

Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2023



Foreword from the Chair



The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee supports efforts to achieve the vision outlined in the City's Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan to be a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive global city. The Committee provides advice on a wide range of issues, including economic development, smart city, tourism, climate action, and major events.

In 2023, the Committee met on three occasions, and focused its attention on the development of the Newcastle Environment Strategy, local procurement policy and approach, the City Intelligence Program, and tourism including the Destination Management Plan and Supercars event.

The Committee incorporates a diverse range of stakeholders and community representatives. The Committee provides a forum to bring together peak stakeholders, Councillors, and the community to inform the City's strategic vision, direction, and programs. The Committee also helps to ensure consistency in advocacy and programming by partners across the City.

In 2024, the Committee will be working with stakeholders to host an Electric Vehicle Roundtable event, to assist the City in navigating the policy responses necessary to support the continued uptake of electric vehicles across Newcastle. The Committee will also be receiving updates to continue progress made at the community Climate Summit held at the end of 2023, on the continued expansion of Newcastle Airport, and the role that the Council can play with the NSW Government to explore Community Improvement Districts.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I thank the Committee Facilitator David Clarke and Jessica Budd for their support. We would also like to thank the City of Newcastle team for providing high-quality reports and presentations to the Committee, which have informed our discussions.

We look forward to continuing our work together in 2024 to deliver on the City's strategic vision.

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Membership



Lord Mayor
Cr Nelmes



Cr Declan Clausen
Chair



Cr Charlotte McCabe
Deputy Chair



Cr Callum Pull
Councillor Member



David Clarke
Executive Director
Corporate Services & CFO



Tony Sansom OAM
Community Representative



Prof. Alex Zelinski AO
University of Newcastle



Bob Hawes
Business Hunter

John Dunn
Community Representative



Alison McGaffin
Regional NSW



Joe James
Hunter Joint Organisation



Larry Platt
Emergent Group



Warwick Jordan
Hunter Jobs Alliance



Michelle Faithfull
Community Representative

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Objective of the committee

The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee will provide advice and guidance on the formation, development, refinement and implementation of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to the economic development and diversification of Newcastle as a destination leading in innovative technologies, climate action, smart infrastructure, high value investment, and major events and tourism. Continue the implementation of strategies and advocacy emanating from the Lord Mayor's City Taskforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the city's continued economic recovery.

Summary of key items of business considered

Date of Meeting	Business Item
Tuesday 7 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Briefing• Committee Priorities for 2023• Electric Vehicle Roundtable• City Intelligence Program• Economic Development Strategy• Destination Management Plan• Supercars
Tuesday 2 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Briefing• Committee Priorities for 2023• Procurement Policy & Localising Supply Chains
Tuesday 1 August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Briefing• Draft Environment Strategy

Standing agenda items include:

- Adoption of draft minutes and actions arising,
- Economic Briefing, and
- General Business.

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Summary of key achievements

- Adoption of the Newcastle Environment Strategy following engagement with the Committee
- Economic briefing outcomes – supporting decision making by the City of Newcastle and each member organisation
- Preparation for an EV Roundtable event (2024)
- City of Newcastle Procurement Policy & Localising Supply Chains
- Tourism, Economic Development and Major Events

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Summary of performance and governance

Date of Meeting	Quorum achieved	Members in attendance	Agenda circulated to members and 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 Declan Clausen, Chairperson Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson Cr Callum Pull Prof. Kent Anderson, UON (representing Alex Zelinsky AO) Mr Joe James, Hunter Joint Organisation Mr Bob Hawes, Business Hunter Mr Warrick Jordan, Hunter Jobs Alliance Mr John Dunn, Community Representative Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative Mr David Clarke, Committee Facilitator	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuesday 2 May 2023	Quorate	Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson	Yes	Yes	Yes

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		<p>Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson</p> <p>Cr Callum Pull</p> <p>Prof. Alex Zelinsky, UON</p> <p>Mr Joe James, Hunter Joint Organisation</p> <p>Mr Bob Hawes, Business Hunter</p> <p>Mr Scott Goid, Regional NSW (representing Alison McGaffin)</p> <p>Mr Warrick Jordan, Hunter Jobs Alliance</p> <p>Mr John Dunn, Community Representative</p> <p>Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative</p> <p>Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative</p>			
Tuesday 1 August 2023	Quorate	<p>Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson</p> <p>Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson</p> <p>Cr Callum Pull</p> <p>Prof. Alex Zelinsky, UON</p> <p>Mr Joe James, Hunter Joint Organisation</p> <p>Mr John Dunn, Community Representative</p> <p>Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative</p> <p>Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes