

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Minutes of the Briefing Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall, 290 King Street Newcastle on 20 March 2018 at 6.23pm

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor (Councillor N Nelmes), Councillors J Church, J Dunn, B Luke, J Mackenzie, A Robinson, A Rufo, E White and P Winney-Baartz.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Bath (Chief Executive Officer), A Baxter (Interim Director Corporate Services), K Liddell (Director Infrastructure), P Chrystal (Director Planning and Regulatory), E Kolatchew (Interim Manager Legal and Governance), M Blackburn-Smith (Manager Development and Building), P McCarthy (Interim Manager Regulatory Services), D Fischetti (Media Officer), A Knowles (Council Services/Minutes) and K Sullivan (Council Services/Webcast)

APOLOGIES

MOTION

Moved by Cr Luke, seconded by Cr White

The apologies submitted on behalf of Councillors Byrne, Clausen, Duncan and Elliott be received and leave of absence granted.

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

BRIEFING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM-1 BR 20/03/18 - CLYDE STREET HAMILTON REMEDIATION PROJECT - JEMENA

Mr David Virtue, Project Manager Clyde Street Remediation Project provided a briefing to Council on Jemena's strategy to remediate the site per the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements to reduce risk to human health and the environment.

The presentation outlined the history and former usage of the site and included how this contributed to its contamination.

Jemena's progress and forward plan of the project works was outlined to Councillors and included the relevant government and associated authority approval stages. Council was advised that the project was scheduled to commence in late 2018 with anticipated completion in 2020.

Mr Virtue stated that their strategy had been endorsed by both NSW EPA and the Site Auditor; furthermore they encourage the community to contact the organisation to learn more about the project and all necessary contact details were available on their website.

Councillors raised a number of questions regarding what Jemena was planning for the site, what investigations had or had not been undertaken for its potential use apart from IN2 (Industrial Light) zoning and had options been considered for better usage such as residential or recreational spaces.

MOTION

Moved by Cr Winney-Baartz, seconded by Cr Dunn

The briefing be received.

Carried

ITEM-2

BR 20/03/18 - NEWCASTLE NOW

Mr Michael Neilson, Executive Manager Newcastle Now and Mr Edward Duc, Chairman Newcastle Now provided a briefing to Council on its history, original inception, operation guidelines and Newcastle Now's current status as a Business Improvement Association (BIA).

Mr Neilson outlined the organisation's aim to support business activity in the City Centre. Current priorities to include a Business Support Program, After Dark Economy, Walkable City and Data Collection were provided to Council noting that these priorities were being delivered through consultation with the community and local businesses.

A number of Councillors raised questions in relation to the breakdown and allocation of revenue received and how it was allocated and applied to staffing costs. Further queries were made in relation to the use of grant funding and how it was directed to projects, programs and resources and why Council was being asked to undertake tasks that the BIA should be undertaking.

MOTION

Moved by Cr Dunn, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

The briefing be received

Carried

The meeting concluded at 7.59pm.