

Liveable Cities Advisory Committee Annual Report



Foreword from the Chair

Councillor Dr John Mackenzie



It is my privilege to present the 2023 Annual Report of the Liveable Cities Advisory Committee at City of Newcastle.

Over the past 12 months, the Committee's guidance has been instrumental in ensuring our approach to strategic urban planning is grounded in the experience of our community, preserves Newcastle's unique amenity and quality of life, and most importantly fosters sustainable growth and resilience in solutions to emergent challenges like housing supply and global climate change.

The Committee took a bold approach to their role in 2023, choosing to focus considerable attention on the foundational planning and engagement work for the development of the Broadmeadow Place Strategy. It was recognised that the Broadmeadow Place Strategy presented a unique prospect - a once in a generation flagship urban renewal project among the most significant in New South Wales arguably nation-wide.

The Committee shared a common ambition for growth planning in the suburb, reimagining it as a catalyst precinct delivering more social, affordable and diverse housing stock, job opportunities, destination and entertainment amenity, wild natural spaces, and community facilities. Successive regional plans have identified the suburb's potential, especially its substantial areas of former industrial land with opportunities for employment and housing, connected by the network of public and active transport links to the Newcastle city centre and beyond. The scale of the Broadmeadow renewal project is an opportunity to showcase contemporary planning and design, and promises to redefine Newcastle's urban landscape and enhance its liveability for generations to come. I am deeply grateful for the diligence and commitment with which the committee approached this work, and the Strategy will reflect the insights and contributions of our expert, community and practitioner Committee members.

As Newcastle continues on its path of transformation, the guidance and insights provided by this advisory group, on housing, development controls, heritage and environmental protection, remain essential for steering the city towards a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future. Our work was as always guided and supported by City of Newcastle executive and staff, who share the same commitment to making Newcastle even more liveable, and maybe even more loveable, as the members the advisory Committee.



Liveable Cities Advisory Committee Annual Report



MEMBERSHIP



**Lord Mayor
Councillor Nelmes**
City of Newcastle



Councillor Dr John Mackenzie
City of Newcastle
CHAIR



**Councillor Dr Elizabeth
Adamczyk**
City of Newcastle
DEPUTY CHAIR



Councillor John Church
City of Newcastle



Michelle Bisson
City of Newcastle
Executive Director Planning and Environment



Kristi Jorgensen
Regional Growth NSW Development
Corporation



Steve O'Connor
SLR Consulting



Michael Nolan
Home in Place

Sparrow Katekar
Community Representative

Outgoing Members

We would like to thank our outgoing members for their valuable contributions during 2023.

- **Sue-Anne Ware**
University of Newcastle
- **David Moir**
Community Representative
- **Wendy Banister**
Community Representative

*Thank
you!*

OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Liveable Cities Advisory Committee to provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to safe, healthy, liveable and connected urban systems within the Local Government Area (LGA).

1. To provide advice on development of strategies that support urban policy and frameworks to achieve liveability objectives.
2. To provide advice on the planning for integration of affordability, transport, infrastructure, environment, and safety and crime prevention strategies.
3. To provide advice on the planning for integrated public and active transport services and oversee the implementation of City of Newcastle's (CN) traffic, parking and cycling management plans and operations.
4. To consider and advise on environmental and sustainability planning.
5. To provide advice on the protection and enhancement of heritage issues and design character.



SUMMARY OF KEY ITEMS OF BUSINESS CONSIDERED

Date of Meeting	Business Item
<p>7 March 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCAC Annual Report • Wickham Public Domain Plan • Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas • Newcastle Environment Strategy • DCP Review Stage 2 Renewal Corridor submissions / comments review • Cycling and Parking Plan update (Maps, walking plan, sensors, POD) • Affordable Housing and Contribution Scheme • Local Character, Liveability, Conservation and Place Planning • Working Parties update - P&E <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affordable Housing - Cycling - Public Art Advisory Group - Broadmeadow Precinct - DCP Review • General Business - Move to Newcastle https://movetonewcastle.com.au
<p>6 June 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCP - Overview-Exhibition of Draft DCP 2023 • Workshop - Broadmeadow Precinct Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadmeadow Place Strategy - Technical Studies - Flood Mitigation - Affordable Housing and Open Green Space
<p>4 July 2023 (additional - online)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop - Broadmeadow Precinct Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-negotiables - Draft Scenario report
<p>5 September 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area • Workshop - Broadmeadow Precinct Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadmeadow Place Strategy - Draft Vision, Place Pillars and Place Principles • Discussion - new LCAC Community Representative members

Liveable Cities Advisory Committee Annual Report



<p>27 November 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Dashboards• Draft DCP 2023<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overview of Exhibition and Submissions- Savings Provisions- Commencement Date - 1 March 2024• Broadmeadow Precinct Project Workshop<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strategy / Rezoning- Vision, Place Pillars, Place Principles and Confirmation of draft final sections- Update on EbD Workshop 2• Agenda Focus for 2024<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Broadmeadow- Local Character- Heritage Conservation• Satisfaction Survey
-------------------------	---

Standing agenda items include:

- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
- Adoption of draft minutes and actions arising, and
- General Business



SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The establishment of the Liveable Cities Advisory Committee creates opportunities for City of Newcastle (CN) to work strategically and collaboratively with other agencies and community representatives on key issues and upcoming projects in our beautiful, rapidly developing City.

The Committee has continued to build on strong collaboration and advise on key strategic projects to create a more liveable, sustainable city. The Committee receives regular updates from stakeholder representatives and provide important contribution and assistance on key issues and upcoming projects.

The Committee has had a busy year in 2023, engaging in discussions, workshops and presentations covering a wide range of topics.

Several workshops have been held with the Committee on the Broadmeadow Precinct project which will inform the overall Broadmeadow Place Strategy as well as the Strategy's vision, pillars and principles. Briefings were held on Newcastle City Centre Heritage review, Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme and Newcastle Environment Strategy. Discussions and feedback sessions took place on Newcastle local character, liveability and place planning and the Committee provided important contribution to the now adopted Newcastle DCP 2023.

The Committee's work in these areas has helped to inform and shape the City's strategic vision for planning outcomes for a sustainable, liveable city.



LIVEABLE CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING PARTIES

Development Control Plan Working Party (DCPWP)

The DCPWP was established with a 2022 resolution of Council. Our community demands development controls able to meet the needs of an ageing population with diverse mobility requirements, and increasing weather extremes like flood, stormwater, and extreme heat. In 2023 the DCPWP focused on strengthening accessibility and sustainability in the DCP, resulting in strengthened requirements for wider footpaths, deep soil, sustainable built fabric, accessible building design, and biodiversity conservation. This is consistent with our commitment to ensure a more liveable, healthier and cooler city, with dignity, equity and accessibility in building design, and responsible, and care-full environmental stewardship.

In September Council endorsed the draft modernised Development Control Plan to go to public exhibition. With overwhelming support for these changes in feedback from community, and in radio and print media, and unanimous endorsement of the DCPWP, the modernised DCP was adopted as a majority resolution of Council in December 2023. I particularly thank staff under the direction of Executive Director Michelle Bisson, who contributed a tremendous amount of work, and energy across many years, and many teams across Council with expert input into specific areas to deliver this modernised DCP. This DCP will deliver strong social and environmental outcomes that underpin a city that is fit for purpose and fit for the future.

Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk
CHAIR DCPWP

Affordable Housing Working Party (AHPWP)

Facilitator Shane Cahill, Strategic Planning Section Manager

In 2023 the work of the AHWP considered various aspects of the delivery of affordable housing in City of Newcastle - including local government methodology and models for partnerships to deliver affordable housing, the management of affordable housing by permanent reservation or transfer of title, the capacity of city assets to capacitate affordable housing - and most significantly, oversaw the development of an affordable housing developer contributions scheme (AHDCS) under the State Environment Planning Policy *Affordable Housing* (SEPP70). The AHDCS will require contributions for affordable housing to be used by households of low-to-moderate income, assessed either as floor space or a monetary contribution, as a condition of development consent, for specific types and sizes of development.

I note the significant research and engagement with best practice and contextual factors to develop this draft scheme by our expert planners under Michelle Bisson, Executive Director Planning and Environment. The scheme was unanimously endorsed by the AHWP to put to Council in December 2023, which resolved the draft AHDCS to go to Gateway approval, to undergo further rounds of feasibility testing in different locations across the city, and be placed onto public exhibition to seek our community's endorsement. This resolution is an opportunity to do our part in local government to undertake some of the regulatory reforms necessary to address some of the growing class and intergenerational inequalities in the provision and regulation of rental housing.

Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk
CHAIR DCPWP

Liveable Cities Advisory Committee Annual Report



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
7 March 2023	Quorate	Councillor Dr John Mackenzie (Chair) Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Deputy Chair) Steve O'Connor (Planning Institute of Australia) Kristi Jorgensen (Department Regional NSW) Marcus Jefferies (University of Newcastle) <i>(Representing Sue Anne Ware)</i> Michael Nolan (Home in Place) David Moir (Community Representative) Sparrow Katekar (Community Representative)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 June 2023	Quorate	Councillor Dr John Mackenzie (Chair) Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Deputy Chair) Steve O'Connor (Planning Institute of Australia) Kristi Jorgensen (Department Regional NSW) Michael Nolan (Home in Place) Marcus Jefferies (University of Newcastle) <i>(Representing Sue Anne Ware)</i> Sparrow Katekar (Community Representative)	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 September 2023	Quorate	Councillor Dr John Mackenzie (Chair) Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Deputy Chair) Michael Nolan (Home in Place) Steve O'Connor (Planning Institute of Australia)	Yes	Yes	Yes
27 November 2023	Quorate	Councillor Dr John Mackenzie (Chair) Councillor Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Deputy Chair) Sparrow Katekar (Community Representative) Steve O'Connor (Planning Institute of Australia)	Yes	Yes	Yes