

Infrastructure Advisory Committee Annual Report



Foreword from the Chair



The Infrastructure Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identifies challenges and opportunities in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the Newcastle LGA. The Committee has an overarching focus on improving community interaction with our infrastructure and facilities, aiming to ensure that inclusivity and accessibility are at the forefront of design and infrastructure management. The Committee also provides a valuable opportunity for City of Newcastle (CN) Councillors and staff to build collaborative relationships with key government and private stakeholders, resulting in improved outcomes including transparency for the Newcastle community.

At the first meeting for the year on 24 February 2023, with the shared vision from the City of Newcastle's Community Strategic Plan *Newcastle 2040* in mind, Committee Members agreed on three strategic focus areas for 2023:

- Coastal Management - Environment and Built Infrastructure,
- Integrated and Accessible Transport, and,
- Sports Infrastructure.

During the July 2023 Committee meeting, when summarising the results of the Committee Effectiveness Survey, it was recognised that strategic challenges and opportunities facing the LGA include disaster mitigation, natural asset protection, energy transition, EV charging, and planning for developments to integrate with services. The Committee kept these matters at the forefront when considering and commenting on strategies and projects.

The Committee was briefed on key and major projects planned across the LGA. In November 2023 the Committee received a detailed briefing on the concept plans for road upgrades in the Western Corridor at Minmi Road and Longworth Avenue, Wallsend. At this meeting the Committee was also provided a project overview on the Georgetown Road Local Centre Public Domain and Traffic Plan. These projects will greatly improve traffic flow and congestion outcomes for local residents.



Artist's impression - Longworth Avenue, Wallsend

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Special thanks to the Committee's stakeholder members, who provided valuable presentations and insights throughout the year. Stakeholder participation and input is critical to achieving improved outcomes for the local Newcastle community and wider region, and allows for stakeholders to work in collaboration.

During the year, Transport for NSW provided a detailed update on major projects in the region, including the M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace, Hexham Straight project, and the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City bypass. Keolis Downer presented an overview of their Zero Emissions Bus Strategy. Ausgrid briefed the committee on their Investment Plan for 2024-2029, and Hunter Water provided updates on various community engagement items, wastewater, stormwater and infrastructure management.

I'd like to pass on sincere thanks to all Committee members and guests for their time and effort to ensure Newcastle's infrastructure development continues in a way that benefits our entire community.

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Membership



Lord Mayor
Cr Nelmes



Cr Winney-Baartz
Chair



Cr Deahna Richardson
Deputy Chair



Cr Katrina Wark
Councillor Member



John Merrell
Community Representative



Emmanuel Genlot
Keolis Downer



Frank Roberson
Ausgrid



Corinne Thompson
Transport for NSW



Robert Main
Hunter Water Corporation

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Objective of the committee

1. To provide advice on development of strategies to ensure Council has robust infrastructure management practices and policies.
2. To provide advice on capital works and maintenance program performance including roads, structures and drainage infrastructure.
3. To provide advice on the protection and enhancement of natural infrastructure including waterways, floodplains, coastal, biodiversity, air quality, natural areas, habitat corridors, and efficiency and integrated water management.

Summary of key items of business considered

Date of Meeting	Business Item
Thursday 7 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Scope and Strategic Focus Areas• Endorsement of 2022 Annual Report• Wallsend Bridge Delivery• 2023 Major Projects Overview
Thursday 4 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of Committee Effectiveness Survey• Newcastle Inner City Bypass (Rankin Park to Jesmond)• Hexham Straight• Bathers Way - King Edward Park concept design
Monday 6 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minmi Road Concept Designs• Georgetown Road Local Centre Public Domain and Traffic Plan

Standing agenda items include:

- Adoption of draft minutes and actions arising,
- Sports Infrastructure Working Party update,
- Stakeholder updates, and
- General Business.

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Summary of key achievements

The Committee has continued to build on the strong interagency partnership that was established at its formation in 2022. This partnership enables collaboration and cross agency sharing of information along with input from our community representatives. The Committee receives regular updates from stakeholder representatives on key issues and upcoming projects. This has enabled a forum where strategic projects from CN, other government agencies and businesses are discussed, input is provided, and cross agency collaboration is facilitated.

The Sports Infrastructure Working Party (SIWP) was established under the Infrastructure Advisory Committee in June 2022. In 2023 the SIWP held six (6) meetings. This forum enables CN to more effectively collaborate with external stakeholders regarding proposed sporting infrastructure upgrades and contributes to the successful implementation of the city's ten year [Strategic Sports Plan](#).



Chaired by Cr Peta Winney-Bartz, the working party's main focus in 2022 was to develop a formal process to guide Expressions of Interests (EOI) from sporting clubs and associations for the variety of grants offered to support improved infrastructure at City of Newcastle sporting facilities. Associated with the EOI guidelines is a new process to guide the request for and issuing of owner's consent letters for grant applicants.

The EOI process was developed in early 2023 and has since been successfully implemented. This process was recently utilised by Surf Life Saving Clubs in late 2023, with CN staff assisting the clubs to apply for grants via the NSW Office of Sport.

The SIWP provided guidance and comment on key sporting projects, such as major redevelopments at Passmore and Darling Street Ovals. These works improved the amenities for all users, with significant improvements for women and girls taking part in sport. The SIWP also provided representations to local Police around the management and prevention of graffiti and vandalism at local sporting grounds and clubs.

Other SIWP agenda items include updates and discussion on grants and projects, implementation of the Strategic Sports Plan, and review of masterplans.

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Summary of performance and governance

Date of Meeting	Quorum achieved	Members in attendance	Agenda circulated to members, published on CN's website	Declaration of conflicts of interest listed as agenda item	Minutes circulated to members, adopted by the committee, and published on CN's website
Tuesday 7 February 2023	Quorate	Cr Peta Winney-Baartz, Councillor Member (Chair) Cr Deahna Richardson, Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) Cr Katrina Wark, Councillor Member Bryn Hernandez - Network Planning & Operations, Ausgrid Emmanuel Genlot - General Manager, Keolis Downer Robert Main - Group Manager Planning & Engineering, Hunter Water Corporation Corinne Thompson - Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport for NSW	Yes	Yes	Yes
April 2023 - Meeting Cancelled		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thursday 4 July 2023	Quorate	Cr Peta Winney-Baartz, Councillor Member (Chair) Cr Deahna Richardson, Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) Cr Katrina Wark Councillor Member Emmanuel Genlot - General Manager, Keolis Downer Robert Main - Group Manager Planning & Engineering, Hunter Water Corporation John Merrell - Community Representative Ken Saxby - Lead Community & Safety Partner, Transport for NSW	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monday 6 November 2023	Quorate	Cr Deahna Richardson, Councillor Member (Acting Chair) Cr Katrina Wark, Councillor Member Robert Main - Group Manager Planning & Engineering, Hunter Water Corporation John Merrell - Community Representative Corinne Thompson - Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport for NSW	Yes	Yes	Yes* Tabled for adoption at the 6 February 2024 meeting.