

# STRATEGY & INNOVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFIRMED MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 1 June 2021 at 5.30 – 7.30pm  
Lord Mayors Reception Room, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West

**Meeting No. 6**



## 1. MEETING OPEN

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Chair, Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Declan Clausen, opened the meeting at 5.38pm and welcomed attendees.

The Chair acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi people as the traditional custodians of Newcastle and paid respect to elders; past, present and emerging.

The meeting attendance was noted as:

### **Committee Members present:**

Cr Declan Clausen	Chairperson, City of Newcastle (CN)
Cr Matthew Byrne	Deputy Chairperson, CN
Cr Brad Luke	Councillor, CN
Prof Mark Hoffman	Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle (UON)
Ms Alison McGaffin	Director, Department of Regional NSW
Mr Bob Hawes	CEO, Hunter Business Chamber (HBC)
Mr Larry Platt	Industry Representative, Advitech
Mr Joe James	CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation (arrived 5.50pm)
Mr Rhett Morson	Community Representative
Mr Brett Smith	Committee Facilitator / Director Strategy & Engagement, CN
Ms Caitlin McCulloch	Committee Secretary, CN

### **Apologies received:**

Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor, CN
Prof. Alex Zelinsky	Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle (UON)

### **Guests**

Dr Anthea Bill	Lead Economist, Hunter Research Foundation Centre (HRFC), UON
Dr Nathaniel Bavinton	Innovation & Futures Manager, CN
Mr Simon Massey	Economic Strategy & Government Relation Manager, CN
Ms Kelly Arnott	Corporate Planning & Performance Manager, CN
Ms Rebecca Allan	Corporate Strategist, CN

## 2. STANDING ITEMS

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### 2.1. Pecuniary Declaration/ Conflict of Interest

Nil received.

### 2.2. Meeting Minutes

The draft 2 February 2021 meeting minutes circulated with the agenda were accepted.

**MOVED:** Mr Bob Hawes

**SECONDED:** Mr Rhett Morson

### **2.3. Actions Arising**

Committee Chair noted that the two outstanding action items were being deferred with no current updates.

Chair congratulated CN's Economic Strategy & Government Relations Manager on the adoption of the Economic Development Strategy, which had been discussed at the 2 February meeting.

## **3. FOR INFORMATION**

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### **3.1. Economic Briefing**

Dr Anthea Bill, HRFC UON presented an update on local economic insights (copy at **Attachment A**).

The committee noted the Census will happen later this year, providing further data on the age breakdown of these economic insights. However, there is a significant delay in the Census data being made public.

## **4. FOR DISCUSSION**

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### **4.1. Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)**

CN's Corporate Planning & Performance Manager presented an update on the engagement undertaken so far for the Newcastle 2040 CSP (copy at **Attachment B**).

The committee commended the impressive work that has been completed.

The committee discussed the use of the term 'regenerative' and determined while conceptually sound, its meaning may be misunderstood.

### **4.2. New Move Campaign Overview**

CN's Economic Strategy & Government Relations Manager presented an overview of the New Move campaign.

The committee commended the campaign and noted the importance of building networks and connections for grant recipients, especially connecting them with the University of Newcastle.

The committee noted the issue of Hunter LGA boundaries blurring, potentially allowing grant funds to be spent outside Newcastle LGA.

The committee also noted the challenges of bringing all levels of government together to provide place-based leadership.

### **4.3. Building our industrial skills base**

Mr Larry Platt had engaged with the industry sector on the contents of CN's Economic Development Strategy prior to the Advisory Group meeting. Larry indicated that the majority of the sector were supportive of CN's direction. Larry also provided an overview of the industrial skills base within the region and provided insights into how this skills base could be strengthened.

The committee noted the issue within the region is multi-faceted, however commented that providing an increased number of internships would provide an opportunity for businesses and students alike.

#### 4.4. Hunter 2050 Foundation

Mr Joe James presented an update on the Hunter 2050 Foundation to the committee.

#### 5. GENERAL BUSINESS

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No matters raised.

#### 6. FORWARD AGENDA – PLANNING FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

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The Annual Performance Review circulated with the agenda was endorsed.

The recommendation to broaden committee membership as per *Briefing Note – Committee Membership* that was circulated with the agenda was endorsed. The Briefing Note recommended the committee be expanded to include representation from the following cohorts: youth; creative arts and indigenous community. The committee noted a representative for youth could be sought from the Hunter Young Professionals.

The committee also discussed and endorsed increasing membership further to include a representative from the local innovation community.

#### 7. MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTIONS

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**Next Meeting:**

03 August (TBC)

**Meeting closed:**

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.