

Infrastructure Advisory Committee Annual Report



Foreword from the Chair



The Infrastructure Advisory Committee provides 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.

At the inaugural meeting in February 2022, the Committee received a briefing on Newcastle's new Community Strategic Plan, *Newcastle 2040*, which provides an ambitious long-term vision for Newcastle. With the shared vision from *Newcastle 2040* in mind, Committee Members agreed on three strategic focus areas for 2022:

- Environmental Asset Management,
- Integrated and Accessible Transport, and
- Sports Infrastructure Program Delivery.

The Committee formally established a Sports Infrastructure Working Party to provide strategic guidance and a governance framework for sporting facility infrastructure upgrades. 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](#).

In April the Committee received a briefing on the commencement of Stage One works for the long-awaited revitalisation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths. The \$14.5 million first phase focuses on the pools, lower promenade and pumping system. I look forward to the Committee's continued involvement in this project, particularly as a member of the Community Reference Group, as planning for Stage 2 progresses in 2023.



Newcastle Ocean Baths Final Design

Special thanks to the Committee's stakeholder members, who provided valuable presentations and insights throughout the year. Transport for NSW provided a detailed update on the Newcastle Inner City Bypass - Rankin Park to Jesmond works, as well as regular updates on a range of strategic projects, from the draft Regional Transport Plan to the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor. Keolis Downer presented an overview of their Zero Emissions Bus Strategy. Ausgrid briefed the committee on their Draft Plan for 2024-2029.

With environmental asset management a key focus area, subject matter experts provided briefings and received feedback from the Committee on City of Newcastle's Draft Newcastle Environment Strategy, Our Sustainable Waste Strategy and Coastal Hazard Awareness Campaign.

I'd like to pass on sincere thanks to all Committee members and guests for their time and efforts 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



Clint Thomson
Hunter Water Corporation

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; and
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.

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Summary of key items of business considered

Date of Meeting	Business Item
Thursday 24 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Scope and Strategic Focus Areas • Working Parties / Sub Committees • Draft Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan • Draft Newcastle Environment Strategy
Wednesday 6 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle Ocean Baths Project Update • Newcastle Inner City Bypass Project Update
Tuesday 5 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Pedestrian Network • Our Sustainable Waste Strategy
Tuesday 4 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keolis Downer Zero Emissions Bus Strategy • Ausgrid’s Draft Plan for 2024-2029 • Coastal Hazard Awareness Campaign

Standing agenda items include:

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

Summary of key achievements

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

The Sports Infrastructure Working Party (SIWP) was established under the Infrastructure Advisory Committee in June 2022 with seven meetings held in the calendar year. The expressed purpose of the SIWP is to guide the provision of sporting infrastructure to support an active community, meet current standards and ensure alignment with CN's Strategic Sports Plan 2020.

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Chaired by Cr Peta Winney-Bartz the working party's main focus has been 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 process is a new process to guide the request for and issuing of owner's consent letters for grant applicants.

Other SIWP agenda items include updates and discussion on grants and projects, implementation of the Strategic Sports Plan and review of masterplans. The SIWP also played a key role with the Sports Forum held with all local clubs and associations to provide information and answer questions on CN's sport related processes and communication.

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 24 February 2022	Quorate	Cr Peta Winney-Baartz, Councillor Member (Chair) Cr Deahna Richardson, Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) Cr Katrina Wark, Councillor Member Matthew Murray, Chief of Staff representing Lord Mayor Councillor Nelmes Emmanuel Genlot, General Manager, Keolis Downer Frank Roberson, Network Planning and Operations, Council Management, Ausgrid Corinne Thompson, Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW Clint Thomson, Executive Manager Customer Delivery, Hunter Water Corporation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wednesday 6 April 2022	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 John Merrell, Community Representative Corinne Thompson, Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW	Yes	Yes	Yes

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		Frank Roberson, Network Planning & Operations, Council Management, Ausgrid			
Tuesday 5 July 2022	Quorate	Cr Peta Winney-Baartz, Councillor Member (Chair) Cr Deahnna Richardson, Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) Matthew Murray, Chief of Staff representing Lord Mayor Councillor Nelmes John Merrell, Community Representative Corinne Thompson, Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW Delegate Robert Main, Group Manager Planning and Engineering, Hunter Water Corporation representing Clint Thomson, Executive Manager Customer Delivery.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thursday 20 October 2022	Quorate	Cr Peta Winney-Baartz, Councillor Member (Chair) Cr Deahnna Richardson, Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) Cr Katrina Wark, Councillor Member Emmanuel Genlot, General Manager, Keolis Downer John Merrell, Community Representative Frank Roberson, Network Planning and Operations, Council Management, Ausgrid Clint Thomson, Executive Manager Customer Delivery, Hunter Water Corporation Corinne Thompson, Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW	Yes	Yes	Yes