

**ITEM-14 LMM 28/06/2022 - 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEWCASTLE DECLARATION**

**MOTION:**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 was World Environment Day and also marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Newcastle Declaration which was subsequently presented to the United Nations 1997 Rio +5 conference in New York.
2. Recognises both those organisations and individuals who contributed to the Newcastle Declaration in 1997, including its signatories at the *Pathways to Sustainability International Conference* including former Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Greg Heys.
3. Acknowledges City of Newcastle's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and equitable communities, evidenced by the following:
  - a. as a long-standing member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and committing to the requirements of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
  - b. taking the Cities Race to Zero Pledge
  - c. acknowledgement that there is a climate emergency
  - d. integration of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Community Strategic Plan, with the SDG underpinning the strategic direction of the organization and community
  - e. commitment to reach Net Zero for City of Newcastle operations by no later than 2030, and for the community by 2040
  - f. recent endorsement of The Malmo Commitment
  - g. adoption of the Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25
  - h. construction of a 5-megawatt solar farm to power the City's operations and provide a foundation for a new circular economy precinct
  - i. first local government in NSW to switch to 100% renewable electricity supply for operations through onsite and offsite renewables
  - j. creation of a new resource recovery facility, diverting up to 30,000 tonnes of community recyclable waste away from landfill each year
  - k. development of a zero emissions vehicles fleet transition plan
  - l. supporting public transport electrification through installing a network of EV fast charges throughout the city
  - m. installing more than 800 kilowatts of rooftop solar PV on key council sites
  - n. planting more than 1200 street and park trees through our Living Streets program, which are resilient to climate change
  - o. roll out of smart pole network with LED lighting and smart lighting controls as part of the Hunter Innovation Project
  - p. formally committing to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement
4. Reaffirms its commitment to the objectives of the original Declaration, and the continued pursuit for an environmentally sustainable future.

**BACKGROUND:**

**NEWCASTLE DECLARATION GOES TO THE UN**

Local Government Focus – 1 May 1997

<https://lgfocus.com.au/news/1997/05/01/newcastle-declaration-goes-to-the-un-2/>

A draft declaration, prepared in the lead up to Newcastle Council's Pathways to Sustainability International Conference, was presented to a special session of the United Nations on 16 April. UN support as a signatory to the final declaration at the culmination of the Conference on 5 June is being sought.

The Newcastle declaration is an official commitment from Local Governments around the globe to take up the challenge of applying initiatives at a local level that will ensure the world's sustainability into the 21st century. Representatives of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives presented the document to the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development session on Local Authorities.

“This is a very important international commitment,” said Newcastle’s Lord Mayor, Greg Heys. “It also symbolises the future direction of our City which is responding to the challenge of establishing sustainable management practices.”

The declaration will be officially signed by Local Government representatives at the International Conference, being held in Newcastle on 1-5 June.

The Conference, which is an official follow up to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a centrepiece of Newcastle’s Bicentennial celebrations. It has been endorsed by the United Nations and the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA).

Registrations have already been received from 40 countries, and organisers say they expect more than 1,000 delegates to make the trip to Newcastle to hear 140 international and Australian speakers discuss the practical applications of Local Agenda 21.

President of the Australian Local Government Association, John Campbell said there was something in the Conference for Councils of all sizes.

“The Conference is filled with practical case studies from which we can learn how to better manage our cities and towns,” said Cr Campbell.

The program focuses on positive strategies for action, showcasing success stories and projects from 29 nations, including Africa, India, China, Canada, South America, New Zealand and Australia.

Speakers will include the Mayor of South Dublin, Breda Cass, and the Mayor of Rio De Janeiro, Caesar Maia.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: The Newcastle Declaration, 5 June 1997

## *The Newcastle Declaration*

*Endorsed at the International Conference  
Pathways to Sustainability:*

*Local Initiatives for Cities and Towns*

*1-5 June 1997*

*Newcastle Australia*



*Gathered at Newcastle, Australia on World Environment Day, 5 June 1997 we acknowledge that in the five years since the Rio Earth Summit much has been learnt about implementing the concept of sustainable development. There is growing evidence, however, that the future of all life on Earth is still in peril. There is an urgent need to accelerate and assist action at all levels, particularly locally, if the global sustainable development objectives of Agenda 21 are to be realised.*

**We, as representatives of the global community and local government acknowledge:**

- *That sustainability is a global necessity and that Local Agenda 21 is a fundamental framework for enhancing local and global sustainability.*
- *That based on growing population trends, there is an urgent need for the developed world to drastically reduce our per capita impacts in the short term if we are to achieve global sustainability in the long term.*
- *That actions need to be taken to mitigate the adverse effects on local communities of continued trends toward economic globalisation and free trade.*

**We declare our commitment, as local governments and communities, to enhancing global sustainability, by developing processes at the local level based on :**

- *Assisting our own and other communities to progress toward local sustainability by sharing and learning from each other.*
- *Ensuring that all sectors, groups and citizens in our local communities, including adults, youth and children are given equal opportunity for active participation and partnership in the process of developing Local Agenda 21 action plans.*
- *Simultaneously achieving economic, social, cultural and ecological goals by integrating them in the design and implementation of all local policies, programs and projects.*
- *Recognising the rights of indigenous peoples and the special contributions which they can make.*
- *Acknowledging the importance of difference and diversity in formulating and implementing Local Agenda 21 plans.*
- *Adopting a strategic and long-term approach to setting priorities and targets in order to achieve community-determined visions and goals.*
- *Establishing realistic short-term action plans with participatory mechanisms for monitoring, feedback, and accountability.*
- *Celebrating the diversity within and between local communities and respecting and learning from minority voices and the aspirations of different cultural groups.*

**We call upon all local government around the Earth:**

- *To embrace the goal of global sustainability by implementing Local Agenda 21 action plans by the Year 2000 which fulfil the goals of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda.*
- *To monitor and review on an annual basis and report on progress at the Rio + 10 review in 2002.*

**To assist us in this process we call upon:**

- *The United Nations and national governments to recognise the progress made by local governments and their communities in enhancing the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda.*
- *National governments to provide a policy framework and the necessary resources to support national Local Agenda 21 programs.*
- *National and international investment and development assistance programs to support Local Agenda 21 action plans and related measures.*
- *All governments to increase their proportion of annual expenditure on demonstration projects which enhance sustainability.*

**We affirm the need for international and national local government organisations to:**

- *Facilitate the exchange of examples of information on best practice in implementation of Local Agenda 21.*
- *Recognise the importance of research, community education, capacity-building and monitoring in local action for sustainability.*
- *Report on the progress of Local Agenda 21 on behalf of all local governments and communities.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Woods'.

IULA  
Peter Woods  
World Executive Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeb Brugmann'.

ICLEI  
Jeb Brugmann  
Secretary General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Campbell'.

ALGA  
Councillor John Campbell  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Heys'.

Lord Mayor Of Newcastle  
Councillor Greg Heys  
5 June 1997