

Date: Tuesday 1 June 2021	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: City Administration Centre Workshop Room 4.1
Meeting No: 8	Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the LGA.	

1. Welcome

Councillor White acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

1.1 Attendees:

Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle
Cr Emma White	Councillor Member (Chair)
Corinne Thompson	A/Regional Director, Transport for NSW
Dan Champness	Director Community and Place, Transport for NSW
Paul McLaughlin	A/Director Regional Planning North, Transport for NSW
Jonathon Clarke	Customer Manager – Urban Planning, Ausgrid (via Teams)
Darren Cleary	General Manager, Hunter Water Corporation
Matthew Murray	Chief of Staff, Lord Mayor’s Office, City of Newcastle
Joanne Rigby	Acting Director Infrastructure & Property, City of Newcastle (Facilitator)
Rachel Howard	Executive Assistant, City of Newcastle (Secretary)

1.2 Apologies:

Mark Dunlop	General Manager, Keolis Downer
Kim Lenox	Community Representative

1.3 Guests:

Natalie McCabe	Senior Strategist Transport (Item 5)
Ben Elhorst	Program Delivery Manager (Item 5)

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

2.1 Nil.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

3.1 Minutes

3.1.1 Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 7 July 2020, Tuesday 6 October 2020, and Tuesday 2 February 2021 endorsed.

3.1.2 Minutes will be placed on City of Newcastle’s (CN) website.

3.2 Business Arising

3.2.1 Nil

4. Performance Review

4.1 The Committee received and endorsed the annual performance report.

5. Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT)

- 5.1 The Committee received a presentation on the RVRT from Natalie McCabe and Ben Elhorst which included an [animation](#) outlining the various stages of the project. During the presentation it was noted that:
- 5.1.1 CN is committed to progressing this project which will provide economic benefit to the entire region.
 - 5.1.2 GHD are engaged to undertake environmental assessment and concept design. Much of the project area is classified as wetland under state planning policy, therefore determination of the development application (DA) is by the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel (HCCRPP).
 - 5.1.3 150 submissions were received (80% in support) following the DA submission in 2020. Issues raised by the HCCRPP in relation to the DA include: environmental concerns, parking, amenities, heritage, and ownership. Matters raised are to be addressed by 25 June 2021.
 - 5.1.4 Early negotiations are underway with the Wetlands Centre regarding a link at this location, and coexistence with the wetland ecosystem and existing users.
 - 5.1.5 The Committee noted the potential constraints at the Tarro access point, and the likely requirement for an overpass at the highway connection. It was noted that all active transport options are considered by TfNSW in planning for major projects.
 - 5.1.6 The DA for a short section of trail adjacent to the Pambalong Nature Reserve and the Newcastle LGA was approved on 26 April 2021.
 - 5.1.7 The Committee noted that the RVRT is a priority project for the Hunter JO, which incorporates ten Councils. The RVRT is also listed in the Newcastle Future Transport Plan. The strength of the project is in the regional benefit - an important factor when developing funding applications.
 - 5.1.8 The project's next steps will include feasibility for the connection to the University of Newcastle, completion of the design for the New England Highway crossing, ongoing liaison with the stakeholders and landowners, funding options, and progressing governance arrangements.
 - 5.1.9 The Committee noted challenges that will need to be addressed in relation to varying asset management models utilised across local authorities.
 - 5.1.10 The Committee noted the importance of integrating land use planning with transport planning at all stages.
 - 5.1.11 The RVRT Working Party does not currently have a meeting scheduled. It was noted that there would be benefit in holding a meeting to provide an update.

ACTION: Natalie McCabe to convene a RVRT working party meeting.

6. Light Rail Update

- 6.1 The Committee received a presentation on Light Rail from Paul McLaughlin. During the presentation it was noted that:

- 6.1.1 The Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan lists the Newcastle Light Rail network extension and corridor preservation as an initiative for investigation. The 2019 strategic business case was based on the four priority corridors within Greater Newcastle: Newcastle Interchange to Broadmeadow/John Hunter Hospital (JHH), Wallsend, Mayfield, and Charlestown.
- 6.1.2 The project objectives are focussed around supporting a new economy, enhancing the environment, open opportunity, and improving access.
- 6.1.3 The Newcastle Interchange to Broadmeadow/JHH is identified as the most suitable corridor to extend as future stages of the light rail network.
- 6.1.4 A movement and place exercise was recently undertaken with HCCDC and CN around the proposed land use and function.
- 6.1.5 The next step will be the formation of working groups. Progress workshops will be established in the next four to six weeks.
- 6.1.6 Further investigations are underway to explore options and potential future staging of light rail to Broadmeadow, followed by JHH as demand is realised. This includes investigating the benefits of implementing other transport improvements such as rapid bus services in the short term.
- 6.1.7 The Committee noted the engineering challenges in relation to the gradient to JHH, and potential corridors.
- 6.1.8 The Committee noted that amending the LEP can be a lengthy process. Engaging with CN as early as possible will be beneficial to project planning and progression.
- 6.1.9 The Committee noted the heritage, property, and traffic challenges at the turn out of the corridor.
- 6.1.10 The Committee noted that Stage 1 of the Light Rail had encouraged investment in the city, equating to approximately \$2 billion worth of private development projects.

ACTION: Listing for the Committee forward agenda – bus network planning across the LGA and future integration with identified Light Rail corridors.

7. Capital Works Program Overview

- 7.1 The Committee received an update on City of Newcastle's capital works program from Joanne Rigby, during the discussion it was noted that:
 - 7.1.1 Recently completed works include Joslin Street Kotara and Llewellyn Street Merewether local centres, Kilgour Avenue Bar Beach stormwater upgrades, Water Dragon Creek rehabilitation, and installation of a round-a-bout at Albert Street, Wickham.
 - 7.1.2 There are a large number of ongoing projects, including Bathers Way South Newcastle Beach, Number 1 Sportsground upgrades, Merewether to The Junction and Scott Street cycleways, Maryland Creek rehabilitation, Barrie Crescent rock bag works and the East End stage one upgrade.

- 7.1.3 Upcoming works of note include the Cowper Street channel upgrades in Wallsend, Howell Street Kotara culvert upgrade, Yangan Drive Beresfield road rehabilitation, Wharf Road carpark extension, and the Mall carpark demolition.
- 7.1.4 CN's 2021/22 budget was endorsed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 May 2021. The capital works program is set at \$90.4 million. Major projects include coastal management works, the organics waste recycling facility, Art Gallery expansion, urban centre renewal, and \$1 million towards tree planting.

8. Stakeholder Updates

- 8.1 Corinne Thompson provided an update on behalf of Transport for NSW:
 - 8.1.1 The Environmental Impact Statement for the M1 to Raymond Terrace motorway will be publicly exhibited in the coming months.
 - 8.1.2 City Road is progressing with tenders for the major project (including intersection upgrade) being assessed.
 - 8.1.3 The Rankin Park to Jesmond Inner City Bypass utility work is underway. Demolition of properties on the western side is near completion.
 - 8.1.4 The recommended corridor for the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor is expected to go out to the community in the next two months.
 - 8.1.5 Consultation has been undertaken for the Hunter Transport Plan which is scheduled for release later this year.
- 8.2 Darren Cleary provided an update on behalf of Hunter Water:
 - 8.2.1 Close to finalising the feasibility assessment for the on site water retention and irrigation scheme for the jockey club. The scheme looks to harvest stormwater on site, which will be a much more cost-effective solution.
 - 8.2.3 The Lower Hunter Water Security Plan is scheduled for public exhibition in August.
- 8.3 Jonothan Clarke provided an update on behalf of Ausgrid:
 - 8.3.1 Frank Roberson, Council Manager sends apologies and will attend the next meeting.
 - 8.3.2 A major project in the next five years will be the Tarro substation replacement project.
 - 8.3.3 Ausgrid have worked with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Councils to introduce a 12-month trial for contestable vegetation management works across all LGAs in Ausgrid's network area.
 - 8.3.4 The Lord Mayor highlighted community concerns in relation to recent pruning works undertaken by Ausgrid contractors. Further to this, Councillors will receive a briefing from Ausgrid's Council Manager in June.
 - 8.3.5 A key Ausgrid initiative this year is the [Jolt EV charging trial](#).
 - 8.3.6 Three community battery trials are underway, including one in Lake Macquarie. Community batteries help deliver cost savings and support the take up of solar power by households and businesses. The trial will last for two years and is six months along.

9. Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for 5.30pm, Tuesday 3 August 2021.

Location - Lord Mayor's Reception Room, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West.

Meeting closed 7.15pm.