

Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022



Foreword from the Chair



The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee is a critical component of City of Newcastle's efforts to achieve the Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan's vision of a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive global city. The Committee provides advice on a wide range of issues, including economic development, smart city, tourism, climate action, and major events portfolios. In 2022, the Committee received and engaged in discussions and presentations covering the entirety of its remit.

The Committee recognises that achieving the ambitious 2040 Vision requires the support of a broad variety of stakeholders and community representatives. The Committee provides a key forum for bringing together peak stakeholder bodies, Councillors, and the community to inform the City's strategic vision, direction, and programs. The Committee also ensures consistency in advocacy and programming by partners across the City.

In 2022, the Committee was reformed following the December 2021 local government elections. The Committee welcomed new Councillor representatives, Deputy Chair Cr McCabe and Cr Pull, new community representatives John Dunn, Michelle Faithfull, and Tony Sansom OAM, and new stakeholder representative Warwick Jordan from the Hunter Jobs Alliance. Despite these new members, continuity with the previous term of Council has been maintained thanks to the ongoing contribution of existing stakeholder representatives including Vice Chancellor Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, CEO of Business Hunter Bob Hawes, Larry Platt Executive Chairman of the Emergent Group, the Hunter Joint Organisation's Joe James, and Department of Regional NSW's Alison McGaffin.

The Committee has set a bold agenda for 2023, continuing the City's focus on economic development, climate action, the environment strategy, major events, tourism, and the night-time economy. The Committee will continue to work closely with the elected Council and the City of Newcastle team to ensure that the City achieves its ambitious 2040 vision.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, we would like to thank the Committee Facilitator David Clarke and previously Kathleen Hyland for their support. We would also like to thank the City of Newcastle team for providing high-quality reports and presentations to the Committee, which have informed our discussions.

We look forward to continuing our work together in 2023 to deliver on the City's strategic vision.

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Membership



Lord Mayor
Cr Nelmes



Cr Declan Clausen
Chair



Cr Charlotte McCabe
Deputy Chair



Cr Callum Pull
Councillor Member



David Clarke
Executive Director
Corporate Services & CFO



Tony Sansom OAM
Community Representative



John Dunn
Community Representative



Prof. Alex Zelinski AO
University of Newcastle



Bob Hawes
Business Hunter



Alison McGaffin
Regional NSW



Joe James
Hunter Joint Organisation



Larry Platt
Emergent Group



Warwick Jordan
Hunter Job Alliance



Michelle Faithfull
Community Representative

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Objective of the committee

The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee will provide advice and guidance on the formation, development, refinement and implementation of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to the economic development and diversification of Newcastle as a destination leading in innovative technologies, climate action, smart infrastructure, high value investment, and major events and tourism. Continue the implementation of strategies and advocacy emanating from the Lord Mayor's City Taskforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the city's continued economic recovery.

Summary of key items of business considered

Date of Meeting	Business Item
Tuesday 3 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Briefing• Overview of CN's Strategic Framework• Economic Development Strategy• Renewal of Environmental Strategy• Energy Transitions – Renewable Energy Zone (presentation from NSW Office of Climate Change)• Localising the Supply Chain Report• Local Supply Chain
Tuesday 5 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Sustainable Waste Strategy• Economic Briefing• Digital Prospectus• Localising the Supply Chain Workshop
Tuesday 1 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Briefing• Accelerated Development Application Process• NewSkills Program & Evaluation• Digital Prospectus Workshop

Standing agenda items include:

- Adoption of draft minutes and actions arising,
- Economic Briefing, and
- General Business.

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Summary of key achievements

The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee has had a busy year in 2022, engaging in discussions and presentations covering a wide range of topics.

Highlights of the Committee's work include economic briefings at each meeting summarising the current economic outlook for the City and highlighting emerging trends. The substantial amount of job vacancies in Newcastle was first highlighted through presentations to this Committee in early 2022.

To support new members of the Committee, presentations were provided to give a detailed overview of CN's strategic framework, as well as discussions on the economic development strategy and local supply chain. The Committee also focused on renewing the environmental strategy and energy transitions, with a presentation from the NSW Office of Climate Change.

The Committee held a workshop on localising supply chains, which will inform the City's next Procurement Policy, and as well as a briefing on innovation within Council through the accelerated development application process. Additionally, the Committee evaluated the NewSkills program and its impact.

Importantly, these presentations / workshops have enabled the Committee members to take ownership in the process and become strong advocates for the City of Newcastle's economic development program.

This advocacy was catalysed in the joint CEO Connect event that was hosted in partnership between the City of Newcastle, the Committee and Business Hunter. The CEO Connect event brought together 90 CEOs and key business representatives across Newcastle. City of Newcastle CEO (Jeremy Bath) and Business Hunter CEO (Bob Hawes) hosted the evening, with guest speaker Tim Williams. The event included the launch of the Imagine Newcastle Digital Prospectus.

The Committee's work in these areas has helped to inform and shape the City's strategic vision for economic development, sustainability, and inclusive growth.



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Summary of performance and governance

Date of Meeting	Quorum achieved	Members in attendance	Agenda circulated to members and published on CN's website	Declaration of conflicts of interest listed as agenda item	Minutes circulated to members, adopted by the committee and published on CN's website
Tuesday 3 May 2022	Quorate	Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson Cr Callum Pull Prof. Kent Anderson, UON Ms Alison McGaffin, Regional NSW via Teams Mr Joe James, Hunter Joint Organisation Mr Warrick Jordan, Hunter Jobs Alliance Mr Larry Platt, Emergent Group Mr John Dunn, Community Representative Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative Ms Kathleen Hyland, Committee Facilitator	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuesday 5 July 2022	Quorate	Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson Ms Alison McGaffin, Regional NSW Mr Bob Hawes, Business Hunter Mr Larry Platt, Emergent Group Mr John Dunn, Community Representative Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative Ms Kathleen Hyland, Committee Facilitator	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuesday 1 November 2022	Quorate	Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson Cr Callum Pull, City of Newcastle Mr Bob Hawes, Business Hunter Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative Mr David Clarke, Committee Facilitator Prof. Kent Anderson, UON	Yes	Yes	Yes