

Draft Climate Action Plan

Public Exhibition report

October 2020

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Executive summary

City of Newcastle's (CN) draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a 4-year document designed to meet the challenges of a Climate Emergency and reduce emissions across the city. It has actions and targets relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, reducing transport emissions and developing a circular economy to build upon the success that has occurred over the past decade.

The draft CAP had been separated into two parts – an action plan to reduce CN's operational emissions and an action plan to reduce emissions from the city as a whole. The draft CAP sits under CN's 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Environmental Strategy and it builds upon delivery of actions in the 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan (CWMAP).

A public exhibition occurred from 4 August to 31 August 2020 (28 days) to present the draft document and garner feedback and insight into community support. During this engagement period both stakeholder and general community feedback was promoted, continuing on from earlier public engagement around the central themes and objectives of the draft CAP. Three online information forums also accompanied the exhibition to generate dialogue around the draft CAP's intent.

In total, over 60 submissions were received with support for CN's role towards taking climate action clearly identified in the feedback, reaffirming CN's commitment to lead by example, build strong city partnerships and continuing to deliver important emission reduction achievements.

1. Background

CN endorsed the draft CAP 2021-2025 for public exhibition at an ordinary Council meeting on 28 July 2020.

The draft CAP is CN's plan to provide a roadmap for achieving positive impacts such as increasing clean energy, continuing resource efficiency, reducing emissions in our supply chain, supporting sustainable transport and addressing important issues such as setting targets for net zero emissions and building our vision for a low carbon economy.

The public exhibition period occurred from 4 August to 31 August 2020 (28 days). During this engagement period both stakeholder and general community feedback was encouraged and supported through communications and promotion across a wide variety of channels.

The development of the draft CAP involved working with multiple stakeholders across the education, corporate, not-for-profit and public sectors to undertake comprehensive consultation specific to Newcastle.

In developing the draft CAP, research was undertaken to investigate best practice actions from cities across the world, with a focus on areas that had strong alignment and relevance to Newcastle. CN's 2019 Winter Community Survey provided feedback on environmental initiatives and priorities. A series of workshops and engagement activities were also undertaken during development of the Plan including with business sector stakeholders, internal stakeholders and public community sessions to ensure a broad range of feedback and input was received.

2. Public exhibition objectives

The public exhibition period continued to raise awareness around CN's position on Climate Change, emissions targets and efforts towards protecting the environment along with providing opportunities for prioritising and ascertaining levels of support for CN's actions and targets.

This included:

- Publicly exhibiting and making accessible the draft CAP for a period of 28 days supported by CN's dedicated 'Have Your Say' engagement platform
- Ensuring stakeholders were aware of the draft CAP, and encouraged to review, provide feedback and comments
- Receiving submissions on the overarching focus and intent expressed within the draft CAP
- Obtaining feedback (support or otherwise) on the draft CAP and proposed targets
- Garnering views on the proposed timeframe to reach net zero emissions for CN
- Providing opportunity for general feedback to support critical reflection and editorial revisions.

3. Communication and promotion

Throughout the public exhibition a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the draft CAP and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in **Appendix II**.

- Information on the draft CAP and exhibition period included in e-newsletters, including:
 - Have Your Say email newsletter (1) distributed to (2,500+ subscribers) on 4 August 2020
 - HunterHunter email newsletter (1) distributed to (16,200 subscribers) on 13 August 2020.
- Targeted advertising, promotions, social media and media release:
 - Print advert in the Newcastle Herald on 8 August 2020
 - Digital library screens (Wallsend and Newcastle Library)
 - Showcase tile on CN's home webpage
 - LinkedIn posts (12,500+ reach) in August 2020
 - Facebook CN (9,400+ reach) on 4 August 2020
 - Facebook CN (900+ reach) on 7 August 2020
 - Facebook Group Have Your Say (900+ reach) on 4 August 2020
 - Facebook Group Have Your Say (900+ reach) on 18 August 2020
 - Facebook HunterHunter (5,900+ reach) on 11 August 2020
 - Instagram HunterHunter (8,500+ reach) on 11 August 2020
 - Instastory HunterHunter (3,200+ reach) on 11 August 2020.

Radio summary:

- NEWFM Radio News – 8am – 29 July 2020, DUR: 15 seconds
 - 2HD Radio News – 7am – 29 July 2020, DUR: 30 seconds
 - 2HD Radio News – 9am – 29 July 2020, DUR: 30 seconds.
- Internal communications:
 - Staff NovoNews email newsletter (1) distributed to (900+ subscribers) on 5 August 2020
 - Featured news story on staff Intranet
 - Promotion on 12 Stewart Avenue digital screens.

Channel	Description	Reach
 Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. A link to this page was also added to CN's public exhibitions page. The page provided a web form and contact for formal submissions.	8,500+ visits
 Social media	The public exhibition was promoted via a mix of unpaid and sponsored social media on CN's Facebook page and Have Your Say Facebook Group. The posts intended to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say.	10,000+ reach
 Newsletters	An e-newsletter was distributed to a selection of distribution lists.	3 distributed to 19,600+
 Stakeholder / Community information sessions	<p>CN representatives from the Project and Community Engagement teams participated in an online information session in partnership with the University of Newcastle hosted by the Hunter Region SDG's Taskforce on 18 August 2020. Keynote speaking activity also occurred on 5 August and 19 August 2020 with the Climate Action Newcastle and Hunter Environmental Institute.</p> <p>The purpose was to raise awareness of the public exhibition and encourage feedback whilst highlighting the alignment of the Plan with the SDG's.</p>	3 sessions with 100+ attendees (approx.)
 Councillor Memo / Workshop / Advisory Group Briefing	<p>A Workshop was held with CN Councillors on 14 July and a follow up memo distributed on 29 July 2020 advising of the earlier engagement and providing information on how constituents can provide feedback and comment.</p> <p>A briefing was also held on 4 August with the Liveable Cities Advisory Committee outlining the proposed actions and scope of the Plan.</p>	n/a
 Media coverage	A media release was issued on 29 July 2020, and subsequently resulted in 2 online stories, 1 newspaper story and three radio segments.	n/a

4. Engagement activities

A range of approaches and activities were carried out to promote the public exhibition and invite feedback. These activities included digital mechanisms to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions.

CN's website was utilised with a dedicated engagement webpage developed containing the draft CAP, supporting strategic documents and information.

The range of engagement activities included:

- 'Have Your Say' webpage (achieving significantly high number of page views = 8,500+) developed to provide an accessible focus for the public exhibition, providing:
 - Access to the draft CAP
 - A submission webform to assess the level of support and feedback on targets
 - Supporting information through an online document library linking key documents (Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan, information on Council building upgrades, CN's Our Commitment to Sustainability, CN's early Engagement Snapshot Report)
 - Early Engagement Snapshot Infographic.
- Webinar: Leading Climate Action in our city with University of Newcastle and Hunter Region SDG's Taskforce on 18 August 2020 (58 registrations)
- Hunter Environmental Institute, Adam Clarke keynote on 19 August 2020 (40 attendees)
- Climate Action Newcastle on 5 August 2020 (30 attendees)
- Formal direct communication with key stakeholders, including:
 - Letters
 - Workshop to Councillors
 - Presentation to CN's Liveable Cities advisory group (4 August 2020)
 - Email notification to previous attendees (60+) of the early engagement workshop/information sessions
 - Discussions with neighbouring Councils, State Government departments and large ity organisations.

5. Submissions

A total of 63 submissions were received by CN during the public exhibition period.

Submission methods included 13 direct submissions and 50 online web form submissions.

Online web form submissions

An online form was housed on CN's Have Your Say platform throughout the duration of the exhibition period with optional questions.

From the responses several key themes and topics of feedback on the draft CAP are evident that can assist in either validating or refining parts of the document.

The tables presenting the online submissions are located: **Appendix I**

To encouraged feedback around specific parts of the draft CAP the online form included these questions:

In response to - 'Do you support the vision?'

Noting the strategic association with CN's Newcastle 2030 CSP and the UN's SDG's, the draft CAP states its key goal is in the mitigation of climate change and reducing emissions.

The majority (41) of responses indicated they supported the draft CAP, with others indicating they wanted to be provided financial information (3) or otherwise provided general comments (2). Only 4 online submissions appeared to not support the draft CAP, indicating they preferred CN to focus on what they considered core operations and service provision.

In response to - 'Do you have any feedback on the proposed targets?'

Over 40 individuals provided their views that ranged from a desire for action to be taken as soon as possible to meet the targets i.e. even before 2030, through to comments that the targets, whilst ambitious, appeared realistic, achievable and appropriate.

The draft CAP states that analysis has showed that CN has exceeded its renewable energy target and carbon emission reduction targets while also making good progress against other key goals such as reducing use of electricity, water and fossil-based liquid fuels.

Some feedback did question action towards carbon reduction or indicated they considered CN's efforts or responsibility should not be towards reducing emissions.

In response to - ‘Do you have any feedback on the proposed timeframe to achieve Net Zero Emissions for CN?’

The draft CAP states, *“By no later than 2030, City of Newcastle will reach Net Zero Emissions for its Operations”*.

36 individuals provided their views on this question. The comments indicated broad support for the draft CAPs initiatives around reducing emissions, waste, electric vehicles, diversification, industry and business engagement, carbon accounting and auditing. Over a quarter of responses suggested the target should be brought forward sooner and be more ambitious. A small number of responses disagreed with having a net zero target or required more detail around the impact.

“The five-year plan is appropriate given the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2030. The next five years may bring new technology that will hasten the transmission.”

In response to - ‘Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?’

Almost 40 individuals provided comments presenting a range of ideas for consideration, including:

- encouraging recycling
- introducing wind power and solar panels
- planting more trees
- assistance for community groups
- joint projects for renewable energy systems
- bulk buying groups for renewable energy and energy efficiency products
- grants/initiatives encouraging renewable energy
- CN leading by example to champion and demonstrate commitment
- increasing the community's understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals
- workshops on Climate Change
- providing financial incentives to encourage zero carbon emission in new developments.

“I think CN have done a magnificent job of becoming the first NSW council to use 100% renewable energy sources. Achieving these further goals in five years is going to be hard work but the sooner the better. Way to go CN!”

In response to - ‘Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?’

There was a strong level of support for the draft CAP, with comments such as *“Excellent / overall a positive move / looks good / good framework”*. Some of the comments that individuals provided related to a range of topics for CN’s consideration including:

Suggestions and Comments:

- Consider incentivising – e.g. parking discounts (for EV), private electric vehicle purchases,
- Work with others to transition/join with other neighbouring Councils towards diversification
- Play an advocacy role in reducing Newcastle LGA greenhouse gas emissions

- Energy/water and waste audits and other educational initiatives could be carried out with businesses, residents and schools
- Broader engagement with business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions
- A range of public engagement actions
- Include whole of asset life, not just implementation costs in the draft CAP
- Ensure proposal consider resourcing, strategic risks and the sustainability drivers. Not just reducing greenhouse emissions
- Consider new building and developer actions. e.g. Add design features to DCP for building performance enhancement / incentivise builders.
- CN to include Summerhill in operational carbon budget
- Need for stronger suite of actions to reduce emissions
- Good goals but CN should invest in other actions e.g. road maintenance and public transport
- CN should determine and publish its greenhouse gas emissions
- Consider getting young people educated on CN's work around climate action.

Direct submissions

There were 16 direct submissions received via mail and email in addition to the web-form submissions.

These were from a mix of individuals, community and action groups, and small-to-medium and large organisations from the Newcastle and Hunter region. Seven of the submissions followed the webform format.

The direct submissions all reflected a strong level of support for the draft CAP and illustrated well researched and meaningful feedback on specific aspects contained within the draft CAP. Many of the submissions suggested that more ambition was required or that targets should be achieved sooner than proposed. Much of the feedback related to what work needs to be undertaken once the plan is in place. In addition to acknowledging CN's past work in relation to the Carbon and Water Management Action Plan 2011 and move to 100 per cent renewable electricity, a detailed range of recommendations were put forward:

Suggestions and Comments:

- Noting that 70-83% of emissions are from business (and mostly the top 20), cutting these must be a major, funded, detailed part of the plan.
- Summerhill operations and fugitive emissions must be included in Council's carbon budget
- Net Zero city-wide target by 2030 – ambitious and aligned with intent of the climate emergency declaration.
- In order to be consistent with the emergency declaration and be consistent with its role as a national and potentially global city leader the targets should be brought forward to reach net zero emissions for operations by 2025.
- Incentives to business to get emissions down, awards a recognition for leading examples, a climate safe procurement and tender policy and more charging points for commercial and private electric vehicles.
- Planning the city to reduce reliance on energy used for transport, heating, cooling and provision of essential services.

- Applying design and construction standards to ensure carbon-neutral development where it already has the powers.
- Agree the shift of transport fleet and plant away from fossil fuels is a priority in the next five years and immediately prepare a costed plan for electrification of Council's fleet and plant.
- Establish a City Carbon Budget program and Auditing office to support the city managing the transition to net zero.
- Proactive engagement with community groups and organisations to develop climate forums and coordination to achieve city-wide emission reduction.
- Establishment of a Newcastle Transition Authority or similar body representing the full range of community interests and bringing together knowledge, experience and advocacy.
- Broader and more committed engagement with the business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions from this most polluting sector in the LGA.
- Establish and resource a new specialist unit in Council to drive and monitor carbon reduction initiatives and investments while maintaining whole-of Council involvement in implementation.
- Work with regional councils and the Joint Organisation to establish broadacre bushland conservation and revegetation projects within the region.
- Potentially CN could come up with a portfolio of carbon sequestration projects within the LGA that contribute to employment, especially for our Indigenous community and those who worked in the mining sector. CN could then enlist participation in the sequestration projects of the big energy consumers in the LGA to reduce their emissions.
- Develop and adopt an implementation plan detailing specific actions, timescales, responsibilities, budgets etc. especially over the term of this plan.
- Establishing 5 year targets recognises the urgency of the task of reducing emissions in line with the international Paris Climate Agreement, and provides a solid framework and benchmarks against which to measure progress towards these targets in partnership with the community.
- Welcome and support the targets for a carbon neutral Council before or by 2030 and a carbon neutral LGA before or by 2040. These are consistent with the Paris Accord and are more ambitious than the NSW State target, as would be expected of the second largest city in the State.
- The noticeable shift in focus to leading the City's broader transition to become a net zero emissions city and partnering with many critical stakeholders is a welcome one.
- More ambition and solutions need to be found for 2030.
- Greater recognition is required of the Climate Emergency.
- Council must take its unique opportunity to massively impact global emissions falling to safe levels by working with Councils & industry across the region to lead our fast & just transition away from coal mining and exports.
- Council should plan for an invest in the public infrastructure necessary to reduce carbon-producing activities (such as shifting commuters onto public transport) and to support new carbon-free technologies and industries.
- Urgently develop and adopt an action plan for the next financial year and include it as an item in the next (2021/22 budget)
- 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan is promising and sets a good example.

- City of Newcastle is the best-placed organisation to bring together all sectors of the Newcastle LGA to closely examine the city's entire carbon footprint and to identify where the highest impacts can be made in implementation – regardless of operational jurisdiction. Cooperation with other government bodies and private business will be par for the course.
- Building on existing initiatives, Newcastle City Council should also increase its delivery of community education and awareness on climate change issues, and on the practical actions that can be taken by businesses and households.

6. Summary of Findings/Responses

Overall the submissions received suggest strong support for the targets and actions proposed in the draft CAP, with a high number of submissions urging for more ambition and for targets to be met within a shorter timeframe, recognising that there is a climate emergency and clear action needs to be taken.

The draft CAP sets out targets for achieving net zero emissions for the city significantly in advance of NSW Government state-wide targets and seeks to balance ambition and realistic appraisal of the complexity of transition.

The organisational targets outlined in the draft CAP are to be delivered *no later than* 2030. The scope exists within this framework for accelerated delivery as momentum develops across industry sectors, as the NSW State Government policy and regulation landscape evolves, and as new technology emerges to maturity.

Feedback received highlighted the need to ensure resourcing and capacity was in place to deliver and implement the actions and work towards meeting the targets proposed. CN aims to achieve this through our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework by including costed actions in the annual operational plan aligned with CN's Resourcing Strategy and Long-Term Financial Plan.

The draft CAP endeavours to provide a workable set of initiatives that achieves as much reduction in emissions as possible before moving to offsets while also balancing the organisational and capacity restraints of CN. The city is committed to the climate action agenda outlined in the draft CAP.

Much of the feedback also focused on the challenge of reducing emissions across the city, particularly in the business sector which accounts for the large majority of emissions and there was a strong indication that CN, while not 'holding all the levers' to enable this, is well placed to play the role of initiating, supporting, coordinating and advocating for city-wide actions.

In response to multiple submissions, a range of aspirational, though achievable, goals for the broader city have been proposed for inclusion in the draft CAP. These aspirational goals provide a mechanism to focus the midterm efforts of city partners, industries and communities in Newcastle, and a set of indicators for measuring collective progress.

Some submissions proposed ideas that align with the general framework, but that require achievement of prior goals outlined in the draft CAP. It is proposed that the draft CAP be reviewed at 2025 (or earlier if required) with the opportunity to both adjust targets based on progress and broader factors, and inclusion of further ideas for achieving reduced emissions and supporting industry and community transition.

There was a considerable amount of initiatives proposed that it was determined fit within the current actions and will be taken into consideration as specific initiatives during the implementation of the plan. The draft CAP outlines a strategic framework for delivering on the identified targets and within it is substantial space for development of individual initiatives drawing upon these submitted ideas.

A large number of suggestions also fell outside the main focus of this plan which is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Where topics were identified as relevant to other strategies and plans currently being developed by CN (for example in waste management, cycling and transport, urban forestry and the environmental strategy) this information has been passed on to support and inform the development of these documents.

A smaller number of suggestions are not within CN's remit or lay with other tiers and jurisdictions of government and have not been adopted. Where appropriate, CN will continue to advocate to State and Federal Governments for accelerated and wide-ranging climate action.

Beyond comment on the specific actions and targets within the draft CAP, there was also a clear expectation that for the plan to be successful a monitoring and reporting framework should be put in place during implementation to ensure transparency and accountability for delivery of actions.

This sentiment is in accordance with CN intentions to measure and benchmark progress towards the objectives of the draft CAP at both the organisational and broader city levels. It is proposed to integrate climate action reporting into corporate performance indicators within the CSP, and to produce a public data dashboard measuring progress against city-level goals. A range of aspirational goals and indicators have been identified and included into the document for this purpose.

“Overall, this is indeed a very positive move and appreciative of any councils going forwards towards action plans related to climate change, renewable energy and carbon/emissions management procedures.”

7. Recommendations

Following on from the exhibition period, it is recommended that the following updates are made to the draft CAP.

A summary of the themes that have been identified partnered with responses or recommendations to this feedback, is as follows:

Page	Update	Change to draft Plan
5	Paragraph 1	“increased risk of infectious disease and pandemics.”
8	Minor corrections	
9	Updated figures	
10	Updated figures	
13	Updated Graph	

15	Clarification on targets	“including Summerhill Waste Management Centre
17	Minor change to action 2.6	“landfill emissions and
21	Include additional stakeholders and update Chart 6	
22	Update to Chart 9	
23	Incorporate aspirational city goals	<p>A set of city aspirational goals:</p> <p>By 2025 a goal of:</p> <p>30% reduction in city-wide emissions</p> <p>100MW of new renewable generation capacity</p> <p>1 MW of new community renewable energy projects</p> <p>30% reduction in average daily electricity consumption</p> <p>500GWh of new Renewable Power Purchase Agreements</p> <p>10,000 registered electric vehicles</p> <p>Secure commitment from 20 of the Largest Newcastle Businesses to target Net Zero Emissions by 2030 or sooner</p> <p>And Net Zero Emissions from Electricity by 2030</p>
23	Wording change to 5.1	“Investigate a set of Passive design features , green roofs, solar panels, storage and EV charging
23	Wording change to 5.6	“buy and sell locally and regionally... ”
23	Wording change to 5.8	...including a phase-in ban on single use plastics in the LGA.
24	Wording change to 5.13	Newcastle and the Hunter ,
24	Wording change to 5.14	Newcastle and the Hunter ,
25	Update to references	

Appendix I – Submission Feedback

The following verbatim responses have been divided by submissions that either indicated that they supported the overall intent of the draft CAP or felt otherwise. The form asked them to select either 'Yes' or 'No'. In several instances an individual selected 'No', however they also provided an additional response indicating they supported the Plan by wanting stronger targets or more immediate action.

Positive sentiment

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
Summerhill emissions need to be estimated and included in the plan to provide an effective baseline.
Support: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN ops. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 CAP Also calling for: - Net zero city-wide goal by 2030 - a 50% reduction or 2025 progressive target for the whole city target based on carbon budgeting to Net Zero by 2030 - Summerhill Waste Management Centre emissions to not be omitted from CN emissions totals - Support for Hunter councils and businesses to diversify the away from coal mining and exports in any way possible
We need to be more ambitious
Appropriate targets
Targets to be met Zero by 2030 are ambitious but achievable for scope 1 and 2 sources, however scope 3 - taking supply chains into account will require industry engagement and likely offsetting
Yes, I think the targets for council's operations seem good but there are almost no targets or initiatives to assist the city as a whole to reduce emissions. This urgently needs to be addressed. The solutions are all out there- we don't need to investigate the possibilities for the next 5 years. We need to figure them out over the coming months and then work towards clear but ambitious targets over the life of this plan.
The targets seem about right, you would not want to reduce them.
the lower the better
I support the ambitious targets.
Looks great, and as a user of the EV charging, it's evident that CoN understands the future possibilities electrified transport offers.
The targets are ambitious but achievable, and the minimum required if the Paris goals are to be met.
YES – the targets need to be NET COUNCIL-WIDE EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS that will cut our Council area's emissions to ZERO by 2030 – NOT mere implementation targets (% renewable energy and so on).
I found the data on street light energy consumption to be particularly interesting, and reducing the amount of energy used by streetlights seems to, at least according to your data, be a great way to increase energy efficiency
All fine.
It's a good plan - but too limited. I forgot this on earlier brief submission: Council needs to take the lead on carbon accounting and emissions initiatives on a city-wide basis. City of Newcastle needs to take on a leading coordination role to help bring emissions down across the whole Newcastle. Good that you are updating to LED Big Time. More works done on bringing all the Bike tracks together, and providing no links that don't involve mixing with cars.
Some targets around electric use in the LGA would be good.
With waste management such a large component, do the materiality of the targets represent the representative emissions?

Yes, it would be good to see specific targets, for example, when the tree canopy to cover a minimum of 60 per cent to provide shading and reduce urban heat island impact
The Council has been tracking really well. 2025 would be an achievable and aspirational target for net zero emissions from Council operations. 50% by 2025 is a great start, but I reckon we can do better. Net zero by 2030 at the least. Can't see why Summer Hill waste should be excluded from Council emissions.
I support the targeted: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan is promising and sets a good example. I would also like to see it supporting Hunter councils and businesses to diversify the away from coal mining and exports in any way possible
I wish the proposal used SMART indicators (specific, measurable, accountable, realistic, timeframe). I think a lot of the strategies seem vague, lacks specific steps needs to achieve them, and it will be difficult to measure success of the Action Plan in five years. Using the SMART indicators will hold the CN accountable for fulfilling the actions.
Achievable with ongoing funding.
Targets are appropriate.
I think it's fantastic, and I fully support CN aiming for net zero emissions
The proposed targets on page 15 of the draft Climate Action Plan are not ambitious enough and should go much further.
The sooner Net Zero and Carbon Neutral is achieved, the better we know our emissions. I'd highly recommend utilising carbon neutral suppliers/supply chains, keep the carbon auditing local too, use Australian based companies such as noco2.com.au (!).
I will only support it if it reduces ratepayer costs, NCC expenses and improves NCC efficiencies.
The targets are clear and concise. I especially agree with the waste targets and the proposed electric vehicles.
I think that striving to become a sustainable city is the best plan possible for any city.
Absolutely fantastic, fully support all the hard work you're doing to reduce emissions!
Ensure total expenses (TOTEX) and resourcing liabilities included in the strategy. Ensuring the whole of asset life is included (incl disposal)
Firstly, I want to say well done on all the work and achievements over the last decade. I want to provide feedback that without staff like [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are passionate about what they do, what has been achieved so far wouldn't be possible. I was the counterpart at LMCC for ~8 years and was always very impressed by what such a small team of dedicated staff could achieve in terms of attracting funding and rolling out programs. Please continue to support and empower your staff. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am very supportive of net zero corporate emissions as soon as feasible and no later than 2030. I would like to see some more targets and definitive planning specific to the large business sector who consume on average 20 times more than small business and residential and would presumably make up a large chunk of the 70% attributable to business emissions
Yes, largely. I would like to see the City of Newcastle (CN) achieve a community target of net zero emissions in 2030 rather than 2040. There are many organisations already established with a large volunteer base that may be able to assist here, including: Climate Action Newcastle [REDACTED] Beyond Zero Emissions (Hunter Region chapter - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]); Newcastle Climate Change Response ([REDACTED]); Transition Newcastle ([REDACTED]); Permaculture Hunter ([REDACTED]).

<p>Yes</p> <p>Climate Action Newcastle supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan is promising and sets a good example. <p>Climate Action Newcastle also calling for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net zero city-wide by 2030 - a 50% reduction or 2025 progressive for the whole city target based on carbon budget Net Zero by 2030 - Summerhill Waste Management Centre emissions to not be omitted from CN emissions reporting
<p>YES (but it needs some work)</p> <p>YES: The Plan needs to include Council-wide emissions reduction targets, not mere implementation targets (e.g. % renewable energy). We need to achieve net zero CO2e emissions city-wide (including business, residential, education & Summer Hill, and including gas) by 2030, which means a cut of 3.84 million tonnes (Council's current city-wide emissions, assuming those 2008 figures are still correct of course. We note the out of date nature of the figures included) plus emissions from natural gas (which are omitted from the Plan entirely).</p>
<p>Yes</p> <p>Overall the plan is comprehensive with realistic targets covering a diversity of Council's activities, and for this, Council should be applauded. Real leadership in this area is being shown.</p>

Mixed sentiment

<p>Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?</p>
<p>Too ambitious and a financial burden on rate payers that is not needed at this time.</p>
<p>Can we see financial reporting? Targets are nice, results must however be measured in lower life cycle operating costs. Have the electric power operating costs been measured to date? What is the operating life of PV panels and 1MW battery bank? Let's see the measured capital and operating cost data in due course, suggest an annual report. Don't forget to capitalise the 10 yearly major expense allocated to replacement batteries and PV panels.</p>
<p>CoN should stick to parks, local roads and governance of developments. Stay out of the environment folly</p>
<p>One hundred percent renewable energy proposal will cost rate payers a lot of extra money that could be better spent elsewhere. When you achieve 100% of your primary goals of safe roads, waste disposal, park-lands and libraries then you can reduce our rates.</p>
<p>There needs to be more information on how long solar panels and wind systems are made, where they are made and who makes them. What do you do with the waste when they reach their use by date as these systems do not last forever and how do you propose to support those industries who need more power than these systems provide. What future employment options will be available and how will you support apprenticeships?</p>
<p>Whilst the targets sounds good, they cannot be supported until the costs to achieve the targets are known.</p>
<p>They are useless unless the rest of the world falls in line. We alone cannot achieve the targets necessary.</p>
<p>They are most definitely NOT sustainable, where are the feasibility studies, where are the long term employment projections? This is an irresponsible advocacy of rate payers funds....and a violation of the Foreign Influence Act.</p>

Do you have any feedback on the proposed timeframe to achieve Net Zero Emissions for CN?
Support: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan Also calling for: - City of Newcastle to go further with whole-of-city initiatives and to drive a more urgent zero emissions program in the broader community, including business sectors -Net zero city-wide by 2030
Appropriate timeline
As soon as possible! 2025 is realistic but anything sooner is even better
2030 net zero is ambitious but achievable for scope 1 and 2, scope 3 is a larger challenge for both measurement and reduction and is likely to require offsetting preferable with projects that support biodiversity within the Hunter Valley
Again, there are almost no timeframes for the city- especially business as it is identified as the major contributor to emissions, but also residential, transport, waste.
The five year plan is appropriate given the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2030. The next five years may bring new technology that will hasten the transmission.
The faster the better
It makes sense and is consistent with current science and (arguably) policy.
should be earlier.
Seems to be well envisioned and evidenced.
Time frames are consistent with Paris agreement and recognition of a climate emergency. However, there should be more 'backcasting' from these deadlines to identify what actions are required now and in the next five years to meet the 2030 and 2040 goals.
What's the plan to provide the businesses and people of Newcastle alternatives? Natural gas? More solar development? Wind?
YES. To be consistent with the action scientists & policy experts tell us are needed for climate safety#, our Council area's total emissions need be NET ZERO BY 2030. This means a diversification into alternatives that will reduce emissions by net 3.84 million tonnes by 2030. Beyond an aspirational diagram (Chart 10), Council's Climate Action Plan does currently do that. #ClimateWorks Australia, 2020, Decarbonisation Futures: Solutions, actions and benchmarks for a net zero emissions Australia.
2030 seems a good, achievable target for 100% renewables, and Council is to be commended for this initiative.
Sooner the better obviously, time is running out
Council has broader influence than their own emissions. An aspirational target like net zero by 2025 sets an excellent example for the broader community and will show residents that Council is committed to a future for all people. A Climate Emergency has been declared, we need to act like this through both communication and actions.
It is a good step. I would also like to see: - City of Newcastle to go further with whole-of-city initiatives and to drive a more urgent zero emissions program in the broader community, including business sectors -Net zero city-wide by 2030
Achievable with continued support from Federal, State and Local Government.
Net zero emissions by 2030 is ambitious, however it appears to be technically and economically feasible for Scope 1 and 2 emissions; more difficult for Scope 3 emissions.
I think this timeframe is ambitious, whilst also being realistic. Some may say it's not ambitious enough, but having looked into renewable and battery storage for myself and my business, I do understand that while these technologies are emerging, they're not a silver bullet.

<p>This question is misleading, as the timeframe only refers to net zero emissions for City of Newcastle operations. Consideration should also be given to how zero emissions from new buildings and infrastructure can be achieved, and how the City can support carbon neutral development.</p>
<p>The sooner the better, consider this blog here - https://noco2.com.au/enviro/we-should-all-be-net-zero-in-2020-not-2050/</p>
<p>Current technologies and infrastructure will not enable it to occur with beneficial cost savings to NCC and it's residents in the next 5 years. It is currently a false economy.</p>
<p>I think CN have done a magnificent job of becoming the first NSW council to use 100% renewable energy sources. Achieving these further goals in five years is going to be hard work but the sooner the better. Way to go CN!</p>
<p>I would like it sooner</p>
<p>I mean, as fast as humanly possible is always good, if there is any way to accelerate the timeframe, please do it!</p>
<p>Improved planning</p>
<p>Any actions that require funding staff time only and can have immediate impacts in terms of changes to development in the City should be implemented immediately. All other actions should be implemented as soon as economically feasible.</p>
<p>I would like to see the CN's target of net zero emissions moved forward to 2025 rather than 2030, in a similar manner to the University of Newcastle.</p>
<p>Wish it could be sooner! I feel that this sort of initiative has to be advanced really quickly, there is no time to waste.</p>
<p>Climate Action Newcastle supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2030 (or sooner) for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan <p>Climate Action Newcastle also calling for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net zero City-wide target by 2030 - ambitious, and aligned with intent of the climate emergency declaration - a progressive 2025 target based on carbon budget of Net Zero by 2030 - Strengthening of Statement on Page 21 for CN to take a lead role in the accounting and management of the emissions from the LGA <p>e.g. Establishing a City Carbon Budget program and Auditing Office to support the city managing a faster transition to net zero e.g. to the Oslo Climate Budget which is reviewed annually and guided by data on the city's biggest emissions sources https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Oslo-s-Climate-Budget-2019</p> <p>On Net zero by 2030 City-wide Target, and interim 2025 Target: 'moon-shot' time is now With 2.5% of Newcastle's emissions (inc. waste) coming from CN council operations, CN can set a good example, however the 2025 Climate Action Plan needs a city-wide target and more detail and urgency on how CN will help drive down the 97.5% of emissions from the rest of the Newcastle LGA - especially in light of the escalating climate emergency and noting that City of Newcastle has made a Climate Emergency declaration.</p> <p>Net Zero Emissions by 2040 for the whole LGA is discussed on Page 22 CAP: "A study of emission reduction pathways to 2040 shows that through grid decarbonisation, increased use of onsite renewable energy and transitioning transport to electric options, a Net Zero Emissions Newcastle is within reach."</p> <p>However the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report recommends carbon neutrality / Net Zero by 2030 to stay under 1.5 degrees warming – for all sectors. More ambition and solutions must be found for 2030. City of Newcastle the best organisation in the LGA for a lead role in city emissions management. It is recognised that council does not have jurisdictional control over the operations of each entity in the LGA, and that many cooperative initiatives with other agencies have been flagged in the Newcastle 2025 Climate Action Plan. Yet, setting higher ambition with a well-resourced and energetically promoted</p>

program of net zero city-wide by 2030 will help to shift a broad laissez faire culture of complacency and drive an urgent program of aspiration and innovation.

We appreciate CN sees a role here and would like to see more focus on identifying specific city-wide measures to meet the climate challenge in practise.

City of Newcastle is the best-placed organisation to bring together all sectors of the Newcastle LGA to closely examine the entire city's carbon footprint, and to identify where the highest impacts can be made in implementation - regardless of operational jurisdiction. Cooperation with other government bodies and private business will be par for the course.

YES: As above, to be consistent with actions that are to have a 2/3 chance of the Earth staying below 1.5 degrees C of warming above pre-industrial levels¹, Council's target needs to be Net Zero Emissions by 2030, citywide.

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?

Work with Hunter Councils to set up Regional Energy Hub/Community Power Hub in Newcastle to bring communities together to develop locally-owned and cost-effective renewable energy projects
<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Grants-and-funding/Community-power-hubs>

Summerhill organics processing to produce biogas/biomethane through anaerobic digestion that is then used to offset Natural Gas usage by local industry in LGA

Remove mandatory requirement for a gas connection in new developments

I think suburb'ed based workshops on Climate Change could work. Showing 'rate payers' how to achieve change.

Also calling for:

- Rapid scale-up of dual direction cycleways along major city routes aimed at commuters and displacing every-day car travel. Liaise with Cycle Safe network in design.

- Energy grants and incentives run by CN and active promotion of NSW and other programs.

- Bulk solar and energy storage rounds by CN

- monitoring and auditing tools available at the Library. e.g. Borrow an energy meter and bring back your readings for Lean in Newy Points. <https://www.leaninnewy.com.au/>

Continue to demonstrate leadership and engage collaboratively and transparently.

Focus on low income communities; it's harder to reduce emissions when your focus is on surviving economically

A regional approach supported by state governments and surrounding Councils is required to support transitions in particular regard to transport and low emission urban development

More details about the aforementioned panel.

Local government don't have control over what the residential and business sectors do in our city but we can use a number of positive encouragement and education tools to lead the way over the next critical years.

All of CN communications can be talking about our targets and our progress to achieving them. All of our residents can play a role in their homes or business to work together to achieve our net zero goal.

Increase the community's understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals through setting up a community SDG network or groups in the community. Increase staff resources dedicated to engaging with the community around sustainability and the actions they can undertake within their own homes and communities to reduce their environmental footprint.

financial incentives for uptake of green energy (e.g. PV installation), e.g through rate reduction, mandating use of roofspace for PV or gardens (like in France), select a few reliable and value-for-money PV providers to give CoN residents access to wholesale prices,

discourage sale of products or packaging that difficult or unable to be reused or recycled, balance between high-density housing and high quality greenspace
Keep doing what you're doing!
Make Newcastle into a forest city.
Continue to lead by example as you now. Thank you.
I think a city-wide advisory group should be established and resourced by Council to help initiate and drive actions across the community, as well as providing community knowledge and expert advice to Council. The group could include residents, the University, scientists, business, government etc.
Offering grants to local businesses to encourage use of renewable energy.
YES. Broader and more committed engagement with business to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions from this, our city's most polluting sector.
It's a difficult policy area for Council, with our city focus on coal exports, but I thought there might have been some comment from Council about inherent dangers from the fertiliser storage on Kooragang.
Needs a permanent Community engagement presence on any Council working groups. Not just Paid govt staff and Councillors / politicians
There is a lot of good work being done by CN, but a lot of people are not aware of this. Communication is the key.
Support community power programs modelled by companies such as Enova. Food waste programs like Lake Macquarie offers. I've run out of time, but there are plenty. Regenerative practices on ALL of Council owned or maintained greenspace. Assistance for groups trying to defend our coast against seismic testing, we need those phytoplankton and soil mychorriza to sequester our carbon.
It would be good for CoN to work with various suburbs and community groups to look at suburb wide solar power projects that could be supported by the community and CoN including installations on coN owned buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote cycling to make Newcastle streets safer for cyclists, eg through scaling up dual direction cycleways along major city routes aimed at commuters. Liaise with Cycle Save network in design. - Bulk solar and energy storage rounds by CN - discounted solar panels, battery storage and energy efficient appliances for low-income households - Energy management education and assistance
City Of Newcastle demonstrate our commitment by Championing this initiative. All plant, vehicles and powered tools to be powered non conventional means ie coal powered electricity and fuels. As Coordinator within Parks Services our area is keen to implement such changes.
Joint projects with community groups to establish community renewable energy systems and bulk buying groups for renewable energy and energy efficiency products.
I think it's important to create incentives for households and businesses to adopt (good quality) solar. It's really a 'no brainer' for most households and businesses, with a typical payback of 4-5 years (who wouldn't want an investment that returns 20%pa!). But there is a lack of knowledge and understanding about the benefits of solar, so any initiatives to improve knowledge/incentivise people will help us all as a city lower our emissions.
Provide financial incentives to encourage zero carbon emission new development, including embodied energy, carbon offsets, and zero carbon emission operations.
Support existing carbon neutral companies such as these here - http://lowcarboneyconomy.com.au/ support local businesses/communities to become Carbon Neutral too.
CN should allow it's employees who can (and want to) work from home to do so, thereby reducing carbon emissions, traffic congestion and parking issues
Negotiate a coal levy from the mining industry and utilise that money to significantly improve infrastructure, city amenities, and help position it as a zero emission city. The coal exported from

<p>Newcastle harbour will need to be excluded from your calculations or else you will have to negative emissions.</p>
<p>More programs to assist individuals and businesses with becoming more sustainable</p>
<p>Encourage recycling! Plant fruit trees. Have community veggie gardens. Provide the community with reusable produce bags. Introduce wind power and solar panels. Plant more trees wherever possible.</p>
<p>Potentially CN could come up with a portfolio of carbon sequestration projects within the LGA that contribute to employment, especially for our Indigenous community and those who worked in the mining sector. CN could then enlist participation in the sequestration projects of the big energy consumers in the LGA to reduce their emissions. If Council wants someone else to own and run these projects, perhaps they can do the EOI for a site and concept that Council has given development pre-approval for. For example, an algae farm on a section of the Hunter River receives development approval and an invitation for an EOI is issued for someone to run the farm.</p> <p>Other Cities (see Seattle) have brought in a Living Building Challenge clause to their Development Controls whereby projects that target Living Building Challenge status are allowed flexibility when it comes to floor space ratio, building height etc. CN could do the same within certain limits of the controls. I would like to see Darby St and Beaumont St become plastic free. I want to support local businesses but I hate the take away packaging! I know other Councils have achieved plastic free areas so there is no reason we can't. I would also like to see a BAN on plastic plants being used in commercial refurbishments (see the new Marketown refurb). It's tacky, contributes to poor IEQ because of all the VOCs and will ultimately end up in landfill.</p> <p>I am aware that the actual use of recycled plastic is dismal - how can Council change this? Can Council take the plastic waste they collect and turn it into chips for use as a feedstock by any business? If successful, Council could start charging for it.</p> <p>I know Council is limited what it can require residential developments to do and it is not supposed to be more than BASIX requires. However, Council did get around this with water tanks and storm water requirements. Could Council not do the same for Urban Heat Island effect and require all new residential developments to have solar panels, a green roof or be a light colour?</p> <p>Council could work with Hunter Water and where large developments meet the water requirements of the Living Building Challenge, Hunter Water could refund their sewage and stormwater connection fees. I'm not sure what these are for large developments but I know in the US, some projects have said such incentives halved the payback time of their net zero water systems to under four years.</p> <p>Any new subdivision should be built according to the Living Community Challenge and incentives could be given by Council to achieve this.</p> <p>Tap into the enormous potential of the University and its research funding to achieve on the ground projects</p>
<p>CN could: 1. minimise the material ending up in landfill by developing programs: • to support organisations to create second-hand businesses to repair and resell goods, • to support the right to repair articles e.g. smartphones, • to support “Repair Cafes”, perhaps at community halls, along the lines of “Reverse Garbage” in Marrickville where people help to fix their broken items for a donation, and • returning to the approach of leaving waste on the kerb each month, so that businesses and residents can benefit from this. The benefits of these programs would be to minimise material ending up in landfill, by: ▪ supporting Novacastrians in developing skills to fix broken items, ▪ repairing items to sell as second-hand products, and ▪ generating employment with opportunities to run the busiss, including on social enterprise principles employing those who may have disabilities. 2. The council could support Energy Freedom Home workshops from Beyond Zero Emission. These encourage householders to change their behaviour, implement retrofits, upgrade appliances and install solar power to lower energy bills and carbon emissions and improve comfort.3. The council should support more initiatives to lower transport emissions, by encouraging: ▪ higher patronage e.g. by including public transport passes for all employees; ▪ better local integration of public transport systems (train, tram, bus, ferry - timetables and routes) ▪ placing bike racks on all public transport vehicles (either externally or in dedicated spaces inside), and</p>

▪ lobbying the state government not to charge additional fees for taking a bike with you on public transport.4. The council could also work with industry, and create various types of industrial ecology parks like the Williamstown Special Activation Precinct (SAP) in the LEP, for certain industries that can benefit from the waste of others as feedstocks or energy or other inputs e.g. steel recycling for waste steel coupled with electric arc furnaces, and including organisations with waste heat and waste water.

More community-led local food security initiatives, organic waste management. Self-sufficiency is an important component of sustainable cities. Already use community waste infrastructure initiatives like the Darby st community garden, but bins fill up really quickly! Needs to be more frequent and/or scaled up because I think the community is really into and interested in doing more.

I'd like to see more/better cycle lanes for more usage - I understand it is also an infrastructure issue but also a big driver for sustainability/behaviour change

I'm also really interested in Community based/owned renewable energy systems to be a part of and in turn making it easier for renters (and landlords) to be able to ask for and be appropriately rebated for solar energy and other substantial energy saving measures.

CAN Support

- all proposed CN operational Actions.

- all proposed city-wide Actions

Also calling for Public Engagement Actions:

- Proactive communications with local climate advocacy groups e.g. Climate Action Newcastle

- Live engagement to focus city on carbon-emission task - Town Hall Forums Town Hall Forums / Reference Panels / Live 'events that bring the City together to look at the climate challenge - including Community and Business – this could be the same as the UN SDG Task Force coordinated by NSW Govt. Currently there is no City-led climate forum nor proactive out-reach on climate from CN to active local advocacy groups such as Climate Action Newcastle.

- Re-engagement with Stakeholders per the emphasis in Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan - Stakeholders (see Page 11)

- Carbon Expo – run with community groups like Climate Action Newcastle's former Smart Energy Expo showcasing:

- all government incentives and programs

- solar and energy storage providers

- micro-grid and systems start ups

- community energy advocates

- Carbon Neutral Awards eg Adelaide <https://www.carbonneutraladelaide.com.au/>

- footprint analysis

- efficiency and offsets that align with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

- carbon neutral certification under the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy's voluntary National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS)

Also calling for city-wide Transport Actions:

- Rapid implementation of a comprehensive dual direction cycleways along major city routes aimed at commuters and every-day travel. Liaise with Cycle Save network in design.

- Councillor and staff air travel emissions to be specifically calculated. Given the high impact of air travel on climate change this should be quantified, included in the Plan and reduced by replacements such as virtual meetings, even after Covid restrictions ease.

Also calling for city-wide Clean Technology Actions:

- Energy grants and incentives run by CN and active promotion of NSW and other programs.

- Carbon neutral certification, performance ratings and auditing service subsidised for business and community

- Bulk solar and energy storage rounds by CN - discounted solar panels, battery storage and energy efficient appliances

- Proactive energy on education management \ and assistance to inform the community and businesses about energy bill reduction and solar power

– monitoring and auditing tools available at the Library. e.g. Borrow an energy meter and bring back your readings for Lean in Newy Points. <https://www.leaninnewy.com.au/>
 e.g. <https://reductionrevolution.com.au/>
 to show insulation gaps and inefficiencies in central gas heating, draughty fireplaces, gaps in the floorboards, and unsealed wall vents.

- Proactive energy on education management \ and assistance to inform the community and businesses about energy bill reduction and solar power

Also calling for city-wide Waste and Landfill Actions

- Phased-in Ban on single-use plastics in LGA
- Improved compliance and standards on large event waste management: e.g. ban the 1 km of black plastic on fencing screens thrown away each year at Wickham Park music festivals
- Repair cafes – CN support land or buildings. Initially volunteer staffed limited days, then longer as more popular. eg Reverse Garbage Marrickville.
- 2nd hand shop at Summerhill Waste Management Centre
- Kerb-side auditing and residential compliance using council by-laws, camera technology, a warning system, fines and large bin stickers for significant and repeated contamination.
- Rate reduction for less frequent general waste pick-ups – investigate how to managed and track
- planning scheme amendments and new guidelines for home builders to facilitate solar power installation and energy efficiency improvements.
- Lobbying via Local Government Association and other networks for Right to Repair Legislation and a ban on gadgets can't be opened, or that break in attempts to repair

YES: Cultural & fiscal incentives to business to get those business emissions DOWN. Compulsory reporting; awards, recognition & rate cuts for those that do the right thing; seminars & support for those that are still learning how (see for example the Hunter SDG Taskforce and the Carbon Neutral Adelaide Awards https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/cna-public-assets/general-downloads/Carbon-Neutral-Adelaide-Awards_Booklet_2019.pdf.); a climate safe procurement & tender policy & more charging points for commercial (& private) electric vehicles.

1. Promote the use of NABERS accredited assessors to rate office buildings, shopping centres, apartment buildings, hotels and public hospitals. NABER's ratings have shown the ability to reduce energy consumption of participating buildings over an extended time-frame. Many of the city's apartment blocks are managed by the same strata or building manager firms. This provides scope for a handful of apartment buildings to lead the way in demonstrating energy reduction measures recommended by NABER's assessors.
2. Consider partnering with Better Building Finance, to implement Environmental Upgrade Agreements - this would encourage building owners to make upgrades to save energy, water and waste whether they are owner occupiers or tenanted.
3. Set a target for the expansion of the light-rail into Mayfield and Lambton to reduce car dependency.
4. Encourage shopping precincts with outdoor carparks to install solar panel shading (rather than straight shading devices like at Mayfield Woolworths).
5. Expand your Natural Connections Team to offer a wider variety of activities, both free and paid. Suggestions for information sessions include introduction to composting, improving the energy efficiency of your house / home energy audits, birdscaping your garden, creating a low-water use garden etc.
6. Continue / expand your street tree program as this has both biodiversity and amenity benefits as well as providing shading to surrounding homes (which then reduces the heat loading / aircon use of nearby buildings).
7. As I am sure you will have found, promoting sustainable activities can attract negative feedback and resistance. Promoting the ongoing cost savings of the various measures as well as the improved liveability of the city may be a more prudent way of 'selling' the net-zero goal to the community rather than from a purely environmental perspective.
8. Consider changes to the red bin sizes, pricing and frequency of collection across the LGA. For example, going to a fortnightly red-bin collection with a significant price differential between a 240L and

a 120L red bin.

9. From personal observations, the BASIX system appears prone to 'gaming':- pre-wiring for down-lights (to be installed after the occupancy certificate is issued) but showing only CFL or LED's on the DA, landscaping plans which bear little resemblance to what is actually planted, and other discrepancies between water & energy saving measures shown on the plan vs what is actually installed. More rigorous verification of projects either through spot-checks, compliance audits or other enforcement methods is needed to realise the savings that BASIX aims to achieve.

10. Collaborate with Hunter Water to promote regular cleaning of residential water tank inlet filters as these are prone to scumming over, drastically reducing water capture.

11. Conduct a feasibility study into point to point 'public' transport bus services targeted at RAAF Williamstown staff. It is a 45km+ round trip from Newcastle suburbs to RAAF Williamstown, and with 3500+ staff working on base there is an opportunity to reduce CO2 related transport emissions. Whilst there is a bus route servicing the commercial side of the airport, there are no public transport offerings that go to the RAAF side of the base. Are there residential districts in CN with high concentrations of RAAF personnel (eg Newcastle / Honeysuckle) to make a bus service feasible? The traffic flows in and out of the base during the morning and afternoon implies that there are common start and finish times for a large proportion of the staff that bus departures could be targeted at.

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?

Climate Emergency is briefly mentioned in the mayor's message. It needs to be front and centre in an About this plan. See Moreland Council's words in their CAP.

https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/globalassets/key-docs/zero-carbon-moreland---climate-emergency-action-plan-2020-21---2024-25_.pdf

Support

- all proposed CN operational Actions. Esp.. energy storage and load management:

Also calling for:

- Action 5.9 Increase resources to scale up street tree, parkland, disused public lands plantings
- Action 5.1 Add passive design features to DCP for building performance enhancement
- Incentivise builders engaging Council Building Certifiers to ensure stronger compliance with BASIX
- Promote NSW Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Thank you for taking a leadership position on this issue of critical importance to the prosperity and livability of our region and beyond.

It is well thought out and clear

North Lambton as a trial suburb? From 5.10 of the plan.

Could we talk to beyond zero emissions about their plans?

We need a clear plan for rolling out EV infrastructure- we have an electric vehicle council in Australia that could advise council on how that should look. Environment upgrade agreements for businesses should be considered as should any of the ideas from the council's previous climate plans that were discontinued but still have merit.

Energy/Water and waste audits could be carried out at business and residential properties

I congratulate NCC on developing a Climate Action Plan.

I particularly like the focus on microgrids, stricter building codes circular economy

Newcastle council should determine and publish its greenhouse gas emissions. The process of calculating these should be determined by an independent authority and adopted by all councils.

Looks good.

A good framework, but Council must include Summerhill in its operational carbon budget. As well, there needs to be a much stronger suite of actions proposed to reduce city-wide emissions as at least a 25%

reduction in this Plan to meet the 2040 carbon neutral target, and probably more than 25% as it is usually the easiest things that get done first.
Why is the government not already utilising Gas generation at Summerhill? This is not new technology. What other alternatives to landfill have been considered? Incineration to electricity?
YES. 1. BUSINESS EMISSIONS: In our Council area 70-83%+ of emissions originate from business: cutting these MUST be a more major, funded, detailed part of the Plan. 2. A FAST & JUST TRANSITION IN THE HUNTER: Council must join other Hunter councils in taking on a much greater role in diversification away from coal mining, burning and exports in our region. Council has proved it can cut its own (operational) emissions: it must now work with others in the region to get us out of coal.
I think the Bykko bikes are too expensive, and that given the largely flat areas where the bikes are available, using less expensive, lighter and 100% green push bikes would be a better plan.
Wondering if consideration should be given to re-jigging the school/education aspect of Council's activities, which served the two purposes of reducing school-based waste and emissions, AND more importantly, getting young people attuned to Council's work in this area.
Incentivising private electric vehicle purchase and use would be great. How about offering a parking fee discount for electric vehicles? Using the Easypark platform could be an option?
Fugitive emissions - projects relating to minimising these emissions are not mentioned in actions
The mentioning of a Pandemic without any proper referencing does not make sense. (when I checked the actual reference there was no mention of a pandemic in there. My other point would be to cancel the Supercars race, as this is a very counter-intuitive event when you want to reduce our carbon footprint.
massive cultural collateral potential to lead the way. Council emissions pale to those produced by businesses within the local area. Council should use every ability to leverage their cultural capital, along with tangible influence on building requirements including strategies like annual and energy audits to gain progressive movement by business towards targets. Carrot and stick could be applied here. Applaud good, make known poor with no reason, support business to move to green power
One industry in Newcastle emits very large volumes of CO2 (ammonia production) and large amounts of N2O (nitrous oxide) which is a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more powerful greenhouse gas than CO2. This industry is Orica and CoN should approach Orica to discuss ways they can reduce or capture these emissions to reduce Newcastle LGA greenhouse gas emissions.
- Broader engagement with business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions - Action 5.9 - scale up Street Tree and parkland, vacant land planting - Action 5.1 Add passive design features to DCP for building performance enhancement - Incentivise builders engaging Council Building Certifiers to ensure stronger compliance with BASIX - CN Public support for the Port of Newcastle to diversify the export facilities of port beyond coal
It would also be interesting to see how the CN is adapting to climate change, while a focus on climate change mitigation strategies (reducing carbon emissions) is necessary, there also needs to be a focus on climate change adaptation strategies within the built environment. I would be interested to see what the City of Newcastle is doing in terms of ecological restoration/protection and strategies the city is doing to reduced urban heat island effect.
Excellent
Under the objective of zero transport emissions 4.1 - 4.6, two additional objectives should be added as follows - (1) "remove financial incentives provided to Council employees for private use of Council vehicles" and (2) encourage Council employee use of public transport by providing Opal cards or subsidising their use".

Overall this is indeed a very positive move and appreciative of any councils going forwards towards action plans related to climate change, renewable energy and carbon/emissions management procedures.
It is a fantastic aspirational goal, however I believe NCC resources would be better utilised focusing on attending to many of this things it has failed to do adequately in recent years such as repairs and maintenance to the roads, footpaths, handrails, parks etc in Newcastle, providing more frequent public transport etc.
I'm proud to be living in a city where the council is doing as much as it possibly can to tackle climate change. This is a huge undertaking but it's good to know that there are plans set in place.
Include whole of asset life in the proposed outcomes, not just the implementation costs Ensure all proposed solutions consider ongoing resourcing requirements, strategic risks and the sustainability drivers. Not just reducing greenhouse emissions.
Although I have said yes it would be helpful to see some cohesive push among councils towards addressing the coal fired power stations and coal ash dams along Lake Macquarie.
I have the following thoughts: New developments over a certain threshold should be targeting the Living Building Challenge - the most stringent sustainable building standard in the world. Can Council have more control over waste reduction through adjusting its rates accordingly and through requiring that all new apartment buildings provide feed stock to the organic waste facility being built? In Malmo, all apartment buildings collect their organics through in-sink waste systems into a tank which is then collected by a truck and sent to a biogas plant and turned into fuel to run the City's fleet. Can CN use their autonomous vehicle to provide a 'carpool' set up for Council staff (and potentially collect staff children from school and deliver to Council to be a more equitable employer) and demonstrate how this might work to other businesses? For example, if you use the autonomous vehicle you can claim half of your trip time as work time (as ultimately they can be working on their phones or networking with other staff from different departments). Have Council divested from all fossil fuel projects and companies? Including ensuring Local Government Super does not invest their employees super in such projects as ultimately it is fiscally irresponsible. Could a neighbourhood scale energy utility, particularly providing heating and cooling which account for ~50% of business energy consumption, be feasible? How can CN support (or fund) the development of geothermal and tidal energy projects and enable businesses to purchase this low emission energy? CN could ensure that all Council construction projects only use low energy concrete and steel. This may mean working with preferred suppliers to get them to install a heat recovery system at their plant or ensure a certain amount of recycled content going into their product. All Council Masterplans should be assessed against the Living Community Challenge imperatives. This is the most sustainable development metric in the world
Waste carbon emissions are large and ambiguously divided between the community, CN and other LGA communities. This is a state significant issue, and needs substantial programs to lower the waste ending up in landfill. Programs could assist organisations to set up as second-hand businesses to repair and resell goods
Climate Action Newcastle supports - all proposed CN operational Actions. In particular innovation for energy storage and load management: 1.5. Investigate and install megawatt scale battery storage options to firm renewable supply and build resilience across CN operations 2.8 Investigate opportunities for trialling and demonstrating vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and other emerging technologies - all proposed city-wide Actions with a note on Hydrogen 5.14 Advocate for the creation of renewable hydrogen* and ammonia export hubs, a regional bioenergy hub and green metal and mineral processing in Newcastle. *Cautionary Note on hydrogen: A recent caution on promoting Hydrogen industries has been issued by

eminent climate scientists, as outlined in The Conversation:

<https://theconversation.com/dont-rush-into-a-hydrogen-economy-until-we-know-all-the-risks-to-our-climate-140433>

Climate Action Newcastle also calling for Business actions:

- Broader and more committed engagement with the business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions from this most polluting sector in the LGA.
- Action 5.1 Add passive design features to DCP for building performance enhancement
- Action 5.9 Increase resources urgently for Street Tree plantings to mitigate urban heat and planting in all available passive open space for habitat enhancement and carbon sequestration
- Incentivise builders engaging Council Building Certifiers to ensure stronger compliance with BASIX
- Investigate a by-law to conduct spot inspections on BASIX compliance by Private Certifiers
- Promote NSW Environmental Upgrade Agreements program to facilitate solar power installation and energy efficiency improvements. <https://business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs/Environmental-Upgrade-Agreements-NSW>

- Aerial rooftop audit of old air-conditioners -proactive engagement on safe decommissioning of GHGs

- Gas & business emissions should be reporting throughout the plan and addressed

The Newcastle emissions Climate Snapshot 2018-19 reports that 12.7 % of Newcastle's emissions are from Gas, and of this 90% is from the business sector. These Business Gas emissions should be reported throughout the plan, and CN initiatives identified to address this - whether together with other government departments, organisations or alone.

- More emphasis on efficiency

The replacement of energy sources from fossil fuels to renewable is useful to achieve targets, however not using energy and water in the first place will drive emissions down faster when added to green power options.

Table 1. Progress against key targets on page 10. of the Climate Action Plan indicates that efficiency actions in the 2020 plan were all significantly behind target in reducing CN's electricity usage, potable water usage, and liquid fuel usage. Addressing these areas, and the particular focus on replacing vehicular liquid fuel use in the 2025 plan is noted and highly supported.

- Business recognition and incentives programs e.g. CitySwitch Program (Adelaide, Sydney, Perth, Melbourne)

- signatory recognition

- rebate on the cost of a NABERS Energy rating. The rebate is 50 per cent of the cost of the assessment to a maximum value of \$2,500.

- Annual reporting and Awards Program

- Investigate business rates incentives / disincentives for emissions KPIs

- Transparency and action on the emissions of the Top 20 Businesses:

Noting that up to 83% of emissions in the Newcastle LGA come from business, this sector needs to be profiled in more detail, with transparent monitoring protocols on the largest emitters 20 emitters, and commitments for all businesses operating within the bounds of the Newcastle LGA to work cooperatively work the City and other government departments and organisations, or directly. e.g. NSW Sustainability Advantage.

- Reporting on the Business Sector Aspirational Goals from the city's last 2020 Carbon and Water Action Plan is largely absent and would be very beneficial - even if not celebrating complete success.

https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/b434c1a3-0034-4e46-a8f9-152b309dcaa3/FINAL_Carbon_Water_MAP_for_Web_secure.aspx

The Goals are on Page 16. of the 2020 plan and are as follows:

Business Sector Aspirational Goals - Top 20 Businesses

By 2020 The City of Newcastle in partnership with the Top 20 Businesses is aiming for:

100% of businesses to commit to energy, water and waste reduction programs

100% of businesses to publicly report energy use, water use and water reduction against business and industry targets

5,000 new Clean Tech jobs to be created within the Hunter Region
 100% of business to have sustainability ratings
 50% of business source 20% or more of their energy from renewable sources
 (i.e. > 10% business' energy from renewable sources)
 Business Sector Aspirational Goals (excluding top 20)
 By 2020 The City of Newcastle in partnership with business is aiming for:
 500 businesses to have implemented and reported against the ClimateCam Framework
 50% of businesses that have implemented the ClimateCam Framework to have completed and energy efficiency upgrade
 100% of businesses that have implemented the ClimateCam Framework to monitor their electricity consumption
 80% of businesses to utilise recycling services
 80% of businesses to have water efficient hardware
 Most of these are commitments and tracking measures, not emissions reduction targets on their own. However these goals are asking more of the Newcastle Business Sector than the current plan; and adequate reporting and transparent discussion of lessons learned on the 2020 Business Goals would be useful to inform future city-wide Business emissions measures. The only reporting of this Business section of the Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan is on Page 9 as follows:
 "CN also continued to run highly successful engagement programs, based on its 14-Step ClimateCam Framework. In collaboration with the Hunter Business Chamber and Hunter TAFE, CN delivered the Energy Hunter program to over 350 businesses across the Hunter Region, providing real time electricity monitoring, energy audits, workshops and assistance in developing energy efficiency projects. The program, which helped businesses reduce electricity use by 5.6 GWh and save over \$1.1m in electricity savings each year, won the prestigious Climate Change Leadership Award at the NSW Government's Green Globe Awards."
 We would like more detail on the successes or outcomes of the 2020 Carbon and Water Action Plan program and request a 2020 report be included in the 2025 Plan. The Climate Cam and other 2020 projects received significant resourcing and investment by City of Newcastle and a fulsome review of outcomes and lessons learned is due.

YES: 1. Business emissions - Noting that in our council area 70-83% of emissions are from business (and mostly the top 20), cutting these must be a major, funded, detailed part of the plan (beyond the aspirational graph Chart 10, pathways for which are not detailed anywhere in the Plan!). 2. Council must take its unique opportunity to massively impact global emissions falling to safe levels by working with Councils & industry across the region to lead our fast & just transition away from coal mining & exports. When 2b tonnes of global CO2e emissions originate from our port, this MUST be part of Council's work plan. Council has proved with the Plan that it can cut its own emissions, but these were already tiny: to make real impact, we must also work to help get our region out of coal.

Council is currently left holding the proverbial hot potato in terms of dealing with single-use plastics & other 'waste' items from excess packaging etc. A long term and ongoing goal of Council should be to lobby state and Federal governments on reducing packaging, phasing out single-use plastic items and other sources of difficult to recycle 'recyclables'. At the moment, there is neither the technology to sufficiently sort 'recyclable' items nor the markets to take the recycled content to make into feedstock for new products. We need to realise that better recycling and less contamination will not solve our waste issues. Avoiding & reusing plastics need to be the goal as recycling is not a viable solution. Council advocacy and leadership on this issue is important.

In relation to the introduction of FOGO bins, is Council aware of Goterra Farms who is a new entrant in food-waste processing. Whilst they are currently based in the ACT, their technology may provide an attractive solution for CN for processing food waste from the restaurant precincts & shopping centres (which are likely to require a more frequent collection service than the remainder of the LGA). Resulting compost from food-waste-only should possess a higher nutrient content and provides the potential for a premium product attracting higher returns than from FOGO processing. Additionally, is there potential for Council to re-coup some of their processing costs for FOGO by selling the resultant product to mines in the Hunter Valley to improve the water retention, survival and growth rates of their mine rehabilitation projects?

The ACT Municipal Service partnered with the CSIRO to conduct a feasibility study for integrating their waterways to reduce their demand on mains-water supply. Would CN consider a similar process to identify synergies in relation to flood mitigation, stormwater handling, water quality improvements and stormwater recycling for sporting field irrigation and industrial activities, utilising the existing network of open-air storm-water drains.

It is also very important for CN to share their lessons learnt so that other LGAs across Australia can benefit. It would be great to see CN regularly host a 'Sustainable Cities of the Future' conference, delivered by a combination of on-site gatherings and webinars involving council staff, industry bodies, technology and infrastructure providers as well as academics to share their latest research.

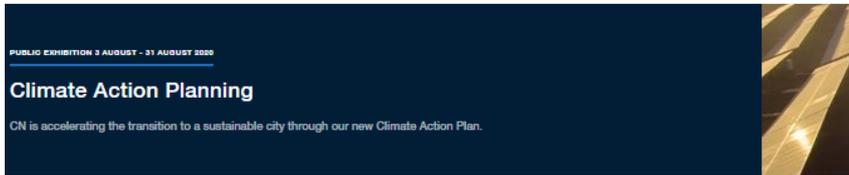
Keep up the hard work and hopefully your sustainability actions can become embedded in Council's operations so they withstand the vagaries of Council elections and staffing changes!

Appendix II – Promotional materials

Have your say webpage



Select Language



Taking action on Climate Change

The City of Newcastle (CN) is updating its strategic approach to reducing emissions and our city-wide move to a low carbon economy. This involves the revision and renewal of the existing 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan, which has completed its term. The revised document will be published as the '2025 Climate Action Plan'. Our new Action Plan builds on Council's achievements over the last decade, sets new targets and shape innovative and sustainable programs.

What is being proposed by Council?

The Plan will also outline specific goals and priorities for the next 5 years. It's our roadmap to achieving positive impacts such as clean energy, resource efficiency, reducing emissions in our supply chain, sustainable transport and addressing important issues such as emissions targets and our vision for a low carbon city.

Community views on climate action

Thanks to everyone that submitted ideas, questions and comments online and during the Climate Action Planning session via Zoom. Read the Engagement Snapshot Report to find out more.

Get involved

The draft Action Plan was on public exhibition until 5pm Monday 31 August 2020. Thank you to everyone that provided feedback.

Email: mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au

By mail: Chief Executive Officer | Attention: Adam Clarke, Sustainability Manager, City of Newcastle PO Box 489 Newcastle NSW 2300

Subject: 'Draft Climate Action Plan - Submission' in the title for emailed and posted feedback.



Document library

- [Read the final draft Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Read about Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan](#)
- [Read about Council building upgrades](#)
- [Read about Our Commitment to Sustainability](#)
- [Read the Engagement Snapshot Report](#)

Project news

UN Sustainable Development Goals - 17 Goals to Transform Our World

13 May 2020

City of Newcastle is incorporating The United Nations' Sustainable Development goals into the new Climate Action Plan.

Each SDG has specific targets to be achieved over the next 10 years and include: no poverty, zero hung...

[Read more](#)

City awards contract for cutting-edge organics recycling facility

13 May 2020

City of Newcastle has awarded a contract for an advanced organics recycling facility as part of a 25-year commitment to revolutionise food and garden waste treatment.

The project at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre by Barpa Pty Ltd, in partnership with a compan...

[Read more](#)

City awards 100 per cent renewable contract

13 May 2020

City of Newcastle joined the University of Newcastle in switching over to renewables on 1 January 2020, following the lead of other progressive Australian organisations, including the University of NSW, CBA, Westpac, Monash University and Melbourne University. ...

[Read more](#)

Project timeline

- April - May 2020
 - Early engagement**
 - Strategy development and engagement
- June 2020
 - Early engagement closed**
 - Feedback, ideas and comments will be reviewed prior to the draft Action Plan going to Council seeking endorsement to be placed on Public Exhibition.
- August 2020
 - Public Exhibition**
 - Draft Action Plan will be available 9 August 2020 until 5pm 31 August 2020 for submissions.

[Expand timeline](#)

Contact us

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Sustainability Manager

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Have your say in Newcastle's Climate Action Plan 2021-25

On August 3 the City of Newcastle's (CN) 2025 Climate Action Plan was placed on public exhibition with the plan outlining CN's commitment to achieving a net-zero emissions future.

The 2025 Climate Action Plan details the Council's achievements over the last decade, their new targets, together with the innovative and sustainable programs that the CN plan to implement over the next five years.

The draft 2025 Climate Action Plan is available for comment until 5pm Monday 31 August by visiting www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay

For local evidence of the Council's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases in 2020 CN became the first council in NSW to have 100% of their energy needs delivered by renewable energy. A significant achievement that Lord Mayor Nuala Naines says they have been working towards for quite some time.

"It's been quite a long process to get to where we are today I was on the Council back in 2012, and at the time there were some really stretched targets around reducing our emissions from our own operations and the Council's overall sustainability"

"To achieve these goals substantial investment was going to be needed in renewable energies, which triggered the installation of the five-megawatt solar farm at Summer Hill which consists of 14,500 solar panels and covers an area the size of five football fields."

"At the time we faced quite a lot of push back and a lot of work has been done to get the funding from the Clean Energy Council of Australia and to undertake the construction of the farm. However, the result after six months of being in operation has more than exceeded our expectations with the return on investment double what was predicted."

What goals would you like to see achieved via the 2025 Climate Action Plan?
Making sure we have similar stretched targets specifically targeting a reduction in electricity use, we're also wanting to replace all lighting, including streetlights, with LED or the best alternative. The plan also focuses on reducing CN's fuel use and operational carbon emissions.

You're looking for community engagement on the 2025 Climate Action Plan, why is this so important?
We want to be sure that this plan is representative of how the community feels and represents the urgency we as a city are placing on emissions reduction.

We have already undertaken stakeholder and community engagement to establish the Climate Action Plan and throughout the month of August, we are looking for more. Due to COVID we've had to look at a variety of ways to engage with the community such as online information sessions and Q&As, and focus groups which will allow people to engage with the Plan.

When does the Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25 go on exhibition?
The plan is on exhibition from the 3-31 August, once all the workshops and feedback have been collated it will then come back to Council. Any changes that have been made to the Action Plan will be finalised and released on October 21st.

There will also be an online zoom community information session where the community can join the City of Newcastle and University of Newcastle as they outline their priorities for climate action and the connection with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), details of the event are as follows:

Leading Climate Action in our City
When: 12 noon - 18 August 2020
Where: Zoom

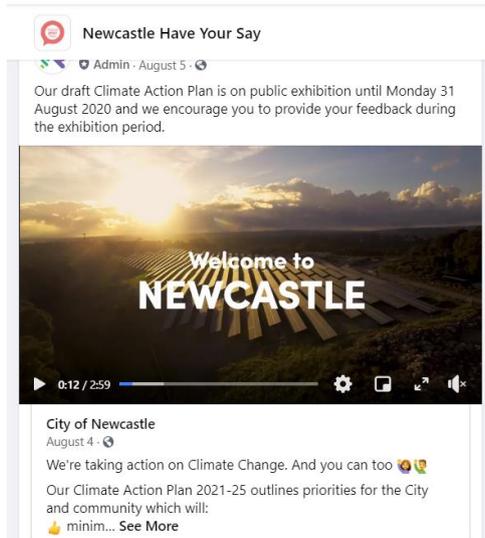
To provide your feedback visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay before 5pm Monday 31 August.

01 May 2020

Tags: **NEWS**

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Social media





Digital displays



Engagement snapshot infographic



Media release

Media release



29 July 2020

Council gives preliminary tick to new climate action plan

City of Newcastle will lead the way to a net zero emissions future by reducing greenhouse gasses while implementing a range of environmental efficiencies under a five-year action plan endorsed for public exhibition last night.

The *Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25* outlines priorities for the City and community to minimise carbon emissions, embrace sustainable transport, deploy clean technology and support low-emission industries.

The plan proposes to reduce fuel use by transitioning to electric vehicles, increasing battery storage to lessen the City's reliance on the electricity grid, cutting emissions via LED lighting replacements and building upgrades, and encouraging development of sustainable buildings.

Over the next five years the plan will specifically target:

- A 20 per cent reduction in electricity use, based on 2019/20 consumption
- Replacing all lighting, including streetlights, with LED or the best alternative
- A 50 per cent reduction in fuel use, based on 2019/20 consumption
- A 50 per cent reduction in operational carbon emissions.

"Through strong and consistent actions to reduce our emissions, City of Newcastle is now recognised as one of Australia's leading local governments in terms of addressing climate change," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said.

"After achieving so much over the past five years, particularly by becoming the first NSW Council to be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy in January, our transformation will continue under this new plan.

"By supporting residents, business and industry to act more sustainably, encourage local resilience and build a circular economy, our sustained investment will propel the city towards a net zero emissions future. I encourage the community to have their say on the way forward during the public exhibition period of the Climate Action Plan."

The draft plan also covers better resource management, headlined by an organics processing facility at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre; recycling initiatives and infrastructure, use of more recycled products in construction, water-efficient technologies, community-owned renewables projects and solar garden innovation.

Community engagement on the new plan helped build on the 2020 Carbon Water Management Action Plan (CWMAP), which delivered a five-megawatt solar farm, rooftop solar panels, LED streetlights and a 100 per cent renewable energy deal.

Under the 2020 CWMAP, the City has:

- Reduced electricity usage by 17 per cent
- Upgraded 31 per cent of streetlights to LEDs
- Secured 100 per cent of electricity from renewable sources
- Reduced potable water usage by more than 8 per cent
- Slashed the City's carbon footprint by 77 per cent, excluding emissions from Summerhill Waste Management Centre
- Reduced liquid fuel use by 77 per cent

The draft 2025 Climate Action Plan will be available for comment from Tuesday 4 August until 5pm Monday 31 August by visiting www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay