

Date: Tuesday 6 February 2024	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre
Meeting No: 15	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

Councillor Winney-Baartz acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

1.1 Attendees:

Members

Cr Peta Winney-Baartz	Councillor Member (Chair)
Cr Deahanna Richardson	Councillor Member (Deputy Chair)
Emmanuel Genlot	General Manager Keolis Downer
Robert Main	Group Manager Planning & Engineering, Hunter Water Corporation
John Merrell	Community Representative

Guests

Clint Thomson	Executive Director City Infrastructure and Committee Facilitator
Robert Dudgeon	Executive Manager Project Management Office, City of Newcastle
Elisha Buckingham	Committee Secretary (Minutes)

Apologies

Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor Member
Corinne Thompson	Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW
Bryn Hernandez	Network Planning & Operations Council Management, Ausgrid

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 6 November 2023 were endorsed as circulated.

2.2 No outstanding actions.

3. 2023 Committee Annual Report

The Committee agreed to endorse the 2023 Annual Report.

4. Sports Infrastructure Working Party (SIWP) Update

4.1 Councillor Winney-Baartz provided an update.

4.1.1 An upcoming key event is the Biannual Sports Summit, which presents the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders in the sporting field.

4.1.2 The new grants process that was implemented in 2023 has been working well, allowing sporting clubs to apply for grants in a streamlined and effective way.

- 4.1.3 Councillor Winney-Baartz advised she recently visited the current basketball stadium and facilitated the opening of the new pickleball hub. She also provided an update on the proposed new basketball stadium project, run by the NSW state Government. The new stadium will be a multiuse facility (netball, pickleball, school sports, etc) which will allow for up to 10,000 players.
- 4.1.4 Councillor Winney-Baartz passed on positive feedback from the Australian National Cricket champions she met with recently, who noted that No. 1 sportsground is one of the best fields they play on.
- 4.1.5 Other outdoor and sporting facilities such as New Lambton pool and Newcastle Ocean Baths have been well received and experiencing a high level of community patronage.

5. CN Update

- 5.1 Robert Dudgeon gave a general update on City of Newcastle's Capital Works Program.
 - 5.1.1 Local Centres remain a key program. There are 48 local centres across the Newcastle LGA. Projects include the Darby Street trial change of use and traffic planning, with reduced speed and widened footpaths, outdoor dining and addition of cycling lanes.

The Blackbutt local centre carpark has been completed fronting the businesses. Shade and tree canopy have been improved by planting appropriate trees and the stormwater system has been revitalised. Upcoming works include delivery of two plazas within the centre, and CN collaboration with TfNSW to upgrade the Carnley Avenue/Orchardtown Road intersection.
 - 5.1.2 Stage 1 of the revitalisation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths has been completed, and the baths experienced unprecedented community usage over the summer period. The project has been split into 2 stages, with Stage 2 focusing on the refurbishment of the buildings and pavilions.
 - 5.1.3 The Bathers Way revitalisation project is nearing completion, with the last stages to improve access to King Edward Park and create more accessible pedestrian connections.
 - 5.1.4 CN are commencing a project to remediate the Newcastle Supercars 500 (N500) area. There are 15 individual sites within the N500 area, with two sites to be the focus of initial remediation and designs: Zaara Street and Watt Street intersections. As part of the planning and design phase CN will consult with Keolis Downer on transport and turning circle requirements for their bus fleet.

6 Stakeholder Updates

- 6.1 Hunter Water - Robert Main provided an update:
 - 6.1.1 It was recently announced that a desalination plant will be installed at Belmont (Lake Macquarie LGA).
 - 6.1.2 Hunter Water have been undertaking community engagement on their pricing proposal. It was noted there was a community forum held recently to seek feedback from demographics of the public.

6.2 Keolis Downer - Emmanuel Genlot provided an update.

6.2.1 Keolis Downer has recently been recruiting a material number of new drivers. Improvements have been made to the roster system and employee incentives to retain drivers and meet service levels.

6.2.2 Consultation is currently underway with TfNSW on developing more bus routes and developing a 10-year vision for transport in the Newcastle area.

6.2.3 Collaboration with TfNSW is underway to get more electric buses on the road. To achieve this, depots require upgrading to allow for charging. There has been a recent community survey on the E-buses, with primarily positive feedback. The E-buses are quieter, smoother and reduce carbon footprint.

6.2.4 Keolis Downer has been working to support major events in town (e.g. Pink concert). Each major event has proved a valuable experience with lessons learnt to improve future services for future events.

7. Annual Program

7.1 The Committee confirmed the dates for upcoming meetings in 2024, noting the October meeting is tentatively scheduled due to the September election, and will likely need to be rescheduled.

7.2 The Committee determined to retain the three main strategic focus areas from the previous year, acknowledging they are still significant areas of growth and infrastructure development/renewal for the Newcastle LGA:

- Coastal Management
- Integrated transport
- Sports Infrastructure

It was noted that accessibility and inclusion remain key focus areas in all infrastructure projects.

8. General Business - Nil

9. Closing

9.1 Next meeting: 5.30pm, Tuesday 2 April 2024
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre