

Subject: LMM 28/11/2017 - DRAFT GREATER NEWCASTLE FUTURE TRANSPORT PLAN

PURPOSE:

To note the release of the Draft Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan 2056 by Transport NSW, and to direct the production of a submission for consideration by Council in February 2018

MOTION

That Newcastle City Council:

1. Notes that on 21 November 2017, the NSW Government released the *Draft Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan (Attachment A)*, with the aim of providing a detailed plan for all forms of transport in Greater Newcastle, including public transport and active transport in the Lower Hunter. The Plan is a supplementary document to the Government's Draft Future Transport Strategy 2056 and provides the overarching strategic transport network and vision that will guide transport planning for the Greater Newcastle area;
2. Prepares a submission, on the Draft Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan, for approval by the LM and CEO, in line with Council's adopted vision, policies and strategies;
3. Invites the Newcastle Coordinator General to provide Councillors with a briefing in February 2018 on the draft Plan, as well as updates on current major RMS projects including the M1 to Pacific Highway link, and the final stage of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass.

Background:

Newcastle City Council has taken a proactive leadership approach in advocating for the delivery of a long-term transport vision for the Greater Newcastle area involving all key stakeholders (including neighbouring councils, transport operators, Department of Planning and Environment, HDC, RMS and Transport for NSW). Most notably, this includes the production of a detailed Connecting Newcastle vision (**Attachment B**), Smart City vision including adoption of technologies which make autonomous vehicle trials possible, and the strong advocacy for integrated transport and land-use planning across the Greater Newcastle region.

On 13 October 2016, Newcastle City Council, by way of a Council resolution, identified several issues to be addressed prior to the consideration of the responses to the public exhibition of the planning proposal, draft Newcastle City Centre Development Control Plan (DCP), and associated Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).

This included several items related to the development of a 'comprehensive, evidence based plan for public transport and active transport in the Lower Hunter'.

On 21 November 2017, after working closely with Newcastle City Council and other stakeholders, Hunter Development Corporation and Transport for New South Wales released the *Draft Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan*.

The Government's *Draft Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan* builds on Council's Thought Leadership, and demonstrates a significant shift in NSW Government thinking away from simply large transport infrastructure assets (mainly state-roads) to a more holistic approach to transport planning (including public transport, active transport, and land-use issues).

Newcastle is an emerging global city, and the draft Future Transport Plan acknowledges Newcastle as being the state's third global gateway hub (after Sydney and Canberra). This focus closely matches the work Council has been undertaking to promote and position the City, including our partnership with the University of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport and the Port of Newcastle. Additionally it builds on our work to bring significant events and investment to the City.

Importantly, the Plan builds on Council's previous advocacy for an expanded light rail network connecting the CBD and suburbs, as well as proposed long term locations for park-and-ride facilities. Again, this builds on the leadership of Council – particularly in recent months with the HDC, Keolis Downer and Transport partnership delivering the park-and-ride from Hunter Stadium to the CBD to help mitigate some of the disruption from light rail construction works. Councillors were invited to attend a workshop hosted by TfNSW launching the draft Plan, which included senior executive and planning officers.

It is requested that Council's expert transport, traffic, smart city and land-use planners develop a draft submission for Council's endorsement on the TfNSW draft document. This should include consideration of short term planning objectives (such as articulating best cycleway linkages in the inner city to be delivered alongside light rail construction, and ensuring the final stage of the inner city bypass is fit for the future without disrupting current cycle paths),

It should also be noted that on 22 November 2017, Michael Cassel, Program Director, Revitalising Newcastle wrote to Newcastle City Council advising that with the release of this integrated transport strategy, it is the NSW Government's view that the requirements of the Council resolution of 13 October 2016 have been addressed.

Attachments

A: Draft Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan:

<https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Draft-Greater-Newcastle-FT-Supporting-Plan.pdf>

B: Connecting Newcastle:

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/getattachment/Living/Transport/Connecting-Newcastle-Our-urban-renewal-vision/2198-Connecting-Newcastle-Vision-Document_July-2017-WEB-pdf.pdf.aspx?lang=en-AU