new residents over the next 25 years. Newcastle's population has increased by over 6,000 in the five years from 2006 to 2011, which reinforces the need to plan for steady and sustainable growth.

Demographics

According to the Australia Census of Population and Housing the population of the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) in 2011 was 148,531. This population lives in 65,939 dwellings with an average household size of 2.34. Our population has grown by 6,778 residents since 2006.

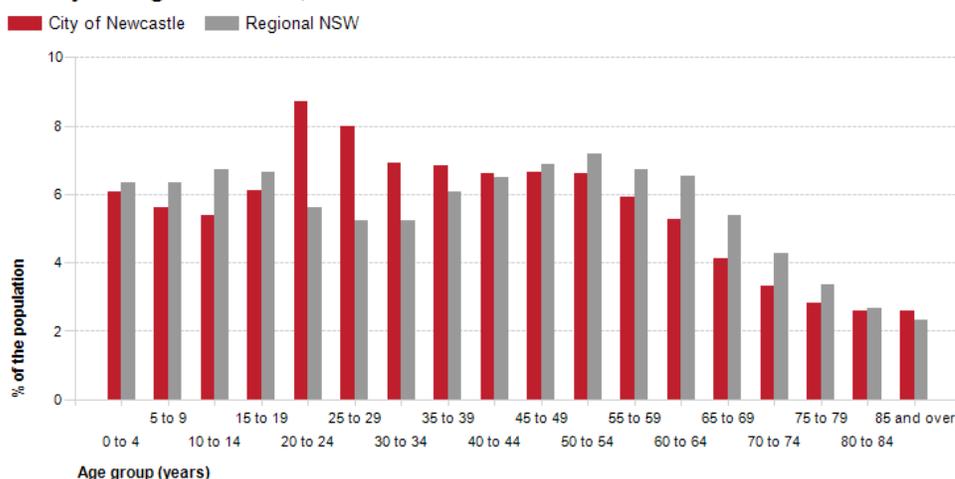
Local Government Area	Total Population 2006	Total Population 2011
Newcastle	141,753	148,531
Lake Macquarie	183,138	189,006
Port Stephens	60,486	69,667
Maitland	61,882	67,478
Cessnock	46,209	50,840
Lower Hunter	493,468	525,522

Table 1: Population per Local Government Area

Analysis of the five year age groups in Newcastle shows a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (under 15) as well as a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (65+) compared to Regional NSW. Overall, 17.0% of the population was aged between 0 and 15, and 15.4% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 19.4% and 18.0% respectively for regional NSW.

The population age structure from the 2011 Census provides key insights into the level of demand for age based services and facilities. It is also an indicator of Newcastle's residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future.

Five year age structure, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts.



Figure1: Five year age structure for City of Newcastle and Regional NSW, 2011

Our strengths

Newcastle has undergone significant change over the past 30 years. Previously based on heavy industry, the city's economy has now diversified, with education, health care and finance sectors all experiencing strong growth. In addition to economic growth, the past decade has seen Newcastle's local government area (LGA) experience a sustained population increase.

Newcastle has a unique combination of attractive natural attributes associated with its location on a peninsula between the Pacific Ocean and the Hunter River. The city's natural setting is characterised by varied topography and complemented by an existing built form that is rich in character, defined by a distinctive mix of historic and character buildings lining pedestrian-scaled streets.

The emerging creative industries sector driving growth and commercial activity in the city centre is building a reputation for Newcastle as a culturally rich and vibrant city. Artists, designers, small businesses and community groups are attracting people back into the city to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and support local businesses.

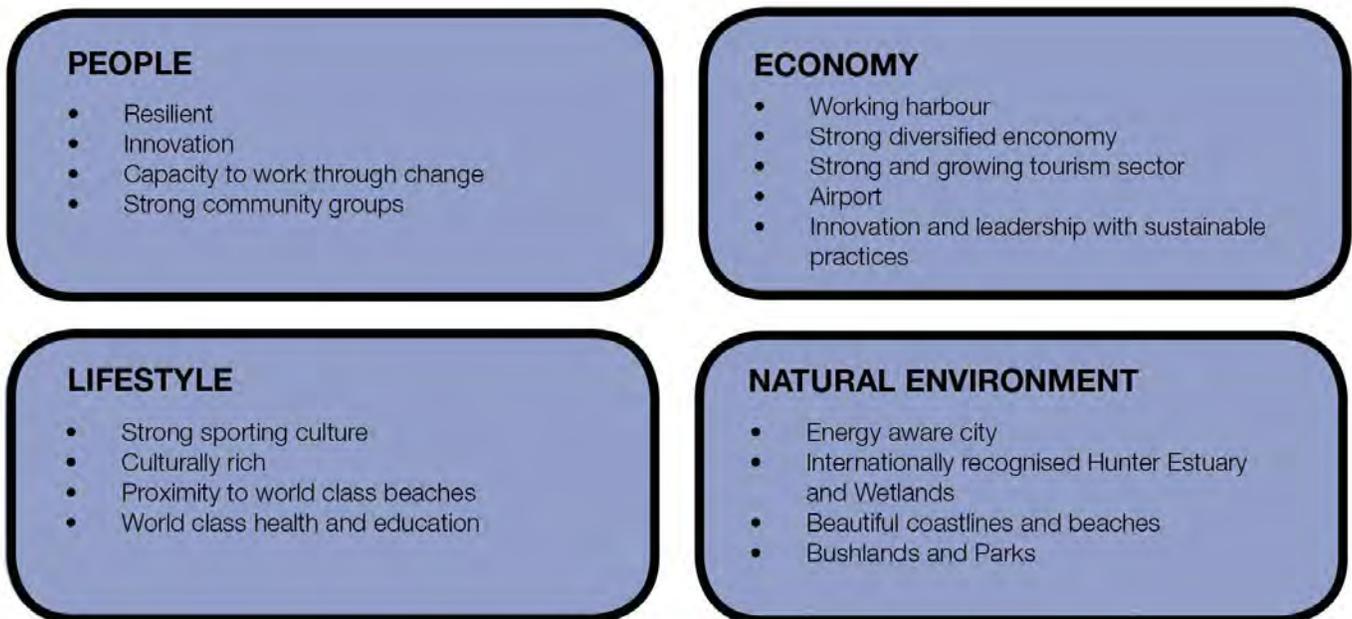


Figure 2: Newcastle's strengths

Challenges for the future

A number of current and emerging challenges have been identified through the 2012 - 2013 consultation period. These challenges have the potential to impact on the well-being of the community and will be recognised when planning for the future.

A growing and ageing population

Over the past decade, our population has surged with significant growth in Newcastle's western corridor. Our future population is predicted to steadily increase to 174,200 by 2031 (Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006-31 Planning NSW). The Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (Planning NSW) has responded to this growth forecast and changes in the demand for housing with the suggestion of an additional 20,500 dwellings across Newcastle over the next two decades. Newcastle's elderly population is projected to increase by 50 per cent in the number of people aged over 65. This age group is currently 15.4 per cent of the population and is forecast to increase to 21 per cent by 2031.

Our changing environment

Our environmental challenges include increasing development pressures on our bushland, waterways and coastline alongside increasing demands for recreation opportunities in the natural environment. Protecting and managing the biodiversity and conservation values of key green corridors will continue to be a challenge for the whole region. The long-term effects of climate change and the impacts of declining global oil reserves known as peak oil are major challenges for all countries. Global climate changes will impact us locally with increased bushfire risk, reduced water supply, sea level changes, risk of flooding and species extinction. The way in which we respond to these challenges now will shape Newcastle in 2030 and for future generations beyond.

Responding to climate change and peak oil

Increased awareness, education and action in response to these threats will strengthen our resilience as a community. Local research organisations and community groups are actively working towards initiatives to minimise energy consumption and greenhouse emissions. This work will result in a growing emphasis on less oil dependent transport modes, reducing reliance on high-energy use appliances and the employment of renewable energy. Strategies we can adopt in response to peak oil include proactive town planning, higher density living, eating local organically grown food and using non oil-based materials. We have the opportunity to set clear targets and incentives for the growth of sustainable technology and the development and commercialisation of climate change management technologies. We can plan, protect and enhance Newcastle's bushland, waterways and coastline and develop more localised, small scale systems of urban water treatment including water harvesting and recycling.

Renewal corridors

Well-planned urban renewal corridors will provide opportunities for economic growth alongside housing renewal and intensification. These corridors are planned along strategic transport routes and will link strategic centres. The majority of the proposed additional dwellings for Newcastle (20,500) as suggested in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy will most likely be provided along the corridors of Tudor Street (Newcastle West to Broadmeadow), Maitland Road (Newcastle West to Mayfield) and Bruncker Road (Nine Ways, Broadmeadow to Adamstown) with Hamilton, Islington and Mayfield as growing commercial centres.

A revitalised city centre

We are already engaged in a process to boost Newcastle's role as the regional capital. This process to revitalise the city centre incorporates retail, legal, cultural and sporting precincts. Other strategies also underway include increasing the University presence in the city and the further development of key tourism sectors including conference, sporting, cultural and cruise ship markets. Both Council and the State Government are focused on working collaboratively with the business sector to renew our city centre. The Hunter Street Revitalisation Masterplan aims to support better public spaces for the community. It will result in initiatives to bring people, life and amenity back into Newcastle's city centre.

Key planning and growth opportunities for Newcastle

Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

The Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy is a long-term State Government strategy with an implementation plan for the city centre. It identifies opportunities for growth and investment and responds to the need to accommodate up to 12,600 more residents and 10,000 extra workers by 2036. It was developed in consultation with TCoN and key State government agencies. Growth will be achieved through economic, transport and physical improvements including new planning controls that encourage residential and commercial development in the city centre. This will inject vibrancy back into the area through a wider mix of uses, supported by allowing greater density on key development sites.

Lower Hunter Regional Strategy

The Lower Hunter is the sixth largest urban area in Australia and includes Newcastle as well as Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland and Port Stephens Local Government Areas. The NSW Government Department of Planning and Infrastructure has developed a strategic land use planning framework to guide sustainable growth in the region over the next 25 years. This strategy includes the promotion of Newcastle as the regional city of the Lower Hunter supported by major regional centres at Charlestown, Maitland and Raymond Terrace.

Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (LHRS) forecasts by 2031

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- 150,000 more people
- 115,000 more homes
- 60,000 new jobs for the region

Centre	Jobs	Dwellings
Regional City		
○ Newcastle CBD	10000	4000
Major Regional Centres		
○ Glendale – Cardiff	6200	4000
○ Charlestown	4400	3200
○ Maitland	3200	1300
○ Morisset	1600	600
○ Raymond Terrace	1600	300
○ Cessnock	2300	300
Specialised Centres		
○ Airport Precinct	3000	0
○ John Hunter	300	0
○ University	1600	400
○ Pokolbin	1600	0
○ Nelson Bay	1500	1200
Stand –alone Shopping Centres		
○ Kotara	1200	0
○ Green Hills	1500	0
Total	40 000	15 300

Table 2: 2031 job and dwelling projections
(Lower Hunter Regional Strategy)

Transport

Based on the forecasted population growth and a shift in social trends, a change in travel behaviour of Newcastle’s residents and workforce is driving planning and development of sustainable transport networks throughout Newcastle. An improved integrated public transport system that involves a new transport hub at Wickham is proposed and has been identified as a catalyst project for revitalisation and growth in the city centre and surrounding suburbs.

Newcastle Airport

Newcastle Airport and associated developments support an estimated 3,200 jobs and is a significant economic driver for Newcastle and the region. A total of 1,191,944 passengers passed through the terminal during the 2011/2012 financial year providing strong revenue indicators for the LGA and surrounds.

Servicing business and leisure tourism, the increasing demand for regional services spurred steady growth of the Airport facilities and a \$900,000 expansion and upgrade of the main terminal amenities was completed 2012. Newcastle Airport is now implementing a significant growth strategy which includes direct flights to Perth, Adelaide and Cairns and sets the stage for Newcastle to become an international destination.

Port Investment

Newcastle's working harbour plays a major role in setting priorities for expansion and investment into the city. *The Draft Strategic Development Plan for the Port of Newcastle (2013)* was established to guide the development of the Port of Newcastle over the next 30 years. The plan sets out how the port will grow and develop over time taking into account global shipping trends, expected growth in task and volumes of goods, safety, channel and marine access and landside transport needs.

Additionally, *The Mayfield Site Port-Related Activities Concept Plan (2010)* outlines the proposed use of port related land located at the old BHP Steelworks site in Mayfield. The Concept Plan consists of 5 precincts within 90 hectares of portside land and outlines cargo handling infrastructure for containers, bulk, break bulk, project and general cargoes. Economic benefits to Newcastle could see over \$200M in capital investment with employment opportunities of up to 150 construction jobs and 300 full time jobs at operational capacity with potential for additional flow on.

Newcastle University

The University of Newcastle proposed city campus would relocate the University's Faculty of Business and Law from Callaghan into the city. Located close to the planned NSW Justice Precinct, TAFE NSW facilities and the growing commercial centre of Honeysuckle it would promote greater opportunities for work integrated learning and professional engagement; and enhance access, participation and attainment to higher education for Hunter communities.

In March 2012, the University submitted its Stage 2 application to the Education Investment Fund (EIF) Regional Priorities Round. The NSW State Government has previously committed \$25 million to the project. The presence of the city campus would drive residential development, retail growth and leisure investment and would support the development of Newcastle's urban transport system.

Community priorities

The CSP reflects the shared priorities of the Newcastle community with 23 objectives to be achieved across seven strategic directions. The survey conducted by Newcastle Voice in Nov-Dec 2012 confirmed the community's support for these directions, with survey participants rating their support for each of the strategic directions, by providing a score out of 5. Long term planning, responsiveness to community needs, collaborative leadership and improvement in the provision of transport networks remain high priorities.

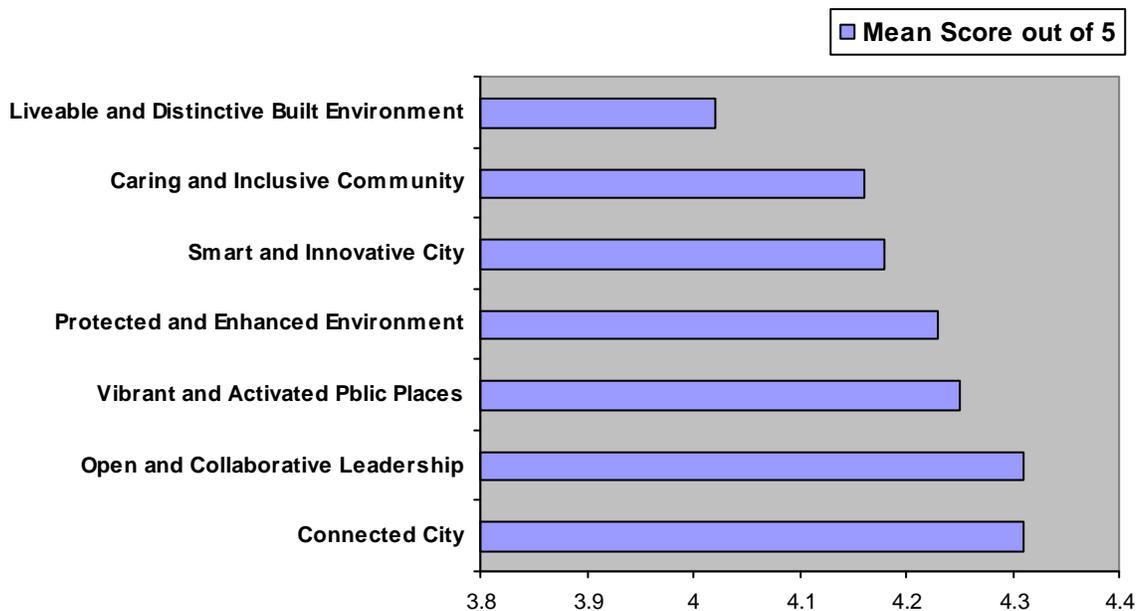


Figure 3: Priorities for Newcastle's community

Long-term planning and vision for the city ranked number one in the "Importance Ratings of Top 10 Facilities and Services" for Newcastle residents.

Response to community needs ranked number four in the "Importance ratings of Top 10 Facilities and Services" for Newcastle residents

Library Services ranked number one in the "Satisfaction Ratings of Top 10 Facilities and Services" for Newcastle residents.

Source: Community Survey March 2012

Strategic directions

Connected City

Transport networks and services will be well connected and convenient. Walking, cycling and public transport will be viable options for the majority of our trips.

Community outcomes

Community outcomes we want to see in our Connected City include a higher use of public transport, with public transport being a valid alternative to driving cars and contributing to a reduction in greenhouse emissions and congestion. Supporting the use of public transport will be the integration of pedestrian paths and cycleways with improved safety and positive health outcomes.

Connected City Objectives	Connected City Community Indicators
Effective and integrated public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use of public transport usage in Newcastle▪ Adequacy of available public transport
Linked networks of cycle and pedestrian paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use of bicycles for transport
A transport network that encourages energy and resource efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Registered electric vehicles

Table 3: Connected City Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

A number of strategic projects have been implemented since the development of the CSP to move us towards achieving our shared vision of a Connected City. Road maintenance, traffic and infrastructure planning and parking are all services undertaken by Council that contribute to making Newcastle a Connected City. Working in partnership with external bodies such as Road and Maritime Services, NSW State Transit and Rail Corp has strengthened the capabilities of transport networks within Newcastle and across the LGA.

Education and awareness of transport options is ongoing and will assist in the goal of encouraging a modal shift in the way we move around the city. As the city experiences growth over the next 20 years, public transport and pedestrian and cycleways will continue to have a major role in keeping the city moving.

The Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan

Adopted by Council in March 2012, this document represents Council's commitment to improved cycling networks within Newcastle. The overall objective of the *Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan* is to make cycling a safe and attractive travel option to facilitate more people using bicycles for more of their trips. This objective supports the *NSW 2021* target of more than doubling cycling mode share for trips at a local and district level in the Greater Sydney region by 2016.

Lower Hunter Transport Guide

Council in association with the Lower Hunter Transport Group, The University of Newcastle and NSW Transport developed the Lower Hunter Transport Guide which provides an overview of how to get around our city. Network maps and timetables are provided for various forms of transport including bus, cycling, walking, train, ferry, taxi and air.

2012 Research outcomes

The TCoN City Expo was held in November 2012 at the Wallsend Library. The Expo provided the opportunity for Council to showcase key projects and services delivered to the community. The Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan was featured and the community was asked to provide feedback on the seven strategic directions and progress to date. Using postcards and email to submit comments, the range of Connected City issues raised by the community included parking, public transport, cycle ways and footpaths. 43% of feedback received through postcards and email related to Connected City.

A similar response was reflected in the data collected through the Newcastle Voice survey. Connected City rated as the strategic direction of the highest importance to the community (mean score 4.31 out of 5).

The underlying objectives to the Connected City Strategy were rated as follows:

- *Effective and integrated public transport:* 94% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *Linked networks of cycle and pedestrian transport:* 78% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *A transport network that encourages energy and resource efficiency:* 76% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important

Future plans and proposals

Hunter Regional Transport Plan

Development of the Hunter Regional Transport Plan including planning for major transport interchanges and replacement of the heavy rail service to Newcastle CBD.

Hunter Expressway

Growth in the western corridor under the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, supported by completion of the Hunter Expressway.

Protected and Enhanced Environment

Our unique environment will be understood, maintained and protected.

Community outcomes

The protection of bio-diversity, maintenance of bushland and urban forest and appropriate access to natural areas are some of the community outcomes we want for a Protected and Enhanced Environment. We need to reduced waste generation, sustainable use of water, improved air quality and increased use of renewables. Our vulnerability to climate change will be reduced and we will increase our level or preparation for risks.

Protected and Enhanced Environment Objectives	Protected and Enhanced Environment Community Indicators
Greater efficiency in the use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Domestic waste diverted from landfill▪ Household water usage▪ Household electricity usage
Our unique natural environment is maintained, enhanced and connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Air quality▪ Canopy cover▪ Coastal water quality▪ Migratory shorebirds
Environment and climate change risks and impacts are understood and managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Greenhouse gas emission from electricity usage

Table 4: Protected and Enhanced Environment Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

Understanding, maintaining and protecting our environment is a key strategy identified in the Community Strategic Plan. Solar energy capture, water recycling and organic food production are initiatives that community groups and residents in Newcastle have undertaken to contribute to the protection and management of their local environment.

Mitigating threats to the environment through resource recovery, pest and weed control and energy efficiency programs are an integral part of Council's environmental management strategies and are supported through partnerships with the community and other organisations.

Several strategic projects and services have been developed to help us move towards a Protected and Enhanced Environment including improved waste collection and disposal processes and a significant review of the Newcastle Environmental Management Plan.

2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan

TCoN adopted the 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan in October 2011. The Carbon and Water Management Action Plan sets targets for Council operations, the business sector, residential sector and education sector to achieve reductions in the four key focus areas of energy, water, waste and liquid fuels by 2020. The document also lists out Council's vision, mission and objectives, its carbon and water footprint and 64 guiding actions for Council operations to implement towards achieving this continuous goal.

Street Tree Master Plan

The Street Tree Master Plan was adopted by Council in February 2012. The plan provides a blueprint for street tree planting in Newcastle. The overall objective of the plan is to improve the selection and health of street trees in Newcastle, recognising the contribution trees make to improving quality of life in urban areas. The plan will provide Council with the information it requires to decide what trees should be planted and where. Over time, it will provide a tree canopy to the network of streets throughout the city which reflects the distinct character of the various precincts and increases the density of the "Urban Forest" throughout Newcastle.

The Newcastle City-wide Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan

The Newcastle City-wide Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was adopted by Council in June 2012. The Plan includes an Implementation Action Plan which covers the proposed actions for the first five years including education initiatives, a complete flood warning system, planning controls, property works and emergency management.

2012 Research outcomes

The range of Protected and Enhanced Environment issues raised by the community included urban forest, water management and community involvement in environmental initiatives and projects. 13% of responses received via postcards and emails commented on Protected and Enhanced Environment objectives and showed strong support for the initiatives undertaken by Council and the community to reduce environmental impacts.

The results of the Newcastle Voice survey rated the underlying objectives to the Protected and Enhanced Environment strategy as follows:

- *Our unique natural environment is maintained, enhanced and connected* 88% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *Greater efficiency in the use of resources* 84% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important

- *Environmental and climate change risks and impacts are understood and managed 70% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important.*

The need for greater community involvement in environmental activities was a strong theme among the verbatim responses received through the Newcastle Voice Survey. Parks, reserves, sportsgrounds and planting and removal of trees also featured heavily.

Future plans and proposals

Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan (2009)

The Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan 2009 (RCP) sets out a 25-year program to direct and drive conservation planning and efforts in the Lower Hunter Valley including the Newcastle LGA. It is a partner document to the Government's Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (LHRS) that sets out the full range of Government planning priorities, and identifies the proposed areas of growth. The RCP sets specific priorities for protecting biodiversity in areas around the Hunter River and along the coastline and creating a green buffer between Newcastle and the Central Coast.

Newcastle Environmental Management Plan

In 2003 Council adopted the Newcastle Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) as a framework to prioritise Newcastle's environmental issues and to guide planning and implementation of priority actions in a coordinated and efficient manner. The Newcastle Environmental Management Strategy will replace the 2003 NEMP. The Strategy intends to direct Council's contribution to the Newcastle 2030 CSP strategic direction 'Protected and Enhanced Environment'.

Vibrant and Activated Public Places

A city of great public places and neighbourhoods promoting people's health, happiness and wellbeing.

Community outcomes

Community outcomes we want to see for our Vibrant and Activated Public Places include activation by all age groups, a range of arts, music and cultural destinations and events safe and vibrant city and neighbourhood centres. We aspire to improved levels of wellbeing through active and healthy communities and well planned public places with suitable amenities and high quality public art and community art. We want Newcastle to be known for its emerging and established artists with high levels of creative activity and expression. We want intergenerational activity that comes with community access and ownership of public space and to see community pride in the city's heritage and culture.

Vibrant and Activated Public Places Objectives	Vibrant and Activated Public Places Community Indicators
Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Adequacy of good quality parks and recreation areas▪ Adequacy of natural areas for pursuit of leisure time activities
Culture, heritage and places are valued, shared and celebrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ People attending community events▪ Satisfaction with heritage conservation in Newcastle▪ Cultural participation
Safe and activated places that are used by people day and night	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Perception of safety in public areas▪ Crime rates

Table 5: Vibrant and Activated Public Places Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

A city of great public places and neighbourhoods that promotes health, happiness and wellbeing as key to driving Newcastle towards a smart, liveable and sustainable future.

Celebrating our culture and heritage and strengthening social connections contributes to a liveable city. Creating safe and activated places encourages use during daytime and night time periods and brings people together.

Since the development of the CSP a number of strategic projects and services have been implemented to deliver Vibrant and Activate Public Places in Newcastle. Improving access to open space and recreation facilities, upgrading libraries and supporting youth services are all important ingredients for Vibrant and Activated Public Places.

Coastal Revitalisation Master Plan

Newcastle's coastline attracts over two million visitors annually. Coastal Revitalisation ensures our favourite coastal places are comfortable for everyone to enjoy. The Coastal Revitalisation work consists of planning, design and construction of improvements on public land along the coast.

In partnership with the NSW State Government (Crown Lands Division) and Hunter Surf Lifesaving, Council is undertaking a long-term improvement program for coastal assets. The total investment in capital works will be \$35.9 million over ten years, with Council providing \$29.3million and Federal and State Government to contribute \$6.6million. Works completed over the last 12 months include: Bathers Way improvements at Bar Beach, Stage 1 of the Merewether Beach Public Domain Plan, Corroba Oval, Stockton, and Council also endorsed the South Stockton and Bathers Way Public Domain Plans.

National Park - No 2 Sportsground

Completed in May 2012, the redevelopment of the No 2 Sportsground provides a multipurpose facility capable of supporting regional, intra and interstate events and productions. The project was promoted by the Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union and Wanderers football club and funded by the Federal Government and Council asset sales. Construction work included a new grandstand, western tiered concourse seating, and construction of new playing field and associated lighting.

2012 Research outcomes

11% of the feedback received via postcards and email related to Vibrant and Activated Public Places. Night-time economy, public events and outdoor dining were key themes.

The data collected through the Newcastle Voice Survey revealed high levels of support for the Vibrant and Activated Public Places strategy with a mean score 4.25 out of 5.

The underlying objectives to the Vibrant and Activated Public Places Strategy were rated as follows:

- *Safe and activated places that are used by people day and night* 93% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections* 82% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important

- *Culture, heritage and place are valued, shared and celebrated* 75% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important

Future plans and proposals

City Centre Revitalisation Action Plan

The City Centre Revitalisation Action Plan identifies public domain and revitalisation projects in the City Centre (East and West) which service the needs of the current population and keep pace with the growth trends we have seen in the past 10 years.

- Revitalising our city centre with the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy, City Centre (Hunter Street) Revitalisation Project and Newcastle NOW.
- Construction of the Newcastle Law Courts complex in the Civic Precinct.
- Extension of The University of Newcastle campus in the city centre with the NeW Space Precinct.

Night Time Economy

The Late Night Economy Discussion Paper has been completed; focussing on Newcastle's current night-time environment, looking at what is working well and areas that could be improved. The discussion paper provides a tool for fostering new ideas and working with the community and business owners to improve the night-time economy in Newcastle. The night time economy includes activities catering for all ages and is not restricted to licensed premises. Night time entertainment can include cafes and restaurants, cultural facilities, shops, markets, theatres, cinemas, pubs, nightclubs, activities in public spaces and a range of no-alcohol activities catering for families, different cultural groups and older people.

Caring and Inclusive Community

A thriving community where diversity is embraced, everyone is valued and has the opportunity to contribute and belong.

Community outcomes

Community outcomes we want to see in our Caring and Inclusive Community include appropriate access to community based services, lifelong learning opportunities and growth in community gardens and farmers markets. We want a city where people know their neighbours, volunteer their time and skills to help others, and actively participate in creating a healthy, more informed and culturally rich community.

Caring and Inclusive Community Objectives	Caring and Inclusive Community Community Indicators
A welcoming community that cares and looks after each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social support ▪ Australian Early Development Index
Active and healthy communities with physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer participation rates ▪ Sense of community ▪ Wellbeing Index ▪ Companion animal ownership
A creative, culturally rich and vibrant community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfaction with local arts, entertainment and culture

Table 6: Caring and Inclusive Community Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

A thriving community where diversity is embraced, everyone is valued and has the opportunity to contribute and belong is the intent of a Caring and Inclusive Community. The CSP has identified three objectives to drive Newcastle towards a Caring and Inclusive Community and acknowledges the provision of services and facilities to the community as key to this strategy. Creating opportunities for all members of the community to engage in social activities, contribute to projects and build strong social networks is a driver for many of the programs and services currently undertaken by Council. The Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee, The Loft Youth Venue and our Senior Citizens and Neighbourhood Centres all play important roles in building a Caring and Inclusive Community.

Place making Projects

Place making is the creation of safe, vibrant public destinations and neighbourhoods: places where people feel a strong sense of ownership in their communities and a commitment to making things better. The Make

Your Place community grants program supported 24 projects during the 2011/2012 financial year. These projects included small infrastructure, creative, community and greening projects, involving 257 community members. The grants program funded \$41, 400 towards these community projects with a further \$92, 200 through voluntary commitments from the community.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Council is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) that will help to support the CSP objective regarding the need to acknowledge and respect local Aboriginal history, cultural heritage and peoples. The RAP ensures Council's reconciliation intentions are translated into measureable actions. The Working Group will launch the RAP during Reconciliation Week in June 2013.

Dual Naming Project

In October 2011 The Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorsed a dual naming project in 2012 to support local Aboriginal community stakeholders in preparing an application to the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) to name major landform features in the Newcastle LGA using Aboriginal references or names known to local Aboriginal communities. This Project aims to raise awareness within the Newcastle LGA of the significant layer of local Aboriginal culture, and the importance of language and place in forming, conserving and preserving Aboriginal cultural identity and sustainable cultural knowledge systems. Naming of sites and features in Newcastle with local Aboriginal names is a reconciliation strategic initiative and finds expression through the commitment by TCoN to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Newcastle, Newcastle 2030, and Newcastle's Community Strategic Plan.

2012 Research outcomes

The Newcastle Voice survey indicated a strong support for the objectives which underpin the Caring and Inclusive Community strategic direction. Strong themes that emerged from through this process related to support and provision of facilities for the arts community, development and delivery of fair, markets and events and the desire to further define the objectives of a Caring and Inclusive Community.

The underlying objectives to the Caring and Inclusive Community Strategy were rated as follows:

- *A welcoming community that cares and looks after each other* 82% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *Active and healthy communities with physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing* 80% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *A creative, culturally rich and vibrant community* 78% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important.

Future plans and proposals

Community Development Program Policy (2012)

TCoN is committed to developing the capacity of individuals, local groups and organisations to participate in planning, decision making and community action in order to improve the lifestyle for the whole community and provide communities with greater control over the conditions that affect their lives. The Community Development Policy sets a framework to ensure the values of respect for individuals and groups; equity of access for all citizens, future celebration of diversity is inherent in community development processes.

NSW 2021 - A Plan to Make NSW Number One

NSW 2021 outlines 32 goal areas for development and planning in the NSW. Several goals within the plan aim to “strengthen our local environment and communities”. These include:

- Goal 24 - Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities
- Goal 25 – Increase opportunities for seniors in NSW to fully participate in community life
- Goal 26 - Fostering opportunity and partnership with Aboriginal people.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

From July 2013, the first stage of the scheme in the Hunter launch area will commence for residents living within the local government areas of Newcastle, Maitland and Lake Macquarie. Disability Care Australia staff will be on the ground from July 2013 to help people transition to the scheme, to provide information and referral services, undertake assessments and work with participants to develop their personal plans and support packages.

Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment

An attractive city that is built around people and reflects our sense of identity.

Community outcomes

Community indicators we want to see in Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment include walkable neighbourhoods with green spaces and a wide range of affordable housing choices supported by multipurpose facilities. We want a balance between retaining heritage and new developments that promotes our local culture and provides connections between the city, harbour, foreshore and beaches. We want to see vibrant, safe streets, energy efficient buildings and a built form that achieves an attractive and productive city.

Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment Objectives	Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment Community Indicators
A built environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfaction with neighbourhood ▪ Listed heritage items
Mixed-use urban villages supported by integrated transport networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reasons for living in neighbourhood
Greater diversity of quality housing for current and future community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Range of housing types available in local areas
Best practice energy and water efficient buildings and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homes with solar photo voltaic systems installed ▪ Council potable water consumption ▪ Council carbon pollution reduction

Table 7: Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

To achieve a Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment we need an attractive city that is built around people and reflects our sense of identity. Newcastle has a unique architectural landscape blending significant heritage buildings with modern, innovative design.

Major Asset Preservation

TCoN administers a Major Asset Preservation Program has been developed to enhance significant assets and buildings under Councils care and control. The works include the City Hall restoration, Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club deck and Cathedral Park headstone stabilisation. The works carried out as part of this program will protect and enhance buildings and structures of significance in the city and have positive impacts on the costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of these assets.

2012 Research outcomes

19% of feedback received via postcards and email was related to a Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment. A major theme among these was revitalisation and street beautification. This theme was also reflected in the feedback via the Newcastle Voice Survey. Specific references were made to restoration and maintenance of heritage assets, eco–design and green efficiency developments and inclusion of green spaces within urban development sites.

Overall, the community showed strong support for the objectives which underpin the Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment Strategic Direction. The importance rating was overwhelmingly in the “extremely to very important” category and the percentage of respondents is as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| ▪ <i>Best practice energy and water efficient buildings</i> | 81% |
| ▪ <i>Mixed use urban villages supported by integrated transport networks</i> | 75% |
| ▪ <i>Greater diversity of quality housing for current and future community needs</i> | 70% |
| ▪ <i>A built environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity</i> | 65% |

Future plans and proposals

Local Planning Strategy (2013)

A renewed Local Planning Strategy (LPS) for Newcastle is currently being prepared and will replace the Newcastle Urban Strategy (prepared in 1998). The LPS will be a comprehensive land use strategy aiming to guide the future growth and development of the City. It will be supported by the latest census and economic data and reflect outcomes of other Council studies that relate to land use. The LPS will support the community’s vision for a smart, liveable and sustainable city as reflected in the Community Strategic Plan (2030) and will ultimately inform land use changes to the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan.

City Centre Revitalisation Action Plan (2013)

The City Centre Revitalisation Action Plan identifies public domain and revitalisation projects in the City Centre, (East and West) which service the needs of the current population and keep pace with the growth trends we have seen in the past 10 years.

- Revitalising our city centre with the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy, City Centre (Hunter Street) Revitalisation Project and Newcastle NOW.
- Construction of the Newcastle Law Courts complex in the Civic Precinct.
- Extension of The University of Newcastle campus in the city centre with the NeW Space Precinct.

Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Strategy Masterplan (2013)

Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Strategy Masterplan provides a strategic framework for the future use of the 11km coastal land within the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA). This Masterplan seeks to enhance coastal and beach precincts, through concept design, investigative and community consultation as well as in depth research and policy review.

Smart and Innovative City

A leader in smart innovations with a healthy, diverse and resilient economy

Community outcomes

Community outcomes we want to see in our Smart and Innovative City include smart energy and contemporary communications services across Newcastle with sustainable regional employment based and an educated and skilled workforce. We want continuous cultural activity across the city, distinctive suburban commercial centres, strong business growth and a mix of small and large business activity for a strong local economy. We want to see growth in attainment of training and tertiary education outcomes as well as an increase in tourist accommodation and length of stay by visitors to the city.

Smart and Innovative City Objectives	Smart and Innovative City Community Indicators
A vibrant, diverse and resilient green economy built on educational excellence and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Research projects undertaken for the green economy▪ Skills in green economy
A culture that supports and encourages innovation and creativity at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Growth in creative industry occupations
A thriving city that attracts people to live, work, invest and visit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Growth in business tourism▪ Economic growth from commercial developmentsOccupancy of major short term accommodation

Table 8: Smart and Innovative City Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

Smart and Innovative cities are leaders in smart innovations with healthy, diverse and resilient economies. The development of projects and partnerships between Council, external bodies and community groups is delivering Smart and Innovative outcomes across the city. The Smart Grid, Smart City program is a partnership between Ausgrid, Energy Australia and The Federal Government's Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, which creates a testing ground for new energy supply technologies and gathers information about the benefits and costs of different smart grid technologies.

Business Improvement Associations

Newcastle's Business Improvement Association model was launched in 2011 to give business operators in urban commercial precincts the opportunity to work together to build economic sustainability and deliver

improved town centre management strategies. The program supports innovation and entrepreneurship and provides surrounding communities with vibrant and diverse precincts in which to live, work and visit.

Newcastle Museum

The Newcastle Museum was opened in 2011 after relocating to the restored tram shed buildings at Honeysuckle. Newcastle Museum has been awarded for its design, environmental sustainability, adaptive re-use of a heritage building and new tourism development.

2012 Research outcomes

Smart and Innovative City objectives are strongly supported by the community and one of the issues raised during this consultation period was the need for improved visitor information services and tourism products. The Newcastle Voice survey received many comments and suggestions relating to tourism as well as suggestions for collaborative projects with other organisations.

The underlying objectives to the Smart and Innovative City Strategy were rated as follows:

- *A thriving city that attracts people to live, work, invest and visit* 91% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *A culture that supports and encourages innovation and creativity at all levels* 78% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *A vibrant diverse and resilient green economy built on educational excellence and research* 70% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important

Future plans and proposals

Newcastle Tourism and Events Plan (2010)

The Newcastle Tourism and Events Plan seeks to add value to the significant work done by the community and businesses in creating, delivering and marketing experiences and events in Newcastle.

The Plan focuses on four strategic areas that will increase the competitive advantage of Newcastle, visitation to and within Newcastle, and subsequent investment and employment from tourism.

National Port Strategy (2011)

Expansion of the Port of Newcastle; including improved freight access and connectivity and development of a freight rail bypass south of Hexham.

National Broadband Rollout (NBN)

The NBN will provide high-speed broadband access to all homes and businesses through a mix of optical fibre, fixed wireless and next-generation satellite.

Open and Collaborative Leadership

A strong local democracy with an actively engaged community and effective partnerships

Community outcomes

Community outcomes we want to see with Open and Collaborative Leadership include high levels of community participation in identifying and achieving local and regional priorities. We want to be an informed and empowered community with an open, accountable and democratic leadership supporting ethical and robust decision-making and a resilient civil society. We want a highly skilled Council workforce delivering community focussed outcomes and improved service delivery that balances customer expectation, value of service and organisational capacity to deliver and provide sustainable local governance.

Open and Collaborative Leadership Objectives	Open and Collaborative Leadership Community Indicators
Integrated, sustainable long-term planning for Newcastle and the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major infrastructure projects
Considered decision making based on collaborative, transparent and accountable leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership of local community organisations
Active citizen engagement in local planning and decision making processes and a shared responsibility for achieving our goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities to express views on community issues
The City of Newcastle: a local government organisation of excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Business Excellence ▪ Overall Council performance ▪ Council reputation as a good employer

Table 9: Open and Collaborative Leadership Objectives and Community Indicators

Progress and achievements

A strong local democracy with an actively engaged community and effective partnerships is the basis for Open and Collaborative Leadership. Over the years Council has worked with the community to increase awareness of projects and services and provide opportunities for citizens to provide feedback and comments on specific issues. Facilitation of community forums and a presence at community events has been an effective tool for meeting and speaking with Newcastle residents in an open and transparent manner.

Newcastle Voice

The goal of the TCoN Newcastle Voice community reference panel is to build and maintain community trust and support, as well as obtain public feedback on issues of importance for the elected Councillors, so that

their decision-making is more informed. Community consultation helps Council plan services to meet the community's needs and expectations, find out what is important to the community, improve services and create better governance through transparency for development and monitoring of policies, strategies and services.

Newcastle Community Profile

Newcastle Community Profile provides demographic analysis for the city based on results from the 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991 Census data. The profile is updated with population estimates when the Australian Bureau of Statistics releases new figures and is delivered online free of charge to the community. The profile can be used to provide an evidence base when writing reports or funding applications, can show trends and changes in the community and will inform planning for service delivery and budget delivery.

2012 Research outcomes

Specific feedback received at the City Expo related to communication and awareness of Council projects and opportunities to get involved with the decision making process. The Newcastle Voice survey reflected similar themes and overall support for the objectives underpinning Open and Collaborative Leadership was strong.

The underlying objectives to the Connected City Strategy were rated as follows:

- *Integrated, sustainable long-term planning for Newcastle and the region* 90% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *Considered decision making based on collaborative, transparent and accountable leadership* 89% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *Active citizen engagement in local planning and decision making processes and a shared responsibility for achieving our goals* 80% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important
- *The City of Newcastle: a local government organisation of excellence* 79% of respondents indicated it is extremely or very important

Future plans and proposals

The Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee

The Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee provides strategic advice and guidance with relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and engages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Local Government. This Committee reinforces Councils commitment made to Aboriginal reconciliation in 1998. Actions include delivery of a range of programs associated with NAIDOC week, Sorry Day and Aboriginal Reconciliation Week.

Youth Council

Newcastle Youth Council provides young people aged between thirteen and twenty five the opportunity to reflect on the interests of young people, raise awareness on issues affecting young people, organise activities in which young people can participate, provide an advisory group for organisations wishing to develop programs and activities for young people and allow for interaction between people with diverse interests and backgrounds. The Youth Council provides an opportunity for young people to develop leadership skills through planning and staging events during Youth Week each year and participating on Council committees such as the Community Safety Panel, Social Strategy Advisory Committee and the Australia Day Committee.

Newcastle Voice

Newcastle Voice is a community consultation tool, which allows Council to engage with a wide cross-section of the community, enabling Council to obtain views from community members, residents, ratepayers and businesses on community issues and opinions that inform Council decisions. In 2011, a two-year trial was completed, and Council determined that this service would continue as a permanent function within Council.

Building Better Cities Committee

Council's s355 Building Better Cities (BBC) Housing Management and Development Committee oversees the implementation of the Building Better Cities Demonstration Housing Program. The BBC Demonstration Housing Program aims to develop affordable housing joint projects with the private housing and community housing sectors that demonstrate innovative approaches to housing within the Newcastle Local Government Area.

Conclusion

We will be a better city in 2030 thanks to the input and insight of the many people who took part in this planning process. Newcastle 2030 identifies a vision for a resilient city - smart, liveable and sustainable. Our vision will build on our strengths and unique assets and drive the momentum of commitment we all share for our city. From this vision, the 10-year Community Strategic Plan will emerge as a blueprint for a better Newcastle, focussing on the seven strategic directions that emerged from the shared planning process.

Council, residents, the business community, government agencies and community groups will all play a role in implementing the actions within the Plan. The City of Newcastle recognises the enormous benefit of planning alongside the community, in helping too address social, environmental, economic and civic issues in an inclusive and effective process.

Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan is about continuing community involvement in decision making, and maintaining a continuous conversation with Newcastle's community, as we aspire to our 2030 vision.