

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Minutes of the Adjourned Briefing Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at 5.39pm.

Note: The meeting reconvened proceedings adjourned on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

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

F Cordingley (Interim Chief Executive Officer) P Chrystal (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 Hyland (Manager Communications and Engagement), K Sullivan (Council Services/Minutes) and A Leach (Council Services/Meetings Management).

APOLOGIES

MOTION

Moved by Cr Posniak, seconded by Cr Luke

The apology submitted on behalf of Councillors Crakanthorp be received and leave of absence granted.

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

BRIEFING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM-3 BR 23/02/16 - ICEO PRESENTATION TO THE DELEGATE AT THE S. 263 PUBLIC ENQUIRY HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2016

The Interim Chief Executive Officer addressed Council on the presentation he gave to the Delegate at the Public Inquiry.

The following information was presented to the Delegate:

- Newcastle City Council's (NCC) response to the State Government during the Fit for the Future process;
- NCC's size, demographics, operations, infrastructure;
- NCC's surplus/deficit before Capital income Financial Year 2015;
- Operating ratio comparison (proposal report, long term financial plan, actual);
- Newcastle's strong financial position (reduction of workforce in 2013/14);

- Forecasting budget surplus this financial year;
- Budget surplus;
- Ability to service debt;
- Cash investments and reserves (\$274m in Financial Year 2015), funds from current reserves, annual capital works program 2014/15 \$58 million and annual capital works program 2015/16 \$77million;
- Infrastructure investment on bathers way, revitalising the city centre, upgrades to Blackbutt Reserve and providing new cycle ways;
- NCC delivers regional infrastructure, services and facilities - and is a regional capital with cultural facilities, an extensive library service which extends to neighbouring Council's and well recognised events and major events such as Surfest and the Asian cup;
- Waste Service charges and rates;
- Response to merger proposal projections; and
- Proposed merger opportunities.

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.

The meeting concluded at 6.08pm.