

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
23 August 2016**

**REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - BRIEFING ON THE REF FINAL
REPORT FROM TRANSPORT FOR NSW REGARDING THE NEWCASTLE
LIGHT RAIL - 23 AUGUST 2016**

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**SUBJECT: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - BRIEFING ON THE REF
FINAL REPORT FROM TRANSPORT FOR NSW REGARDING
THE NEWCASTLE LIGHT RAIL - 23 AUGUST 2016**

**REPORT BY: PLANNING AND REGULATORY
CONTACT: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY**

DIRECTOR COMMENT

Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) announced on 9 August 2016 that the Newcastle Light Rail Project has been approved. The advice from TfNSW to Council is attached at **Attachment A**.

The letter notes, approval documentation includes a Determination Report (incorporating a Submissions Report) plus Conditions of Approval.

The Determination Report outlines the design modifications made following public display of the Newcastle Light Rail Review of Environmental Factors as follows:

- Revised light rail track alignment at Worth Place to make for a smoother ride, faster journey time and to reduce noise. Instead of using ballast in this section, embedded track slab will be used.
- Increased area for stabling and maintenance facilities, including installing a second track across Stewart Avenue for future light rail extensions.
- New pedestrian crossing at Market Street to create better access to the waterfront from the city.
- Removal of the Queens Wharf pedestrian footbridge to create better ground level access and increase pedestrian traffic on Hunter Street.
- Inclusion of a pedestrian crossing at Cottage Creek to improve pedestrian safety and access to the western Honeysuckle precinct
- Relocation of the eastern construction compound further west to open up the corridor at the eastern end sooner, for public space or other uses.
- Augment electrical supply in Tyrrell / Darby Streets to supply light rail which will reduce disruption during construction and is also more cost effective.
- Raised track is no longer being considered in project design.
- Various additional road and traffic changes outlined in the REF will now be the subject of a separate assessment which is currently being undertaken.

The Submissions Report also outlines 87 mitigation measures that will be put in place for the project.

The Submissions Report also highlights the following key steps which will occur in the next six months:

1. Parking Strategy in conjunction with NCC.
2. Urban amenity study in conjunction with NCC.

3. Cycleway Strategy in conjunction with NCC.
4. Road network changes required.
5. Ongoing communication and engagement process, including a business reference group to minimise disruption during construction.

Forty Conditions of Approval have been published for the project. Many are as expected for a major infrastructure project. Elements include:

- Communications - community liaison plan, website, notification process, complaints management and the business activation strategy
- Environmental management
- Noise and vibration
- Sustainability
- Renewable energy offset
- Contamination and hazardous materials
- Erosion and sediment control
- Heritage including a heritage interpretation strategy and heritage survey of Wickham Station
- Property
- Lighting
- Traffic and access
- Flora and fauna
- Urban design - an UDP will be prepared, plus a public domain plan.

Given the significance of the project for Newcastle, TfNSW has been invited to brief Council on the outcomes of the Review of Environmental Factors, and advise the next stages of work. A copy of the letter to TfNSW is attached at **Attachment B**.

RECOMMENDATION

- a) The invitation to Transport for NSW to brief Council is noted.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Letter from TfNSW advising determination of the Newcastle Light Rail Project

Attachment B: Letter from NCC to TfNSW inviting briefing to Council

Attachment A



12 August 2016

Reference: 5343554_2

Mr Frank Cordingley
Chief Executive Officer
The City of Newcastle
PO Box 489
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Frank

**Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Program
Newcastle Light Rail
Notification of Determination**

Transport for NSW has approved the Newcastle Light Rail Project. The project is an important new transport initiative that will transform the city centre. It will encourage investment in Newcastle – reviving Hunter and Scott streets and bringing people back into the city centre. It will help connect the main activity precincts and reunite the city centre with the harbour – creating a world class harbour city.

Following the public display of the Review of Environmental Factors earlier this year and consideration of Council and community submissions, Transport for NSW has approved the project under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Determination Report and Conditions of Approval are available on the Transport for NSW website at ourtransport.revitalisingnewcastle.com.au/.

The project team will continue to work with the City of Newcastle throughout the life of the project and we look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks.

Should you have any queries regarding the project, please call me on 9200 0232.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anand Thomas'.

**Anand Thomas
Project Director**

Copy: Mick Cassel
Ian Taylor, Louise Sureda

THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE
NOM Report to Ordinary Council Meeting 23 August 2016

Attachment B

Planning and Regulatory.PChrysal/JGaynor
Your Ref: 5343554_2
Our Ref: OT2016/03068
Phone: 02 4974 2707

16 August 2016

Mr Anand Thomas
Project Director
Infrastructure and Services
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Great Place, Great Lifestyle, Great Future

Dear Mr Thomas

**NEWCASTLE URBAN TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSPORT PROGRAM -
NEWCASTLE LIGHT RAIL**

Thank you for your letter dated 12 August 2016 advising approval of the Newcastle Light Rail Project.

As you identify, the project is an important transport initiative that will transform the Newcastle city centre, encourage investment, revive Hunter and Scott Streets and bring people back to the city centre.

Given the significance of the project, I would like to invite you to brief our Council on the outcomes of the Review of Environmental Factors, and advise the next stages of work.

Please contact Council Services on 4974 2187 to arrange a suitable date.

We look forward to working with both Transport for NSW and UrbanGrowth NSW to ensure the City's revitalisation outcomes are achieved.

Yours faithfully

Frank Cordingley
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER