

**ITEM-29 LMM 23/11/21 - END OF TERM & RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCILLORS;
COUNCILLORS DUNN, RUFO AND LUKE**

MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that this meeting of 23 November 2021 is the last Ordinary Council Meeting of an extended term which began on 26 September 2017;
2. Congratulates all Staff and Councillors for their contribution throughout this Council term;
3. Notes that this meeting marks the final meeting of retiring Councillors, Councillor Jason Dunn, Councillor Andrea Rufo and Councillor Brad Luke;
4. Congratulates each of our outgoing Councillors for their contribution to the betterment of the City of Newcastle.

BACKGROUND:

Councillor Jason Dunn:

Councillor Dunn was elected in 2012 in Ward 4 for Labor and served our City as Deputy Lord Mayor for two years.

Councillor Dunn expressed the following reflections on his time as a Councillor:

Since 2012, my Labor colleagues and I have achieved considerable changes and improvements for Ward 4 and our city, including:

Saving local services, including the Beresfield Swimming Pool and Golf Course from privatisation and closure from the Newcastle Independents Party;

- Delivered flood mitigation to Wallsend (without funding assistance from state or federal government), particularly the completion of the \$3.3 million Tyrrell Street Bridge reconstruction, and the commitment of more than \$20 million to continue to deliver this crucial plan;
- Delivering public domain upgrades in Beresfield, Wallsend and Shortland;
- Securing the City's financial security, without cutting jobs or services;

The western suburbs have been my focus over the last nine years.

Over that time, Council has addressed the Wallsend flooding issue by replacing the first of three bridges, started construction on the Wallsend Active Hub playground and sporting facility, delivered new footpaths in Elermore Vale, completed the main street upgrade in Beresfield, and has started construction on the main street upgrade in Shortland.

I also campaigned to save Beresfield pool from privatisation by the Newcastle Independents Party, and advocated to keep fees low at Beresfield pool, which now has the cheapest pool fees in the region.

There's no doubt that this has been a hard working team that has helped set up our city for ongoing success. My background is in accounting and law. When I became a Councillor, the

City's books were a worry. One former General Manager advised that the City was on the path to insolvency. We have well and truly turned that around, and I am proud to be part of a Council that has been deemed 'financially fit for the future' by the NSW Government.

This leadership has ensured that we have had the resources needed to address the issues of today, and to keep on delivering for Ward 4.

This is a Council that has focused on building smarter, investing in the infrastructure the city needs for future prosperity, especially in the western suburbs.

I am proud of my achievements as a Councillor, and it has been a privilege to represent the people of Ward 4.

Councillor Andrea Rufo:

It has been a privilege and honour to serve on this council for the past 9 years.

I wish to thank the Residents of Ward 3 for placing their trust in me and allowing me the opportunity to serve as their Ward 3 Councillor. I have been honoured to represent you and Newcastle as a whole and I hope that I have served you well.

My approach to Council issues has been, to be open and transparent, to support the residents of Ward 3 & community of Newcastle as a whole, and always, to be approachable and accessible. I believe I have always acted with integrity, empathy, and honesty.

It has been a privilege to work with some wonderful staff throughout the organisation. I would like to extend my appreciation for the amazing work you all do. Your support has made my job that much easier.

Thank you.

Councillor Brad Luke:

Councillor Luke was elected in 2008 as the first ever Liberal Party endorsed Councillor on Newcastle City Council.

During his time, he served 2 years as the Deputy Lord Mayor.

He has served on various other roles including on the Joint Regional Planning Panel from its inception until 2017; the Asset Advisory Committee for his entire time on council; the Audit Committee from 2008 until 2012, and various other committees.

Cr Luke said he is very proud to have represented ward 2 for the past 13 years and would like to thank all the staff he has worked with for their professionalism and hard work.

He would also like to thank all the fellow Councillors who have served on council alongside him, and also thank the residents of Ward 2 for giving him the privilege over the last 3 terms.