

Foreword from the Chair

The Newcastle Youth Council has experienced a strong resurgence in public engagement programming with the lifting of many Covid-19 restrictions throughout 2022. The Youth Mock Council (YMC) program, delivered in July 2022 saw a significant engagement of high school students in civics programming and received bipartisan commendation from councillors at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 23 August 2022. Following YMC, committee members built strong partnerships and participated in multiple events including high school incursions, Hunter Homeless Connect Day and the regional Sustainable Development Goals collaborative round table fostering leadership skills and networking opportunities as well as providing critical youth perspectives on issues impacting our community. The committee has further provided consultation and advice to CN on the Sustainable Waste, Environment, Local Social, Social Infrastructure, and Community Engagement strategies.

Asha McNeill – Youth Committee Chair

Membership

* Membership of the Newcastle Youth Council has fluctuated over the period indicated as members join or leave due to age requirements or other commitments.

Cr Callum Pull
Cr Deahanna Richardson
Cr Charlotte McCabe
Asha McNeill
Alex Saxby-Milles
Rochelle Manning
Isabella Moretti
Olivia Stewart
Ashley Harrison
Nic Cade
Brittani Presland
Imogen Roser
Harine Kesavan
Isabella Moretti
Kevin Hill
Sam Jenkins

Objective of the committee

As per section 4 of the Newcastle Youth Council Committee Charter the responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

- 4.1.1 Engage young people in Local Government;
- 4.1.2 Raise awareness of youth issues;
- 4.1.3 Allocate Youth Week grants as per Council's Youth Week Policy;
- 4.1.4 Assist Council to prepare applications for youth related grants;
- 4.1.5 Guide implementation of the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan; and
- 4.1.6 Support Council in a manner that is consistent with Council values and decisions of Council.

Summary of key items of business considered

Key business items are summarised in Attachment 1.

Newcastle Youth Council Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022



Summary of key achievements for include:

- Development and delivery of Youth Mock Council program which engaged 18 students from six local high schools in a two day program of workshops culminating in delivery of three youth notice of motions in a 'mock' council session. Strong participation from Councillors including Cr Richardson, Cr McCabe, Cr Pull, Cr McKenzie and Cr Adamczyk supported the program.
- Youth Notice of Motions from Youth Mock Council were brought before the Ordinary Council Meeting on 23 August 2022 with recommendations to refer them to relevant CN Service Units. Councillors further offered strong bipartisan commendation for the Newcastle Youth Council and a reiteration of support for the committee and youth civics engagement programming.
- Newcastle Youth Council committee members led the coordination of the Youth Hub at Hunter Homeless Connect Day on 10 August 2022.
- Newcastle Youth Council members participated in the regional SDG Collaborative Round Table meeting, developing key networking opportunities and providing a youth presence on critical issues impacting our community.

Summary of performance and governance

Meeting dates	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
8 February	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Cr Pull, Alex Saxby-Milles, Isabella Moretti, Harine Kesavan,	Yes	Yes – Youth Week grants	Yes
2 March	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Sam Jenkins, Olivia Stewart, Ashley Harrison, Nic Cade, Alex Saxby-Milles	Yes	n/a	Yes
5 April	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Cr McCabe, Alex Saxby-Milles, Brittani Presland, Isabella Moretti, Harine Kesavan, Asha McNeil	Yes	n/a	Yes
4 May	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Asha McNeill, Sam Jenkins, Brittani Presland, Alex Saxby-Milles, Nic Cade, Kevin Hill	Yes	n/a	Yes
7 June	Inquorate	Cr McCabe, Cr Pull, Alex Saxby-Milles	Yes	n/a	Yes
6 July	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Cr Pull, Alex Saxby-Milles, Asha McNeill, Rochelle Manning, Harine Kesavan, Sam Jenkins	Yes	n/a	Yes
3 August	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Cr McCabe, Alex Saxby-Milles, Rochelle Manning, Samuel Jenkins	Yes	n/a	Yes
5 September	Quorate	Cr McCabe, Cr Pull, Alex Saxby-Milles, Asha McNeill, Rochelle Manning, Harine Kesavan, Isabella Moretti	Yes	n/a	Yes
5 October	Quorate	Cr Richardson, Cr Pull, Asha McNeill, Rochelle Manning, Imogen Roser, Kevin Hill, Sam Jenkins	Yes	n/a	Yes

Newcastle Youth Council Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022



Attachment 1 - Summary of Business Items

Date of Meeting	Items
8 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Week Grant assessment - 2022 Meeting Schedule - NSW Youth Advisory Committee - NSW Committee for the Hunter Survey - 2022 Planning - Upcoming projects & events
2 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Week - Youth Council roles - Youth Mock Council - Mardi Gras - Lake Macquarie Youth Council collaborations
5 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Council committee elections - Youth Week - Youth venues - Youth Mock Council - Mental Health First Aid
4 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Council elections - Wallsend Skate Park placemaking event - Youth Mock Council - Youth Week review - Committee for the Hunter Youth Voice Survey report - CN Volunteer Events - Sleepout for the Soul - HMC Multicultural Day in the Garden
7 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Mock Council - Public Space Workshop - Vinnies Youth Conference - Newcastle Library Pantry update - Volunteer induction & admin
6 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Mock Council - Hunter Homeless Connect Day - Newcastle Library Pantry launch event - Youth Council meeting schedule - HSPA incursion - Circular Economy events - Reclaim the Night Committee - The Y volunteer call out
3 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jenny's Place - Days of Activism Against Gender Violence - Youth Mock Council - review - Hunter Homeless Connect Day planning - SDG Collaborative Meeting – report - Reclaim the Night Committee - report
7 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Waste Strategy consultation - Environment Strategy consultation - Hunter Homeless Connect Day review - Youth Mock Council NOM - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence event - Newcastle Pride

Newcastle Youth Council Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022



5 October 2022

- Local Social Strategy - consultation
- Social Infrastructure Strategy – consultation
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence event planning
- Youth Week 2023
- Youth civics programming - update
- Schools & Services expo
- End of Year Celebration!