
IN ATTENDANCE
P Chrystal (Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer / Director Planning and Regulatory), G Cousins (Director Corporate Services), K Liddell (Acting Director Infrastructure), M Blackburn-Smith (Manager Development and Building Services), F Giordano (Manager Legal and Governance), K Sullivan (Council Services/Minutes) and A Leach (Council Services/Meetings Management).

MESSAGE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The Lord Mayor read the message of acknowledgement to the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

PRAYER
The Lord Mayor read a prayer and a period of silence was observed in memory of those who served and died so that Council might meet in peace.

APOLOGIES

MOTION
Moved by Cr Posniak, seconded by Cr Luke

The apologies submitted on behalf of Councillors Crakanthorp and Rufo be received and leave of absence granted.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS
Nil.

PUBLIC VOICE SESSIONS

ITEM-1 PVC 16/02/2016 - DA 2015/0945 - 481 HUNTER STREET, NEWCASTLE - ALTERATIONS TO BUILDING, ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AND CHANGE OF USE FROM SHOP TO CHILD CARE PREMISES (20 PLACES)

A development application has been received by Council seeking consent to alterations to a building, associated site works and change of use from shop to child care premises (20 places).
The application was determined on 13 October 2015 by way of refusal based on car parking requirements of the Newcastle Development Control Plan 2012, traffic and kerb side parking congestion, vehicular or set-down access, children's safety, proximity to licensed premises and impact on operation of licensed premises.

In response to Council's determination the proponents, Vanessa Alexander and Michael Meylan, submitted a request pursuant to Section 82A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 seeking a review of Council's determination.

The proponents addressed the Committee explaining the merits of the development application.

The key reasons for support raised were:

- Childcare options
- Waiting lists
- Lifestyle and walkability
- Open space and central CBD location
- Traffic and parking
- Public interest - demand

Councillors raised questions on a number of different matters, including parking, traffic, demand and site contamination.

ITEM-2 PVC 16/02/2016 - DA 2013/1236 - 317 WHARF ROAD, NEWCASTLE - DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS, ERECTION OF EIGHT STOREY HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

An application has been received seeking consent to demolish existing buildings on site and to construct a Hotel and Conference Centre comprising 176 hotel rooms, conference facilities, commercial space, restaurant/bar and 113 on-site car parking spaces.

The original proposal had previously included 220 hotel rooms and 135 car parking spaces and was notified to neighbouring properties for 14 days in accordance with the Council's notification policy and fifteen public submissions were received objecting to the proposal including three submissions for mediation.

Objectors raised concerns with respect to the overall design, amenity impacts to neighbouring properties, traffic impacts and social impacts. Council received eleven submissions in response including a request for Public Voice in May 2014.

The original application was required to be determined by the Joint Regional Planning Panel based on the estimated value of the development, however, the proposal was amended reducing the size of the development and therefore estimated value and was re-lodged with Council. The applicants for Public Voice, Michelle and Melissa McGregor, were afforded the opportunity to address Council based on their original submission.
The Lord Mayor informed Councillors that the Public Voice applicants (the objectors) had notified Council just prior to the commencement of the Public Voice Committee meeting they were unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances and the Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer, in their absence, would briefly summarise their concerns as detailed in the report to the Public Voice Committee.

The key issues raised were:

- Streetscape and setbacks (side and rear)
- Building depth and bulk
- Height
- Solar access

Michael Munro, representing the proponent addressed the Committee explaining the merits of the development application in addition to commenting on each of the issues raised by the objectors.

Questions from Councillors included traffic and infrastructure issues, streetscape, impact on surrounding streets, Argyle House and setbacks to boundaries.

The meeting concluded at 6.25pm.