

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Minutes of the Briefing Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 6.26pm.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor N Nelmes), Councillors D Clausen, D Compton, T Doyle, J Dunn, B Luke, M Osborne, S Posniak, A Robinson, L Tierney and S Waterhouse.

IN ATTENDANCE

P Chrystal (Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer / Director Planning and Regulatory), G Cousins (Director Corporate Services), K Liddell (Acting Director Infrastructure), M Blackburn-Smith (Manager Development and Building Services), F Giordano (Manager Legal and Governance), J Gaynor (Manager Strategic Planning), K Sullivan (Council Services/Minutes) and A Leach (Council Services/Meetings Management).

APOLOGIES

MOTION

Moved by Cr Posniak, seconded by Cr Luke

The apologies submitted on behalf of Councillors Crakanthorp and Rufo received and leave of absence granted.

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

BRIEFING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM-1 BR 16/02/16 - DRAFT HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN

Monica Gibson, Regional Co-ordinator, Department of Planning and Environment provided a briefing on the *Draft Hunter Regional Plan* and *Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City*.

Ms Gibson informed the Committee that the Department of Planning and Environment had prepared a *Draft Hunter Regional Plan* to replace the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, Mid-North Coast Regional Strategy and Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan. The Draft Regional Plan includes the current local government areas of Cessnock, Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton and Upper Hunter.

Ms Gibson noted that a *Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City* has also been released by the Department as a companion document to the Draft Regional Plan.

The draft plans, which are currently on exhibition, outline a vision, goals and actions aiming to:

- create a new major city
- grow the Hunter economy
- protect the environment
- deliver greater housing choice
- establish a committee to drive the coordination and delivery of the actions in the Plans.

Questions from Councillors included the possible implications of proposed council amalgamations and boundary changes, government planning bill, public consultation process, interest of other Councils, environmental assessment, potential impacts on funding and use of renewable and clean technologies.

ITEM-2 BR 16/02/16 - STREET TREE SELECTION MANUAL

Lindsay Field, City Arborist, presented the outcomes of the Street Tree Selection Manual public exhibition period.

Points covered in the presentation were:

- Benefits - storm water and canopy interception, urban heat island, shade
- Newcastle City Council public tree population
- Aging population - 9378 trees planted between 2008 - 2015
- Tree asset management system
- Change of name to Street Tree Selection Manual
- Why have a Street Tree Selection Manual
- Purpose
- Rationale and planting process
- Difference between 2011 Street Tree Master Plan (format, clear process, inclusion of significant tree component, Council's role, responsibilities, risk management clearly identified, impacts from inappropriate selection)
- Risk and powerlines
- Community engagement
- Post inspection species matrix, flyer and choice
- Community response from exhibition

Questions from Councillors included canopy and urban forest policy, contribution and monitoring systems, measurement of the planting program, trees under powerpoles, significant tree register, community consultation, planter boxes and the positives of having trees on streets.

ADJOURNMENT OF BRIEFING COMMITTEE

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved by Cr Osborne, seconded by Cr Doyle

The Briefing Committee meeting adjourn to facilitate the holding of the Development Applications Committee and for the Briefing Committee meeting to be reconvened at 5.30pm on Tuesday 23 February 2016 for the purposes of the presentation by the Interim Chief Executive Officer on ICEO presentation to the Delegate at the s. 263 Public Enquiry held on 4 February 2016 to be provided.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8.06pm.