

Date: Wednesday 6 April 2022	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor's Reception Room
Meeting No: 10	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 Winney-Baartz opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee's newly appointed community representative John Merrell.

1.1 Attendees:

Members

Cr Peta Winney-Baartz	Councillor Member (Chair)
Cr Deahanna Richardson	Councillor Member (Deputy Chair)
Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor Member
Emmanuel Genlot	General Manager, Keolis Downer
John Merrell	Community Representative
Corinne Thompson	Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW
Frank Roberson	Network Planning & Operations, Council Management, Ausgrid

Guests

Matthew Blandford	Project Planning Coordinator, City of Newcastle (Item 4)
Shannon Drewe	Director for Regional Project Delivery, Transport for NSW (Item 5)
Robert Dudgeon	Acting Manager Assets and Projects, City of Newcastle
Lynn Duffy	Manager Parks and Recreation, City of Newcastle
Rachel Howard	Executive Assistant (Committee Secretary)
Joanne Rigby	Acting Director Infrastructure and Property (Committee Facilitator)
Ryan Tranter	Traffic and Transport Manager, City of Newcastle

Apologies

Lord Mayor Cr Nelmes	Councillor Member
Clint Thomson	Executive Manager Customer Delivery, Hunter Water Corporation

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2. Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 24 February 2022 endorsed.

3. Committee Scope

3.1 Terms of Reference

3.1.1 Terms of Reference as shown at **Attachment C** of the meeting papers endorsed.

3.2 Report – Sports Infrastructure Working Party

3.2.1 The Committee considered the report as shown at **Attachment D** of the meeting papers.

- 3.2.2 City of Newcastle receives a large number of requests for the upgrade of sports facilities. The working party will provide a transparent process for prioritisation of requests in an equitable way.
- 3.2.3 There are increasing opportunities to apply for state and federal funding, however there is a limit to the quantum of works that can be delivered in any twelve-month period.
- 3.2.4 Development of the western corridor, the Hunter Park project, and CN masterplanning require a strategic approach to future sports infrastructure planning.
- 3.2.5 The Committee noted the proposed membership of the working party, and that subject matter experts would be invited to attend working party meetings as required.
- 3.2.6 The Committee agreed that Councillor Winney-Baartz would Chair the working party, with Lynn Duffy, Manager Parks and Recreation as the working party coordinator.
- 3.2.7 The Committee endorsed recommendations A to D of the report.

4. Newcastle Ocean Baths Upgrade - Project Update

- 4.1 Matthew Blandford provided an overview of the project:
 - 4.1.1 The primary goal is to protect the long-term future of the baths as a public recreational and social facility, while preserving the heritage character unique to the location
 - 4.1.2 Extensive community engagement has taken place over a number of years, including via the community reference group.
 - 4.1.3 The final design is strongly focussed on the overall public domain space. The pump station is being decommissioned but will be retained as a feature.
 - 4.1.4 The community value the sandy floor and improved water quality. The concrete cap over excavated rock bottom will raise the pool floor to accommodate climate change impacts and constructability, allowing for sand to accumulate as it currently does.
 - 4.1.5 Construction commenced 14 March 2022, with completion expected April 2023. Covid19 continues to impact procurement.
 - 4.1.6 The community engagement process for Stage 2 will be similar to that of Stage 1, with a focus on incorporating community feedback into the design at each stage.
 - 4.1.7 Detailed project information is available on CN's [website](#).

5. Newcastle Inner City Bypass – John Hunter Hospital to Rankin Park

- 5.1 Shannon Drewe provided an overview of the project:
 - 5.1.1 Rankin Park to Jesmond forms the fifth section of the bypass project. It is approximately 3.4km between Lookout Road at New Lambton Heights and Newcastle Road at Jesmond, to the west of the John Hunter Hospital.

- 5.1.2 Key benefits of the project include:
- increased road capacity,
 - traffic relief on key parts of the road network,
 - reduction in traffic accidents,
 - improved connectivity,
 - travel time saving, and
 - improved movement of freight.
- 5.1.3 The John Hunter Hospital is a key interface for the project. The NSW Government committed \$780m to upgrade the hospital by 2025. There is a requirement for a second access to/from the bypass to service the upgraded facility.
- 5.1.4 Southern utilities construction works are 85% complete. The final evaluation of tender submissions for the main works is underway, construction is likely to commence in Q3 of 2022.
- 5.1.5 The North and South interchanges will be staged, with a large amount of night works and temporary pavements in place. Engagement with the community will be undertaken once the staging is finalised.
- 5.1.6 90% of the construction works will take place 'in the bush'. Once the large plant is established, it is hoped that disruption will be kept to a minimum.
- 5.1.7 CN has identified key nodal cycle points within the project area and would like to contribute to the design process.
- 5.1.8 Keolis Downer noted the phasing of works at the Newcastle Road round-a-bout and the potential impact on bus movements. TfNSW advised that more information will be shared when the main works contractor is engaged.
- 5.1.9 The Committee discussed the proposed bypass access points and likely flow of traffic. The decision not to proceed with additional ramps at McCaffrey Drive was based on extensive traffic modelling.

Action: TfNSW will circulate the traffic modelling which supports the justification for the directions of travel and access points.

6. Stakeholder Updates

- 6.1 Transport for NSW – Corrine Thompson provided an update:
- 6.1.1 The Regional Transport Plan is expected to go out for consultation in coming months. The 20 year plan will provide a blueprint for how TfNSW will proactively respond to changes in land use, population and travel demand across the region.
- 6.1.2 Light Rail – further investigations, planning and refinement is being undertaken to determine a preferred corridor. The working group is aware of the land use pressures in the Newcastle West part of the corridor. The outcome from the corridor investigations should be known around mid-year which will benefit the next steps toward corridor preservation. The regional planning panel recently asked for comment on a potential conflict, however, until corridor preservation work is completed TfNSW are not in a position to comment.

6.1.3 The Kahibah Road and Northcott Drive project is progressing as planned. For the remainder of the project, barriers will be in place and lanes will be narrowed on the north-western side of City Road and the corner of Northcott Drive, and the footpath on the north-western side of City Road will be closed. 40kmh speed limits will be in place in work areas at all times.

6.1.4 A community consultation report summarising feedback received on the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor is being prepared for publication by June 2022.

Action: TfNSW will circulate the proposed route to the Committee.

6.1.5 Contracts for construction of the M1 extension to Raymond Terrace are expected to be awarded by the end of 2022.

6.1.6 Registrations of interest are being called from pre-qualified contractors to widen the Hexham Straight as part of the M1 extension. TfNSW will deliver the project through a collaborative approach known as an alliance contract. Successful contractors are expected to be announced later this year.

6.2 Hunter Water

6.2.1 Nil

6.3 Keolis Downer – Emmanuel Genlot provided an update:

6.3.1 A network service review taking on broad community, stakeholder, and staff feedback has been completed. Timetables have been reviewed with changes implemented to the light rail and ferry services, which will increase support for the night-time economy. The ferry will have 52 additional services per week and provide continuous service during the day.

6.3.2 A new express bus route will connect Charlestown to Newcastle Interchange, operating every 30 minutes during the morning and afternoon peaks. Users will see improved travel time with only three stops on the express route.

6.3.3 Three zero emission buses will join the Newcastle fleet in the coming months. The buses operate across the whole network. This is a key milestone which will help to inform the future transition.

6.3.4 The impact of Covid19 continues to present challenges. A recruitment drive for bus operators is currently underway, further information is available on the Newcastle Transport [website](#).

6.4 Ausgrid – Frank Roberson provided an update:

6.4.1 Community engagement in the run up to the regulatory reset has identified: resilience, renewable, choice, affordable, and reliable as key themes.

6.4.2 Current focus is on replacement of ageing assets, and automation at the distribution level.

6.4.3 The Waratah substation transition is progressing well and is scheduled for completion in nine months.

- 6.4.4 The Committee discussed the recent Hydrogen Hub announcement, and the potential for a Hunter and Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) acts as the infrastructure planner for NSW REZs and coordinates REZ strategic planning and delivery. In November 2021 EnergyCo and DPIE provided a Councillor Workshop in relation to the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and REZ.

7. General Business

Councillor Winney-Baartz encouraged members to submit agenda items.

8. Closing

- 8.1 Next meeting: 5.30pm, Tuesday 5 July 2022
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre