

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Minutes of the Public Voice Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall on Tuesday 17 May 2016 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor J Dunn), Councillors D Clausen, T Crakanthorp (*arrived 5.35pm*), B Luke, S Posniak, A Robinson, A Rufo and L Tierney.

IN ATTENDANCE

F Cordingley (Interim Chief Executive Officer), G Cousins (Director Corporate Services), K Liddell (Acting Director Infrastructure), A Baxter (Acting Director Planning and Regulatory), M Blackburn-Smith (Manager Development and Building), 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).

MESSAGE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Deputy Lord Mayor read the message of acknowledgement to the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

PRAYER

The Deputy Lord Mayor read a prayer and a period of silence was observed in memory of those who served and died so that Council might meet in peace.

APOLOGIES

MOTION

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Luke

The apologies submitted on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes, Councillors Compton, Doyle, Osborne and Waterhouse be received and leave of absence granted.

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil.

PUBLIC VOICE SESSIONS

ITEM-1 PVC 17/05/16 - COMMENTS ON URBANGROWTH'S ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES REPORT DECEMBER 2015

Following a Public Voice application received on 21 April 2016 and the Council resolution that was passed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 April 2016, community representatives Dr Patricia Gillard and Mr Fred Dumbrell were invited to address the Public Voice Committee.

Due to illness, Dr Gillard was unable to attend the meeting and her written submission was presented by Robert Waters. Fred Dumbrell addressed the meeting and the points raised focused on an analysis of the survey results and reporting of consultation undertaken by UrbanGrowth NSW (UGNSW) during 2015.

The Public Voice application was submitted by the Access Newcastle Foreshore community group who indicated it was opposed to plans to rezone and develop the rail corridor and to put the light rail on Hunter and Scott Streets, Newcastle.

In summary, the points raised included the following:

- Scott Street and its unsuitability for light rail
- Pedestrian safety issues
- Resident's concerns not addressed in consultation
- The electromagnetic study has not been available for review
- The rail corridor is public land and should remain for public access, including cycleways
- The Review of Environment Factors does not allow for benefits to the corridor
- Light and open views will be limited by high rise on the rail corridor
- Heritage values of properties will be affected if corridor is rezoned
- Release of asbestos that may be dug up in the rail corridor
- The impact on indigenous burial sites
- Hunter and Scott Streets currently used by emergency vehicles and services to the East End
- Roads are close to capacity and currently congested
- Increase in daily traffic movements
- Heavy rail corridor can transport significantly more people than the proposed light rail
- Parking has only been addressed at the eleventh hour.
- The residents seek light rail retained on the heavy rail corridor (a convincing business case has not been presented)

The community representatives urged Council to protect their interests as residents and provide clear guidance to the Administrator to ensure the rail corridor land is protected and the REF is rejected.

A letter received by Council dated 16 May 2016 from UGNSW was also tabled at the meeting. It was self-explanatory in that it described the governance arrangements and rigour of the design and execution of the engagement program and report and highlighted key points such as UGNSW:

- had not been provided with information on Dr Gillard and Mr Dumbrell's concerns regarding the Revitalising Newcastle engagement program;
- had contacted Dr Gillard offering to provide background material and to discuss any particular matters that Dr Gillard might wish to raise. Dr Gillard "did not wish to engage with [UrbanGrowth NSW] nor share any information about her material to be raised in the presentation.

- had expressed the belief that it would be productive for both it and Council to jointly understand the concerns of Dr Gillard and Mr Dumbrell and to assess them together consistent with Memorandum of Understanding and the Steering Group charter.

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues of concern.

It was indicated that several of the issues raised by the community representatives would be addressed in Council's written submission.

The issue of consultation with UGNSW was discussed and the reason why UGNSW had not been given the opportunity to present to the Committee.

Although it was raised during debate at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 April 2016, Councillors were reminded that Council's resolution did not extend to inviting UGNSW to present at the Public Voice Committee meeting, however, further consultation with UGNSW was encouraged by the Councillors and it was requested that a copy of Dr Gillard's written presentation be made available to UGNSW.

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm.