



## THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE



Councillors

Pursuant to Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Clause 5 of the Code of Meeting Practice notice is hereby given that an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the Council will be held as follows:

**DATE:** Thursday 13 October 2016  
**TIME:** 7.30pm  
**VENUE:** Council Chambers  
2nd Floor  
City Hall

Frank Cordingley  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

**City Administration Centre  
290 King Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300**

11 October 2016

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**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
13 October 2016**

**CONTENTS**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Page</b>
	<b>APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>	
	<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
	<b>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</b>	
	<b>CALL FOR EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>LORD MAYORAL MINUTE</b>	
	<b>REPORTS BY COUNCIL OFFICERS</b>	<b>6</b>
ITEM-84	CCL 27/09/16 - ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012 - RAIL CORRIDOR LAND BETWEEN WORTH PLACE AND WATT STREET NEWCASTLE	6
ITEM-85	CCL 131016 - ATTENDANCE AT UNITED NATIONS HABITAT III CONFERENCE IN ECUADOR 15-18 OCTOBER 2016	16

***NOTE: ITEMS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE DEALT WITH IN NUMERICAL ORDER***



**CALL FOR EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

To: The Lord Mayor

From: Councillors Rufo & Robinson

Cc: Interim Chief Executive Officer

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016

Subject: **Request for an Extraordinary Council Meeting**

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We request that an Extraordinary Council Meeting be called for 5.30pm, Tuesday 11 October, 2016, to enable Council to reconsider the report titled "Endorsement of proposed amendment to Local Environment Plan 2012 - Rail corridor land between Worth Place and Watt Street Newcastle", that was laid on the table at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 September, 2016

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October is being requested due to the fact that it would be the most practical date as there is already a Councillor Workshop scheduled for that evening.

Regards



Cr Andrea Rufo OAM

  
CR ALLAN ROBINSON

## REPORTS BY COUNCIL OFFICERS

**ITEM-84**                    **CCL 27/09/16 - ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012 - RAIL CORRIDOR LAND BETWEEN WORTH PLACE AND WATT STREET NEWCASTLE**

**REPORT BY:**            **PLANNING AND REGULATORY**  
**CONTACT:**            **DIRECTOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY / MANAGER STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**PURPOSE**

This report seeks Council's endorsement of a Planning Proposal to commence the statutory process to prepare an amendment to Newcastle Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 to amend zoning, building height, floor space ratio and land acquisition maps for the rail corridor land between Worth Place and Watt Street, Newcastle.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1 Council resolves to:

- i) Endorse the attached Planning Proposal (**Attachment A**), prepared in accordance with Section 55 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*, to amend Newcastle LEP 2012 to enable mixed use development, public recreation and tourist uses on surplus rail corridor land between Worth Place and Watt Street, Newcastle, including amendments on adjoining land listed in the following table:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Address</b>
Part Lot 22 DP1165985	430 Hunter Street, Newcastle
Part Lot 3 DP1111305	6 Workshop Way, Newcastle
Lot 100 DP809262	426 Hunter Street, Newcastle
Lot 31 DP534638	418 - 422 Hunter Street, Newcastle
Lot 1 DP18256	414 - 416 Hunter Street, Newcastle
Lot 1 DP1192409	1R Merewether Street, Newcastle
Lot 1001 DP1095836	280 Hunter Street, Newcastle
Lot 21 DP1009735	150 Scott Street, Newcastle
Lot 22 DP1009735	110 Scott Street, Newcastle
Lot 15 & 16, DP21503	484 - 486 Hunter Street, Newcastle
Lot 17 DP21503	488 Hunter Street, Newcastle

- ii) Forward the Planning Proposal to the Minister for Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination pursuant to Section 56 of the *EP&A Act*.

- iii) Advise the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment that Council does not seek to exercise delegations for undertaking Section 59(1) of the *EP&A Act*.
- iv) Consult with the community and relevant government agencies as instructed by the gateway determination.
- v) Receive a report back on the Planning Proposal, including the draft planning agreement, following the public exhibition as per the requirements of Section 57 of the *EP&A Act*.

## KEY ISSUES

### Zoning

- 2 The land is currently zoned SP2 Infrastructure (Railway). The land use table for this zone only permits development for purposes shown on the land zoning map (ie. Railway) including any development that is ordinarily incidental or ancillary to development for that purpose. The current zoning therefore places significant constraints on the use of the land for any alternative purposes.
- 3 The objective of the Planning Proposal (**Attachment A**) is to enable the land to be used for mixed uses, (including commercial, retail and residential, including student accommodation), public recreation, and tourist uses. Educational establishments can also be accommodated under the proposed zone. The Planning Proposal details the amendment recommended to Newcastle LEP 2012 in order to achieve the intended outcomes. Furthermore, the Planning Proposal documents the issues considered in assessing the appropriateness of the proposed amendments.
- 4 The Planning Proposal (**Attachment A**) proposes the introduction of a new zone, SP3 Tourist zone, into the LEP. This new zone is proposed for the Newcastle Railway Station area. The new zone is aimed at ensuring a vibrant use for the Railway Station and the creation of an entertainment precinct.
- 5 The Planning Proposal also proposes to include the SP3 Tourist zone for the building area between Brown and Perkins Streets. This will ensure more compatible uses with the adjacent public open space. The land use table of the SP3 Tourist zone permits a range of uses that facilitate active and vibrant uses, but importantly does not permit residential accommodation.

### Council Resolution

- 6 Council resolved on 26 July 2016 that the rail corridor retain its existing zoning until the NSW government developed a comprehensive public transport plan for the Lower Hunter that established the corridor land is not needed for transport purposes.

- 7 To assist the Council in making an informed decision on the proposed rezoning of the rail corridor, UrbanGrowth NSW have provided a letter (**Attachment B**) summarising the status and outcomes of various studies and management plans to confirm the corridor is not required for transport purposes. This is in addition to the amending legislation closing the rail corridor in 2015 and the Light Rail Determination Report released by Transport for NSW in August 2016.

### **City Centre Revitalisation**

- 8 The LEP amendment request was supported by an economic assessment that identifies that redevelopment will contribute to the supply of additional floorspace for commercial, retail and residential purposes within the City Centre.
- 9 While this is beneficial to support employment and housing, the stronger justification for the planning proposal is based on the opportunities it creates for city centre revitalisation. In particular, the provision of additional public open space and improved north south connections to the waterfront, which are positive outcomes for the City.
- 10 UrbanGrowth NSW has provided a letter of offer (**Attachment C**) to enter into a Planning Agreement, in association with the requested rezoning, to facilitate delivery of the following aspects:-
- i) Dedication of the land proposed to be zoned RE1 Public Open Space.
  - ii) Enhancement of public open space.
  - iii) Repurposing heritage buildings, particularly Newcastle Railway Station and Signal Box.
  - iv) Remediation works of open space.
  - v) Commitment to provision of affordable housing.
- 11 The scope of the offer is considered acceptable in-principle and should be utilised as the basis to continue negotiations with UrbanGrowth NSW, as per the recommendation of this report. The process of preparing the planning agreement will be carried out in accordance with Council's Planning Agreement Policy 2009.

### **Master Plan**

- 12 The Planning Proposal has been informed by an Urban Design Analysis and Visual Impact Statement, prepared by consultants for the proponent (provided as attachments to the Planning Proposal, distributed under separate cover). The Urban Design Analysis developed a master plan for the subject land, which also included proposed heights and floor space ratio (FSR) controls. The proposed controls range from a height above ground of 30m to 14m and FSRs

ranging from 4:1 to 2.5:1. The master plan has been reviewed by Council's Urban Design Consultative Group (UDCG) (**Attachment D**), and is supported in-principle with some minor modification. Further refinement may be required post Gateway as more detailed design work is undertaken when developing site specific DCP guidelines.

- 13 A detailed discussion of changes made to the proponent's LEP amendment request in preparing Council's Planning Proposal is included in **Attachment E**. The most significant change is in relation to parcels 12 and 14 at Scott Street between Brown Street and Wolfe Street (adjacent to Council's car park and Harry's Café De Wheels). The LEP amendment request proposed these sites to be zoned B4 with height limits of 17m and 14m. This request was not supported by Council officers and it is proposed to rezone the western portion of Parcel 12 to SP3 Tourist zone with a 17m height limit and zone the remainder of Parcel 12 and all of Parcel 14 RE1 Public Recreation.
- 14 There is potential to amalgamate Parcel 12 with Council's car park which would allow a development to be oriented north-south rather than east-west on the part of the site adjoining the driveway and existing building to the west. This would allow a building to be erected that faces the public open space to the east and provides a 'book end' to this area of open space, which otherwise ends at the driveway to the adjacent site. While this potential to amalgamate Parcel 12 with Council's car park is supported in-principle it is proposed that this be the subject of a separate discussion and future planning proposal. It is not part of this Planning Proposal.
- 15 Refer to the master plan at **Attachment E** and zoning map within the Planning Proposal at **Attachment A**.

### **Development Control Plan**

- 16 Detailed development control plan (DCP) guidelines will be prepared following receipt of a Gateway Determination. The DCP will generally be in accordance with draft DCP principles outlined in the LEP amendment request (distributed under separate cover as an attachment to the Planning Proposal in **Attachment A**). The DCP guidelines will provide further guidance on matters such as street wall heights and building setbacks to control building footprints along with guidance on vehicle access points. The DCP will also ensure future building footprints allow sufficient space between to allow for stormwater and other infrastructure.
- 17 It is intended to exhibit the draft DCP guidelines concurrently with the Planning Proposal. This will require a separate report and resolution of Council prior to exhibition of the Planning Proposal.

### Heritage Assessment

- 18 The request to amend the Newcastle LEP was supported by a heritage assessment. The heritage assessment concludes:

*"While the proposed rezoning will not physically impact on the heritage items, the works that follow the rezoning will. The construction of buildings to heights of 14m; 24m (Parcels 05 & 14); 20m (Parcel 12); and 30m (Parcels 01; 02; 03; 06; 07) will have a potential visual impact on the heritage value of the Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area. It is considered however that the impact will be, in most instances, positive with adaptive re-use of heritage items and in a number of instances improved view corridors."*

- 19 The adaptive reuse of heritage items is supported as a positive initiative and the commitment to such is confirmed in the planning agreement offer (**Attachment C**).
- 20 Additional heritage assessment will occur at development application (DA) stage, however, it is important at this stage of preparing the basic development controls for the subject land via the Planning Proposal, that consideration is given to the general scale and massing of future development. Consistent with advice from Council's UDCG the maximum building height surrounding the Civic link have been reduced to more appropriately relate to the heritage listed Newcastle Museum.

### Traffic and Parking

- 21 The submitted request to amend the LEP was supported by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA). The TIA concluded that additional traffic movements can be accommodated within the existing road network.
- 22 Future development will be subject to on-site parking requirements of the Newcastle DCP 2012.
- 23 The TIA found that the rezoning itself will not impact public off-street parking supply, however, the temporary car park off Wright Lane is likely to be amalgamated for redevelopment and some 190 spaces lost. The TIA found that in the context of overall supply of off-street parking in the City Centre, with the removal of these spaces, the peak utilisation would remain at less than 70%.
- 24 A strategic approach to parking within the Newcastle City Centre is required and is a wider issue than just relating to the rail corridor. UrbanGrowth NSW, in consultation with Council, is developing a car parking strategy for the City Centre.

### Miscellaneous Amendments

- 25 When reviewing the LEP amendment request, it was identified that it was logical to expand the proposal to include certain adjoining land. Further consultation will be undertaken with these property owners during the exhibition. This land comprises:
- i) 484 to 488 Hunter Street - proposed to be included on the land acquisition map to recognise the potential for a connection through to Hunter Street from Civic Lane at some time in the future.
  - ii) Further land to the rear of the Newcastle Museum (currently open space) and owned by Transport for NSW (RailCorp) and leased to Council, is proposed to be zoned RE1 Public Recreation to form a combined recreational zoning with adjoining land within the corridor to create the Civic Link from Hunter Street through to the Harbour.
  - iii) 414 to 426 Hunter Street - the height limit is proposed to be decreased from 24m to 18m, which reflects the current building height and is consistent with adjoining corridor land.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 26 Work will be undertaken by Council's Strategic Planning staff within their current allocated work program and budget.
- 27 The Planning Proposal (**Attachment A**) includes an amendment to the land acquisition map to achieve a publicly accessible pedestrian link from Civic Lane to Hunter Street. This includes two properties located at 484 to 488 Hunter Street. This link corresponds with the proposed link under the master plan (**Attachment E**) which extends through to the harbour. Under the LEP, Council would be the acquiring authority for such land. The funding for acquiring this land will need to be negotiated under the Planning Agreement with UrbanGrowth NSW.

### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

#### Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan

- 28 The Planning Proposal (**Attachment A**) is consistent with the strategic directions of the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP), including:
- Vibrant and Activated Spaces
  - Caring and Inclusive Community
  - Liveable and Distinct Built Environment
  - Open and Collaborative Leadership
- 29 A detailed discussion of the Planning Proposal and its relationship with the CSP is provided in the Planning Proposal at **Attachment A**.

### Local Planning Strategy (LPS)

- 30 The LPS is Council's comprehensive land use strategy to guide the future growth and development of Newcastle to 2030 and beyond. The LPS acknowledges the role of the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy (NURS) released by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in 2012, and updated in 2014 and states:

*"The LPS aims to complement this parallel strategy."*

- 31 The Proposal is consistent with the visions and objectives of the LPS. A detailed discussion is provided in the Planning Proposal at **Attachment A**.

### Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

- 32 The Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy (NURS) is the principal land use strategy for the Newcastle City Centre. It includes nine guiding principles.

1. Opportunities to grow and expand
2. Economic viability and competition
3. Busy and vibrant city centre
4. Integrity and viability
5. Investment, employment and growth
6. Transport, access and connectivity
7. Housing mix and affordability
8. Retail variety and choice
9. Provide for future employment growth

- 33 A specific transport initiative of the NUS 2014 update was to connect the city with its waterfront. The provision of additional RE1 Public Recreation zoned land facilitates this connection.

- 34 The proposal is consistent with the principles of the NURS. A detailed discussion is provided in the Planning Proposal at **Attachment A**.

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS

- 35 The preparation of the attached planning proposals was undertaken in accordance with Council's Local Environmental Plan – Request for Amendment Policy (2012). This policy identifies Council's processes and responsibilities in applying the requirements of Part 3 of the *EP&A Act 1979* for amending an LEP.

## RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

- 36 The process of amending an LEP is prescribed by Part 3 of the *EP&A Act*. Adherence to the legislative framework reduces the risk by ensuring that a Planning Proposal is considered with regard to relevant strategic planning documents and is determined in an appropriate timeframe.
- 37 Justification has been provided for the formal LEP amendment request within the Planning Proposal at **Attachment A**.
- 38 Further consultation with stakeholders (including the broader community) will occur in accordance with the Minister's requirements following Gateway Determination. This will ensure all relevant parties are able to consider and comment on the draft Planning Proposal prior to it being reported back to Council for final adoption of the proposed amendment.

## RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 39 On 26 July 2016 the Council considered a Notice of Motion and resolved:
1. *Newcastle City Council determines to retain the current zoning of the Rail Corridor as Special Purpose 2 (SP2)*
  2. *Council convey to the State Government:*
    - a. *Its intention that such zoning remain until the NSW Government develops a comprehensive, evidence based plan for public transport and active transport in the Lower Hunter consistent with achieving Council's current transport targets, and such plans conclusively establish that the corridor land is not needed for transport purposes, and*
    - b. *Its view that only a Council comprising elected representatives, elected by the citizens of Newcastle, should have the right to determine any rezoning of Newcastle's rail corridor land.*
  3. *In the interim, Council consult with relevant State Government agencies to explore appropriate temporary uses of the corridor land.*
- 40 UrbanGrowth NSW has provided a letter (**Attachment B**) to confirm the corridor is no longer required for transport purposes.

## CONSULTATION

- 41 Council's UDCG have been consulted during the preparation of the Planning Proposal. Their advice (**Attachment D**) has been incorporated into the development of the proposed LEP controls.
- 42 Consultation with stakeholders (including the community) will occur in accordance with the Minister's requirements following Gateway Determination.

- 43 The Planning Proposal outlines the level of statutory consultation required. This is in accordance with the Department of Planning's Guide to Preparing Local Environmental Plans. It is proposed that the Planning Proposal be publically exhibited for 28 days, unless otherwise advised by the Gateway Determination.
- 44 The Gateway Determination will confirm the consultation requirements, however, it is envisaged that this will include at a minimum public notice in the Newcastle Herald, publication on the Newcastle City Council web page and letters to adjoining and nearby properties owners. A consultation strategy is being prepared by Council's Communications and Engagement Unit, to determine the best method to consult the community, within the confines of the statutory exhibition process. A dedicated web page for the Planning Proposal is also being developed to help inform the community.
- 45 As Council is aware the Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Program (the Program) is proposing to undertake community consultation in late 2016, in collaboration with NCC subject to the current planning proposal proceeding to gateway. The engagement follows the successful 2015 Revitalising Newcastle community consultation and the commitment to re-engaging the community at a later date to discuss the future use and design of Newcastle Station and Civic Station precincts. The proposed engagement will seek to identify the strongest suggestions for the future use and design of Civic Station and Newcastle Station precincts. Engagement activities are likely to include: Community drop in sessions, school student excursions and activities, a series of workshops and a tourism round table.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option 1**

- 46 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

### **Option 2**

- 47 Council resolves not to proceed with the Planning Proposal. This is not the recommended option.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 48 The Newcastle heavy rail line was truncated by the NSW government in December 2014.
- 49 During 2015, UrbanGrowth NSW consulted with the community on potential future uses for the rail line.

- 50 In April 2016, the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the light rail proposal was placed on public exhibition by Transport NSW. In July 2016, a formal determination was made that the Newcastle light rail project proceed. Construction work is expected to commence in 2017.
- 51 Council received a request to amend Newcastle LEP 2012 in order enable the rail corridor land between Worth Place and Watt Street Newcastle to be redeveloped for mixed use, public open space and tourist uses. The submitted request indicates that the requested amendments to the LEP support the objectives of the NSW Government's Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Strategy (NUTTP).
- 52 Work has commenced on removing existing rail infrastructure.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A:** Planning Proposal – Rail corridor land between Worth Place and Watt Street, Newcastle.
- Attachment B:** Letter from UrbanGrowth NSW demonstrating surplus nature of corridor.
- Attachment C:** Letter of offer from UrbanGrowth NSW to enter into a Planning Agreement.
- Attachment D:** Urban Design Consultative Group reports from 11 July 2016 and 17 August 2016.
- Attachment E:** Master Plan (UrbanGrowth NSW) and detailed parcel analysis.

**All attachments are distributed under separate cover.**

**ITEM-85                    CCL 131016 - ATTENDANCE AT UNITED NATIONS  
HABITAT III CONFERENCE IN ECUADOR 15-18 OCTOBER  
2016**

**REPORT BY:                INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
CONTACT:                 INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER / DIRECTOR  
PLANNING AND REGULATORY**

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**PURPOSE**

To confirm Council's support to participate in the United National Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development known as "Habitat III", and the Mayor's Assembly as part of this conference, in Quito, Ecuador between the dates of 15 to 18 October 2016.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 Council:
  - i) Confirms participation in The United Nations Conference 'Habitat III' in Quito, Ecuador and makes available the appropriate funding to enable this participation.
  - ii) Notes that Cr Osborne, as the Lord Mayor's delegate, and Jill Gaynor Manager Strategic Planning Services, as the Interim Chief Executive Officer's delegate, accept the invitation and present a written report to Council following The United Nations Conference 'Habitat III' that outlines the learnings, opportunities and benefits to the City presented at the Conference.
  - iii) Notes that Cr Clausen will also be attending the 'Habitat III' Conference.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 2 The City of Newcastle has been invited to participate at the prestigious international United National Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development known as "Habitat III". The Mayor's Assembly as part of this conference will be held in Quito, Ecuador on 16 October 2016. There are other events associated with Habitat III being held between the dates of 15 to 18 October 2016.
- 3 The United Nations has called the conference, which is only the third in a series that began in 1976, to "reinvigorate" the global political commitment to the sustainable development of towns, cities and other human settlements, both rural and urban.

- 4 The product of that reinvigoration, along with pledges and new obligations, is being referred to as the New Urban Agenda. That agenda will set a new global strategy around urbanization for the next two decades.
- 5 The conference will be the first time in 20 years that the international community, led by national governments, has collectively taken stock of fast-changing urban trends and the ways in which these patterns are impacting on human development, environmental well-being, and civic and governance systems worldwide.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 6 As attendance at the Habitat III is by invitation only there is no cost to Council for participating in the Conference and the Mayors' Assembly. The final cost to Council for attending the Conference is subject to change based on exchange rate fluctuations and is estimated to be in the order of \$19,000. Participation in the program will require a financial commitment as follows:
  - i) International Airfares - estimated at AUD11,000.
  - ii) Accommodation - there are 40,000 delegates to this Conference and accommodation is at a premium. Accommodation is estimated at AUD5,800 (0.75c exchange rate to USD).
  - iii) Sustenance and Other Expenses - estimated at AUD150 per day in accordance with applicable Council policies.

Council Clausen is covering his own expenses.

### **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 7 Participation in the program contributes to achieving a liveable and distinctive built environment and fostering a smart and innovative city.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 8 Attendance at the Conference offers benefits to the Newcastle community through participation in United Nations invitation only event. Council's reputation as an innovative, resilient city has helped garner this invitation and it sits comfortably within the framework of Council's CIFAL relationship with the University of Newcastle.
- 9 The CIFAL Global Network is part of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The Network comprises 15 International Training Centres (CIFALs) and aims to serve as a platform for capacity-building of government authorities and civil society leaders on topics related to sustainable development, as well as on global mandates and goals of the United Nations.

- 10 CIFAL is the "International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders" (French: 'Centre international de formation des autorités et leaders' or in Spanish: 'Centro Internacional de Formación para Autoridades y Lideres') [1]. Each CIFAL Centre is a hub for capacity building and knowledge sharing between local and regional authorities, national governments, international organisations, the private sector, and civil society. It is an important resource in the United Nations long-term efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 11 There are no obvious risks in participating in the Conference. There are some risks associated with not participating in terms of lost opportunity for Council's reputation as an innovative, resilient and progressive Council that is perceived to be a robust partner and supporter of the University of Newcastle's UN related programs.

### **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 12 Council has previously agreed to send delegates to this UN Conference at the Ordinary Council meeting of 27 September 2016.

*That Council:*

- 1. Accepts the invitation to participate in The United Nations Conference Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador and makes available the appropriate funding to enable this participation.*
- 2. That the Lord Mayor or delegate and Interim Chief Executive Officer, or his nominee, accept the invitation and present a report to Council following Habitat III that outlines the learnings and opportunities presented.*

### **CONSULTATION**

- 13 This issue has not been subject to community consultation. Learnings and plans developed through participating in this program will be shared internally and externally, through a variety of means including a formal report and presentation to the full Council.

### **OPTIONS**

#### **Option 1**

- 14 The recommendation as at paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

#### **Option 2**

- 15 Council resolves not to support the recommendation at paragraph 1. This is not the recommended option.

**BACKGROUND**

16 A copy of the Conference outline is at **Attachment A**.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A - Copy of Conference outline**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Official Invitation and Habitat III Details**

Date: Sunday, 16th October 2016

Time: 3.00pm - 6.00pm

Venue: Ecuadorian House of Culture and The Ecuadoran National Assembly

CIFAL Newcastle invites you and a delegation to Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador.

The Mayors Assembly will take place on Sunday 16 October 2016 and it is been convened by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

As part of UNITAR's activities during H3, we will be hosting some workshops on climate change, road safety, urban-rural interlinkages and she can certainly participate as **Speaker** in any of those.

UNITAR will also participate in special sessions in which the Lord Mayor is invited as **Speaker**.

**2016 Habitat III Condensed Program, For Lord Mayor or Delegate 16-20**

**October 2016**

- October 15-16: 5 Assemblies taking place
  - Youth Assembly
  - Children Assembly
  - Women Assembly
  - Business Sector Assembly
  - Mayors Assembly (16 October)
- October 17-20: Habitat III Conference
  - October 17:
    - Opening
    - High level roundtables
  - October 18-19:
    - Plenaries
    - High level roundtables and Principal's meetings
  - October 18-20
    - Side Events (1 hour)
    - Networking Events (2 hours)
    - Training Events
    - Parallel Events
    - 10 Dialogues (led by Policy Unit)

## CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Extraordinary Council Meeting 13 October 2016

Page 21

- 22 Special Sessions on issue papers (organized by UN Task Team)
- Urban Talks
- October 17-21
  - One UN pavilion
  - Habitat III Film Festival
- October 15-20
  - Exhibition (National Assembly)
  - Free of charge for LDCs
  - Cost: \$295 + 12% VAT for raw space and 395 + 12% VAT for shell booth
- Habitat III Village
  - Interventions that can be applied in the City of Quito
  - 70 projects submitted. Approved projects to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER					
TIME	ACTIVITY				
12:30 - 13:30	SIDE EVENTS				
13:00 - 15:00	SPECIAL SESSION Urban Land	SPECIAL SESSION Gated Cities	SPECIAL SESSION Informal Sector	STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE Indigenous People Roundtable	STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE Farmers Roundtable
14:00 - 16:00	NETWORKING EVENTS				
15:00 - 18:00	PLENARY SESSION 6	HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE Implementing the New Urban Agenda at All Levels and with All Actors	DIALOGUE Urban Economic Development Strategies	DIALOGUE Urban Spatial Strategies, Land Market and Segregation	
16:30 - 18:30	NETWORKING EVENTS				
19:00 - 20:30	URBAN TALK				
THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER					
08:00 - 10:00	STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE Children and Youth Roundtable	STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE Women Roundtable	SPECIAL SESSION Urban Culture and Heritage	SPECIAL SESSION Urban Ecosystems and Resource Management	SPECIAL SESSION Jobs and Livelihood
09:00 - 12:00	TRAINING EVENTS				
10:00 - 13:00	PLENARY SESSION 7	HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE Financing Sustainable Urban Development	DIALOGUE Urban Services and Technology	DIALOGUE Housing Policies	
12:30 - 13:30	SIDE EVENTS				
15:00 - 18:00	PLENARY SESSION 8 (OFFICIAL CLOSING)				

The United Nations, through its agency the United National Institute for Training and Research, established the 15<sup>th</sup> and final international training centre in its CIFAL network (Centre International de Formation des Autorites et Leaders) in Newcastle, in order to service - in the first instance - the city itself and the region within which it is located, as well as the Australasian and Pacific Region.

Habitat III will offer a potent opportunity for the international community at all levels to harmonize its understanding of the problems and opportunities posed by current trends in urbanization. This includes poverty, quality of life, environmental

degradation, climate change and other concerns on the one hand, as well as the economic, social and creative boons provided by cities on the other. Global actors will be able to use the run-up to Habitat III to work toward agreement on a broad and collective approach to start to both address and capitalize on these issues.

A significant part of the potential opportunity comes exactly from this breadth of discussion. At the table in making this decision will be the nearly 200 national governments that make up the U. N. General Assembly. Yet they will be buttressed by a broad variety of crucial actors, including cities, the private sector and civil society. Still, the exact roles of these latter entities remain tenuous. While they will be able to offer formal recommendations, officially they are considered mere observers to the process.

### **What exactly is sustainable development?**

There are many ways to define sustainable development. Indeed, for better and worse that number of definitions has only risen as the term itself has moved to the centre of the international development discussion.

One touchstone in defining sustainable development was offered in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development. This was a body mandated by the U. N. General Assembly due to mounting concerns over deteriorating human and natural environments. In the commission's final report, these experts defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

That definition does suggest a staggeringly broad swath of concerns, touching on national sovereignty and policymaking, international governance around natural resources, private-sector profit motives and consumer trends. It is important to note that sustainability in the development context is not limited to natural resources and environmental concerns but also takes into account economic and social issues of equality.

For its part, the commission's report placed particular priority on meeting the essential needs of the poor. It also warned that current development priorities weren't paying adequate attention to the limits of natural resources to supply human communities — and that poor countries were not going to be able to follow the same resource-heavy path to development trod by much of the West.

### **How does this definition of sustainable development fit into Habitat III?**

The World Commission on Environment and Development did much to mainstream a recognition that economic and social development needs to be seen in the context of an interconnected system of balances — that progress in one area can, and often does, mean deterioration in another.

There are arguably few contexts in which these tradeoffs can be seen more readily than in today's urban areas, where notable human progress is fueled by natural

resources extracted from rural areas. This overarching process offers a very robust engine for human betterment.

But it is also one that affects different communities very differently, and one that has quickly made large parts of our towns and cities increasingly uninhabitable, with ramifications for the well-being of the entire planet.

Bringing these concerns and opportunities into better — and long-term — balance is a fundamental goal of sustainable development broadly and of the **Habitat III conference** more particularly. In fact, this balance is all the more relevant following the September 2015 adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a 15-year guideline to tackle the global development agenda. It includes a landmark standalone Sustainable Development Goal on cities and human settlements, which has given the concerns of Habitat III extra impetus within the U. N. system.

### **Who's putting Habitat III on?**

As a formal conference in October 2016, Habitat III and its intended outcomes have been requested by the U.N. General Assembly, the United Nations' most representative body. It is the nation states of the General Assembly, too, that defined the conference's parameters, scope and intended results.

Habitat III is thus a U.N.-wide initiative, and that's a very key distinction. Further, close observers note that even well before the conference, interest levels throughout the U.N. system and beyond have been notably high, suggesting that Habitat III could see some of the broadest participation ever for a U. N. summit.

This process is being closely shepherded by the United Nations' lead agency on urban development, the Human Settlements Programme, more commonly referred to as UN-Habitat.

The conference's secretariat is based at UN-Habitat's headquarters in Nairobi, and the event's secretary-general is also the agency's executive director, Joan Clos. Further, one of the key goals of the conference will be to introduce reforms to UN-Habitat's own mandate in order to position the agency to oversee the development goals that come out of Habitat III.

In turn, the Habitat III Secretariat is receiving formal input from a variety of increasingly active alliances. This includes the World Urban Campaign, a broad global network of urbanists — from civil society, city and business groups — aligned with UN-Habitat and its agenda. The World Urban Campaign has launched a temporary initiative, the General Assembly of Partners, to harness civil society energy ahead of Habitat III. In addition, local officials have coalesced under the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, which will host the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities in the days leading up to Habitat III.

### **Why is Habitat III being held in Quito?**

Quito officially offered to host the Habitat III conference in early 2013, on the initiative of the city's then-mayor. Quito's bid ultimately went uncontested, and the U. N. General Assembly decided to accept the offer in December 2014.

Quito has received accolades in the past for being a leader in planning for climate change-related adaptation, while the current government has put housing and quality of life at the centre of its development approach. In 1978, Quito was also singled out to receive formal accolade from the United Nations for the city's success in preserving its historical core. Along with Krakow, Poland, it was dubbed an inaugural World Heritage City by UNESCO.

Quito's clear interest in historical preservation could result in strengthened importance being placed on this issue at Habitat III. More broadly, the Ecuadorian government says it sees the New Urban Agenda as an opportunity to bring the views of Latin America and the Global South together with a new international commitment to sustainable development.

### **Why does the Habitat III process matter?**

Habitat III will not be the first time that the world has gathered to consider and debate a collective approach to current trends impacting on towns, cities and other urban areas. Yet while such summits have taken place twice in the past, this third conference has a weight of responsibility and expectation never before experienced.

Recent years have seen a historic shift in where the world's communities are living and working. Starting around 2009, more people around the globe began living in urban rather than rural areas. Further, these trends are only picking up speed, with nearly three-quarters of the world's population expected to live in towns and cities by the middle of this century.

Given the problems of equity, energy consumption and environmental degradation that can already seem intractable in many urban areas, the effects of this shift are confounding for everyone. Cities occupy less than a tenth of the world's land area yet they suck up three-quarters of all energy use. Metro areas also account for the vast majority of carbon emissions.

Further, historically high levels of inequality are today being felt most prominently in urban areas, where two-thirds of people are thought to experience worse inequity than they did two decades ago.

Habitat III will now offer a major opportunity for the international community to substantively engage with and strategize around these complex issues and many others.

**How does Habitat III fit into broader international discussions?**

The conference's timing could function as a powerful energizer to several external processes. These include a pair of the highest-profile international discussions currently taking place, negotiations that together will impact on a historically broad spectrum of humanity. Both are expected to result in global agreements during the course of 2015.

The first is an international climate accord aimed to replace the Kyoto Protocol, negotiations towards which took place as the particular impacts of climate change for urban areas and the poor have become increasingly understood. The agreement in December 2015 set the global agenda around both mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change for the crucial decades to come.