

Date: Tuesday 2 February 2021	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor’s Reception Room, City Administration Centre
Meeting No: 7	Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the LGA.	

1. Welcome

1.1 Attendees:

Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle (Chair)
Mark Dunlop	General Manager, Keolis Downer
Corinne Thompson	A/Regional Director, Transport for NSW
Matthew Murray	Chief of Staff, Lord Mayor’s Office, City of Newcastle
Joanne Rigby	Acting Director Infrastructure & Property, City of Newcastle (Facilitator)
Rachel Howard	Executive Assistant, City of Newcastle (Secretary)

1.2 Apologies:

Cr Emma White	Councillor Member
Jonathon Clarke	Customer Manager – Urban Planning, Ausgrid
Darren Cleary	General Manager, Hunter Water Corporation
Kim Lenox	Community Representative
Ken Liddell	Director Infrastructure and Property

1.3 Guests:

Darren Green	Assets Coordinator - Roads
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1.4 The Committee agreed to proceed with an informal meeting with quorum not being achieved.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

2.1 Nil.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

3.1 Minutes

3.1.1 Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 7 July and Tuesday 6 October 2020 will be tabled for endorsement at the next Committee meeting.

3.1.2 Minutes will be placed on City of Newcastle’s (CN) website following endorsement.

3.2 Business Arising

3.2.1 Nil

4. Capital Works Program Overview

4.1 The Committee received an update on CN’s Capital Works Program for 2020/21 from Joanne Rigby. The presentation noted that:

4.1.1 At the September quarterly review CN’s works program totalled \$116.27 million.

- 4.1.2 Completed works within the last six months include:
- Council and Swan Streets Cooks Hill infrastructure renewal,
 - Cell 9 at Summerhill Waste Management Centre,
 - City Hall restoration works,
 - Stockton ferry kiosk,
 - Cycleways at Queens Wharf and Honeysuckle Drive,
 - Stormwater upgrades at Beaumont Street and Maitland Road, Islington, and
 - Pedestrian upgrades in Lambton, Elernmore Vale and Jesmond.
- 4.1.3 Major works continue at Bathers Way South Newcastle Beach, Number 1 Sportsground, the Merewether to The Junction cycleway, and Joslin and Llewellyn Street local centres.
- 4.1.4 Upcoming projects include East End public domain works, demolition of the Mall Carpark, Mitchel Street Stockton upgrades, Ironbark Creek rehabilitation, and channel upgrades at Cowper Street Wallsend.
- 4.1.5 An interactive civil works map is available on CN's [website](#). A monthly civil works update and a Stockton works update are also uploaded to the website for the community.
- 4.2 Discussion of the Newcastle Beach light rail stop and work to redirect cyclists away from the alignment following a tragic accident. CN and Transport NSW (TfNSW) are in regular contact to progress the project at this location and other locations along the Newcastle Light Rail corridor, which is currently at design stage.

5. Road Rehabilitation Program

- 5.1 The Committee received a presentation on CN's Road Rehabilitation Program from Darren Green. The presentation provided an overview of CN's forward works program and noted that:
- 5.1.1 The purpose of the program is to prioritise and deliver a holistic city wide approach to road renewal.
- 5.1.2 Key Strategic Drivers are the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan, the Western Corridor Contributions Plan, and CN's asset management framework.

6. Stakeholder Updates

- 6.1 Mark Dunlop provided an update on behalf of Keolis Downer:
- 6.1.1 Service changes came into effect on 13 December and are working well.
- 6.1.2 The two-year anniversary of the light rail is approaching. Passenger numbers are returning to pre-covid levels.
- 6.1.3 Work continues with TfNSW around a zero emission bus strategy. The Port of Newcastle, University of Newcastle, and Ausgrid all have a part to play. CN is supportive of this strategy and recently adopted the Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25 which outlines priorities for the City and community to minimise carbon emissions.
- 6.1.4 Discussion of road priority measures and the John Hunter to Callaghan to NUSpace route.

6.1.5 Discussion of the wider evolving attitudes towards public transport. Statistics are beginning to show an increase in 'passengers of choice'.

ACTION: Item for forward agenda – overview of the Zero Emissions Bus Strategy.

ACTION: Committee Secretary to [circulate video](#) provided by Mark Dunlop regarding public transport being the heart of the city.

6.2 Corrinne Thompson provided an update on behalf of TfNSW:

6.2.1 The organisational restructure is complete. The Director Community Partnering role has been advertised with an expanded transport-wide remit.

6.2.2 TfNSW will be reaching out to all Councils to initiate a Hunter Transport Plan in partnership with DPIE. Meetings are scheduled for early March with DPIE, TfNSW and CN's Director Governance. The Committee noted that CN's long term Newcastle Transport Strategy was adopted in December 2014, just prior to the Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan 2056.

6.2.3 Discussion of the role of the Committee in the development of transport strategy. A light rail transport update would be beneficial. Discussion of the extension of the light rail from a planning perspective, given the growth that is occurring in the city. Discussion of the risks associated with future extensions potentially being precluded by developments.

ACTION: Joanne Rigby to be invited to the meeting between Transport, DPIE and CN's Director Governance regarding the upcoming Hunter Transport Plan and report back to the Committee.

ACTION: Committee to receive an update on the Light Rail, and an overview of the details of the feasibility study recently released by the Minister, potential next steps, and any issues for implementation. Joanne Rigby and Corinne Thompson to discuss the most appropriate format for this.

6.2.4 The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan liaison from TfNSW is likely to be Paul McLaughlin going forward.

6.2.5 CN and TfNSW are in ongoing discussions to streamline the Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) process; a number of CN projects are on hold pending completion of WAD. The matter is currently with TfNSW legal team, who are drafting Council specific WADs, and the final drafts will be out to Councils soon.

6.2.6 The Kahibah Road and Northcott Drive intersection upgrade project will commence shortly. Tenders will be called for works to extend the turning lanes to improve efficiencies. Discussion of the central median of Northcott Drive and potential beautification.

6.2.7 The Rankin Park to Jesmond Newcastle Inner City Bypass bridge is complete. Demolition of transport owned properties on the western side will commence soon. The next step will be calling tenders for utility relocation.

6.2.8 The Environmental Impact Statement for the M1 to Raymond Terrace motorway is to be publicly exhibited. Timing for construction is not confirmed. The concept design and Review of Environmental Factors for the Hexham Straight will be publicly displayed. The Committee discussed the potential for coordinating with the Hunter freight rail bypass.

6.2.9 Discussion of the Hexham Straight project and impacts on the bridge at Ironbark Creek. Discussion of the potential to provide pedestrian access e.g. for pedestrians from the Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) to Ash Island.

ACTION: Committee Secretary to [circulate information](#) regarding the RVRT.

ACTION: Committee Secretary to [circulate information](#) provided by Corinne Thompson on the Hexham Straight (Ironbark Creek Bridge) project.

ACTION: A TfNSW update is to be added as a standing agenda item to provide strategic updates to the Committee.

ACTION: Item for forward agenda - RVRT update. This project involves multiple stakeholders and is an important project for the City.

10. Closing

The Lord Mayor will Chair the next meeting. Future meeting dates are:

5.30pm, Tuesday 4 May 2021.

5.30pm, Tuesday 3 August 2021.

Location - Lord Mayor's Reception Room, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West.

Meeting closed 7.03pm.