

Connecting Newcastle

2017 update: An expanded light rail network





A message from the Lord Mayor



An integrated transport network is the cornerstone of a thriving global city. Newcastle deserves a network where buses, trains, cars and light rail co-exist with pedestrians, cyclists and other modes of self-powered transport.

Through our *Connecting Newcastle* vision for Greater Newcastle, we are demonstrating how connectivity and an increased mix of transport modes will shape urban renewal and improve liveability across our region.

As Lord Mayor, I've been a key advocate of ensuring we get the best outcomes for our city. Council's original *Connecting Newcastle* vision incorporated our feedback on the initial delivery of light rail in the city centre, such as advocating for removal of the raised platform and overhead wires and ensuring the delivery of light rail did not compromise urban renewal of Hunter Street and transport efficiencies.

While not all of Council's position has been adopted in the NSW Government's decisions, I maintain my personal commitment to ensuring that we work in partnership to achieve the best possible outcome for Newcastle. Delivering a plan to expand the network is the essential next step, as viable transport corridors are otherwise likely to be lost to development in the city and to the west.

Newcastle City Council wants the expanded corridors to augment the initial Wickham to east end route, by including these Greater Newcastle destinations:

- Broadmeadow
- McDonald Jones Stadium
- Adamstown
- Mayfield
- John Hunter Hospital
- University of Newcastle
- Glendale
- Bathers Way
- Newcastle Airport

We propose leading a working party to deliver on this vision with relevant state agencies including the Hunter Development Corporation, Department of Planning and Environment, UrbanGrowth NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, Transport for NSW, Keolis Downer and the Newcastle and Hunter communities.

Pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders and scooters are also part of a more sustainable transport system. Delivering an expanded light rail network complemented by more options for pedestrians and cyclists is an ambitious vision.

But we can achieve it if the agencies charged with delivering hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of revitalisation projects come together to create a smart, liveable and sustainable city.

Nuatali Nelmes

Lord Mayor of Newcastle
July 2017

Image: Supplied by Transport for NSW

Connecting the city - an expanded light rail network

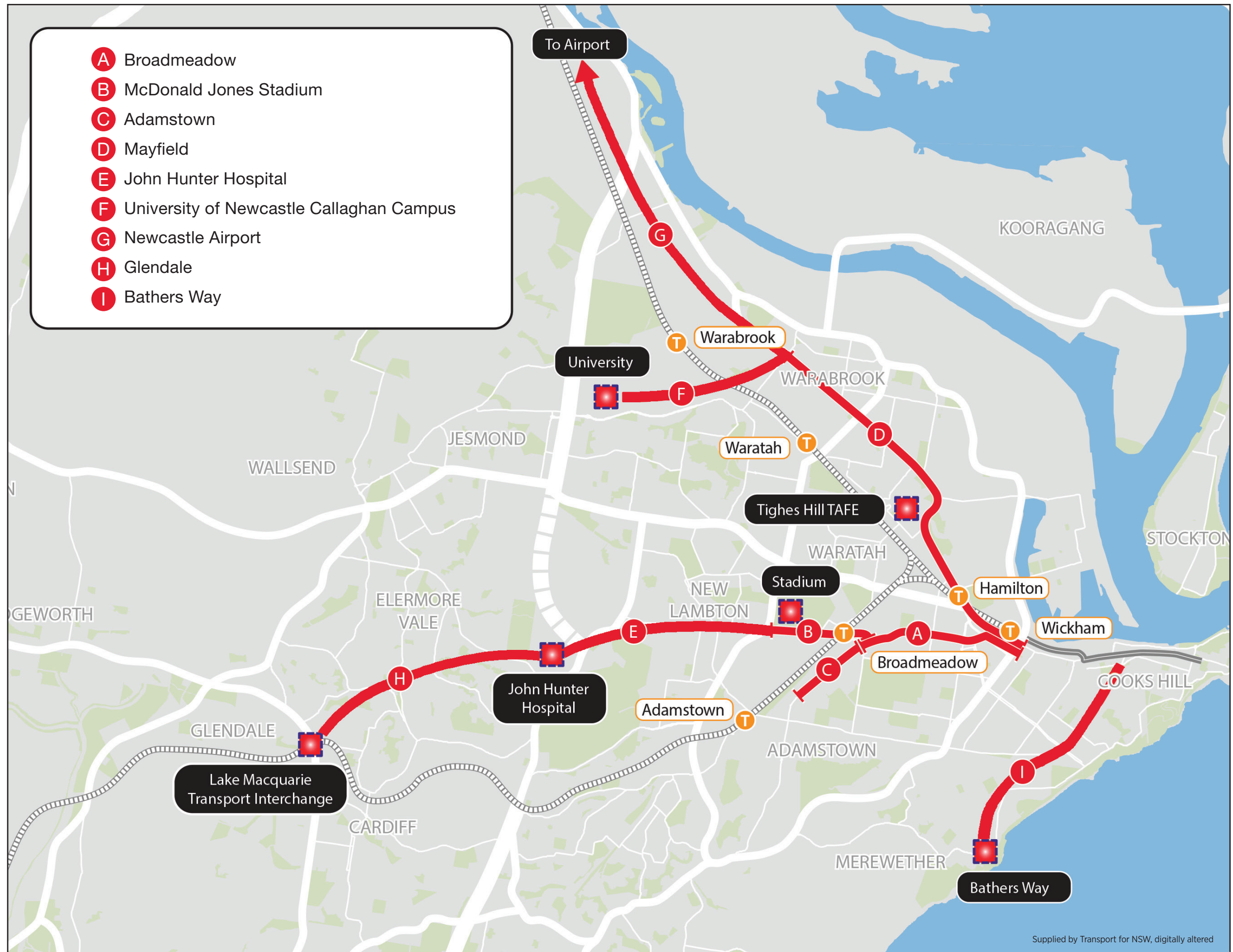
Delivery of the 2.7km Newcastle light rail system is the starting point of a broader network connecting the Greater Newcastle region.

Council believes this should be the first step towards creating an expanded and integrated light rail network linking the city centre with suburban hubs and key infrastructure. Park and ride, and end of trip facilities should be incorporated into each node, to better deliver this integrated transport solutions.

This will provide a fast, efficient and affordable public transport alternative carrying commuters to high-demand destinations, including the John Hunter Hospital, the University of Newcastle and McDonald Jones Stadium.

It will also link directly with other modes of transport: trains, roads, walking routes and cycleways, including the scenic 15km Fernleigh Track.

This will create a truly connected city for all.



A network that works

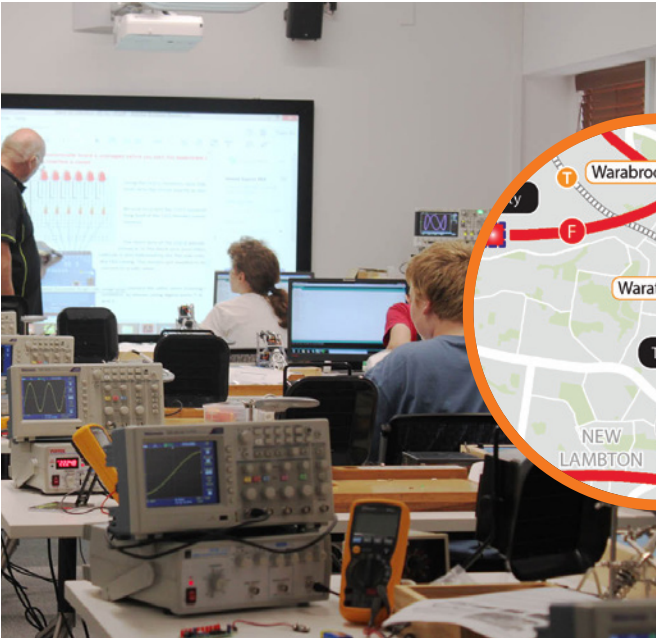


A

BROADMEADOW

- Straightforward delivery due to existing road infrastructure
- Improved access to sports and entertainment precinct
- Direct link with intercity and interstate trains at Broadmeadow station






D

MAYFIELD

- Direct access to Tighes Hill TAFE
- More than 22,000 students and 760 staff to TAFE campus
- Supports Maitland Road urban renewal
- Potential for in-fill development



B

MCDONALD JONES STADIUM

- Link with trains for door-to-door delivery of visitors to major stadium events
- Improves Newcastle's standing as a major event destination
- More than 330,000 visitors annually to sports fixtures and events





Image: NRL Photos


E

JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL

- Improved access for hospital staff, students and visitors
- 78,000 patients and 370,000 outpatient clinic attendees
- 2,700 staff attending
- Reduced traffic and parking pressure throughout precinct









C

ADAMSTOWN

- Potential for in-fill development and urban renewal on Brunker Road corridor
- Services a significant proportion of workers based in the city








F

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE CALLAGHAN CAMPUS

- Connects Callaghan campus with NeWSpace CBD campus
- 26,600 students and 1,700 staff to campuses
- Provides easy, cost-effective and safe transport for students and staff
- Reduces reliance on cars and CBD parking







Link **G**

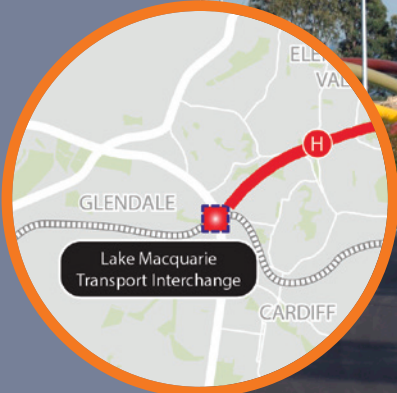
NEWCASTLE AIRPORT


- Creates fast connection to region's major airport, servicing 1.3 million passengers annually
- Supports airport's investment and expansion, including new domestic and international routes


Link **H**

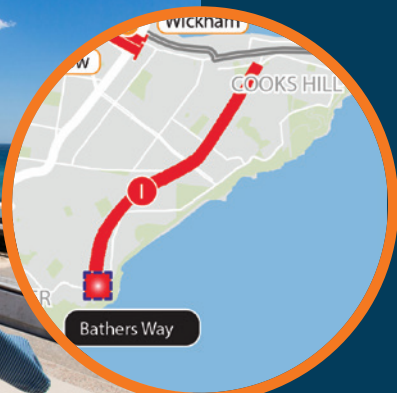
GLENDALE

- Links to proposed Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange
- Enhances movement across city and throughout region
- Services major population centre of northern Lake Macquarie









Link **I**

BATHERS WAY

- Connects beaches to city centre, with stops following Bathers Way to Merewether Beach
- Enhances flagship Surfest event with a dedicated stop alongside competition area
- Supports Newcastle City Council's coastal revitalisation

Our goals for a revitalised Newcastle include:



POSITIONING NEWCASTLE AS A GLOBAL CITY

Driving a vision for Newcastle to become a global city and second gateway to NSW, encompassing port, defence, university, airport and health hubs.



REVITALISING THE CITY CENTRE

Transforming the urban environment to bring people back to the CBD and stimulate jobs growth. Improving public spaces such as parks and entertainment precincts.



CREATING A SMART CITY

Making the CBD and suburbs open, collaborative and connected, where technology makes things easier and more sustainable for everyone.



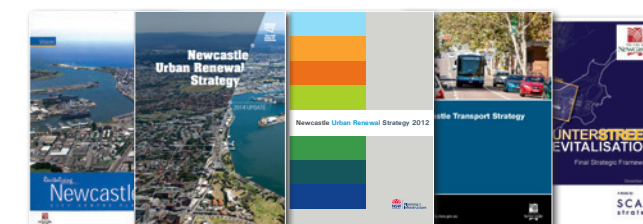
INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Establishing a Hunter Transport Authority that connects trains, light rail, bus, ferry, park and ride, cycle and pedestrian transport into one cohesive network.



EXPANDING LIGHT RAIL

Creating an extended light rail network that connects the CBD and other key destinations throughout the LGA and beyond.



Guiding strategies and plans

The need for better, more efficient public transport servicing key infrastructure and population hubs throughout Newcastle has been a long-term issue outlined by Council and other government agencies. Urban renewal strategies, transport strategies and Council's overarching Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan all highlight the importance of establishing a more connected city less reliant on motor cars.

1

In 2013, the NSW Government announced that its **Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy** would include the Newcastle Light Rail Project.

3

In March 2016, Council endorsed the **Connecting Newcastle: Our Urban Renewal Vision** which consolidated previous strategies, reports and plans into a single document. Council also advocated for improved delivery of the network, including separated running, park and ride facilities, connected cycleway, removal of raised platforms and overhead wires.

2

In September 2015, Newcastle City Council called for:

- Any light rail project for Newcastle to connect the inner city with the University of Newcastle, John Hunter Hospital, Hunter Stadium, Newcastle Airport, the Glendale transport interchange and the city's beaches.
- Light rail to be integrated with car parking, cycleways, footpaths, bus and trains networks.
- Collaboration with Transport for NSW to establish an integrated transport management plan, including forward planning of the next stage of any light rail project, with community consultation on the proposed routes.

4

In June 2017, Council resolved to:

- Update the **Connecting Newcastle** document.
- Lead the formation of a working party to deliver an expanded light rail network with relevant state agencies, Keolis Downer and the community.

Image: Supplied by Transport for NSW

"The most frequent thing I get about the light rail is: 'Can you expand it? We want to see it go further,' and that's certainly what we are looking at."

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian
Newcastle, July 2017

"It's important to preserve future light rail corridors now to avoid increased costs in future."

NSW Opposition Leader, Luke Foley
Newcastle, July 2017

