

**Subject: LMM 24/05/2022 - ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability -  
COMMITMENT**

**MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Recognises the City of Newcastle's long-standing membership of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. The Lord Mayor was elected to the ICLEI Oceania Regional Executive in July 2020.
2. Notes the Lord Mayor was invited to attend and address the ICLEI World Congress 2021-2022 in Malmo, Sweden in May 2022 focusing on strategies towards a climate neutral future, resilient and healthy communities, equitable and inclusive communities and sustainable finance and innovation.
3. Acknowledges City of Newcastle's long-standing commitment to, and leadership in addressing and taking action to address climate change, including strong action on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
4. Pledges our support for The Malmo Commitment [Attached], to be captured within CN's draft Environmental Strategy, which seeks to:
  - a. Prioritise all people and social equity at the core of local sustainable development.
  - b. Foster safe, vibrant cities, towns and communities for all to live, work and thrive.
  - c. Foster environmentally-sound human wellbeing through three key elements:
    - i. Our cities and towns shall be for all
    - ii. We shall promote safe & healthy urban spaces and communities
    - iii. We shall ensure just transitions to a sustainable local economy, providing opportunities for dignified livelihoods to all.
  - d. Collaborate with community stakeholders to identify key sustainability challenges that must be prioritised within the community, and the social dimensions against which each challenge must be addressed.
  - e. Design smart social equity indicators to measure and monitor our progress in addressing key sustainability challenges facing our communities.
  - f. Report our progress and share our successes and lessons learned with other committed local governments to develop a pool of knowledge for further advancing equitable sustainable local development around the world.
  - g. Encourage the local governments of neighbouring communities, and those with which we work and partner, to commit to the Malmo Commitment and further enhance our collective efforts.

**BACKGROUND:**

**LORD MAYOR'S SPEECH: BUILDING EQUITY INTO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESSES**

**13 May 2022, ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS**

- Strategic and equitable outcomes from progressive procurement requires a whole of government approach, with a willingness and commitment by all levels of government to work together and focus on the best outcomes for our communities and our local, national, regional and global economic character.
- We need commitment, collaboration and innovation to help drive the economic recovery of our cities following the pandemic, but this is certainly not without its challenges in the future, whether it be employment and good secure jobs, cost of living, energy and climate change, housing affordability and homelessness or managing urban growth.
- As Lord Mayor of the City of Newcastle, I am proud of the work that our city continues to do to assist our community, particularly following the pandemic. Government and business have a duty to continue to work together to provide a vision for the future based on equity, equality, economic development, environmental sustainability, and climate action.
- City of Newcastle is already a leading government authority in Australia regarding implementing strong and decisive initiatives to address climate change, which is why we have previously formally committed to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- We are leading by example and will reach net zero emissions for operation by no later than 2030 and in January 2020, City of Newcastle became the first NSW council to be powered by 100% renewable electricity.
- In my home state of New South Wales, while living through the COVID pandemic we have simultaneously suffered from bushfires, drought, mice plagues, coastal erosion and floods. Local government is usually the first to respond to such natural disasters and climate change events and with our local knowledge, strong community connections and expert staff it means we are best placed to recognise the need for adaptation and build greater resilience and community capacity at a local level.
- One of the ways we are able to build greater capacity in our community is through the purchasing power and procurement of goods and services as a local government organisation.
- The principles of City of Newcastle's recently updated Procurement Policy include:
  - **Accountability and transparency:** procurement and tendering processes will be open, clear, fully documented, and defensible.
  - **Honesty and fairness:** procurement and tendering processes and business relationships will be conducted with honesty, fairness, and probity at all levels. Confidentiality of information will be maintained.

- **Value for money:** procurement and tendering processes will be objectively assessed to ensure value for money by taking into account both price and non-price factors (including supplier risk and return on investment).
  - **Consistency:** consistent processes must be used in all stages of the procurement and tendering process.
  - **Probity:** procurement and tendering processes will encourage competitive tendering and be open, fair, consistent and transparent and comply with relevant legislation, regulations and City of Newcastle's own Code of Conduct.
  - **Ethical Procurement:** procurement and tendering processes will seek to:
    - Purchase sustainable/green products and services;
    - Comply with the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018; and
    - Support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
  - **Supplier Diversity:** procurement and tendering processes will seek to include suppliers from:
    - Local businesses;
    - Aboriginal Owned Businesses; and
    - Disability Employment Organisations.
  - **Work Health & Safety:** procurement and tendering processes will ensure the protection of CN staff and other persons against harm to their health, safety and welfare through the elimination or minimisation of risks.
- Equitable public procurement and spending is crucial to the strength of our city, as it is well acknowledged that local businesses are more likely to employ local people, and importantly people from a diverse background, indigenous people, local disadvantaged people and people with a disability, which ultimately leads to closing the wealth gap and increasing economic opportunities for those groups. Likewise, using our purchasing power locally ensures a greater local spend, encouraging greater local economic development down the supply chain, creating long-term wealth and a more prosperous community.
  - Helping our community foster a just transition and adapt to a changing climate is essential to City of Newcastle's long-term plan to address the many issues arising from climate change, including reduced water resources, rising sea levels, warmer average temperatures, longer and more extreme periods of high bushfire risks and more frequent and intense extreme weather events including heatwaves, storms and flash flooding. Using our purchasing power to improve the wealth and economic capacity of our community will go a long way to shielding us from any potential downturns as we transition from an economy that has largely been reliant on coal and steel-making, to one which is greener, cleaner and more environmentally and economically resilient.
  - Our city has some challenges ahead, whether it be employment and job security, cost of living pressures, energy and climate change, housing affordability and accessibility but if there is one thing that the past two years has taught us, it's that if we continue to work hand-in-hand with our community we will rise to meet those challenges.
  - As Lord Mayor I'm proud to say that the City of Newcastle is committed to a just transition and ensuring that we build a secure, inclusive and prosperous future for all, where no one is left behind.

## **LORD MAYOR'S SPEECH: "ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION TO OUR SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE"**

### **Background**

- City of Newcastle hosts the largest coal port in the world. However, we are also one of the most progressive local councils on taking strong action against climate change.
- We have championed renewable energy and climate action for over 20 years – at the Pathways to Sustainability Conference in Newcastle in 1997 we were signatories to the 'Newcastle Declaration' – a commitment to enhancing local and international sustainability and action on climate change.
- We continue that work today, with a commitment to achieving net zero emissions for our operations by no later than 2030 and for the community by 2040.
- We are also a city of transition – that same year (1997) our largest employer, the BHP Steel Works announced they were closing their doors and 2500 jobs were lost within 2 years. Through this transition we grew and changed into a liveable, sustainable, inclusive global city. Will take again embrace these lessons to transition into our future of green clean energy.

### **Newcastle Context**

- Newcastle is located about 160 km north of Sydney. It is Australia's seventh-largest city and is the centre of the Greater Newcastle Region, the largest regional centre in NSW. Newcastle is the economic hub of the Hunter Region, with an international profile as a major port city and a gateway to the world for the Hunter's agricultural, mineral and tourism resources.
- Our area is extremely vulnerable to the economic impact of the global transition away from fossil fuel consumption.
- We are also affected by climate change – as a coastal urban city, Newcastle faces many of the challenges that those in a similar position do:
  - Climate change is already affecting us by exacerbating existing extreme weather events and creating new and often unforeseen problems.
  - Creating severe coastal erosion across our 12 beaches
  - Increasing the urban heat island effect, particularly in our rapidly growing outer urban suburbs
- We are mitigating the effects of climate change is our priority, however even with aggressive carbon mitigation both locally and globally, we are unable to avoid an increase in global surface temperatures that will have flow on effects to our council and community's health and wellbeing, assets, natural systems, industry and overall economy.
- Identifying our climate risks and taking action across the LGA will allow us to balance our investment in mitigation and adaptation measures and allow us to lead a just transition for all.
- Whilst this a major challenge for the local community it is also seen as a great opportunity for transformation.
- We are inspired to act to create a sustainable future and as a council we recognise that "Our environment sustains our community, economy, health and wellbeing; it is at the heart of all we do. Our city acts on climate change to achieve net zero emissions and build resilience in our communities, infrastructure, and natural areas. We protect, enhance and connect our green and blue networks, and we're transforming our city through circular economy solutions."

## Our Just Transition

- In supporting a just transition Newcastle recognises that transformation of the local workforce and economy is needed and that this can be achieved through clean industries.
- The features that make Newcastle and Hunter one of the largest coal regions also positions us perfectly to become a major national and international clean energy player. These include:
  - A highly skilled workforce with thousands of workers that have traditionally been associated with the resources industry able to transfer their jobs directly into offshore wind, solar, hydrogen generation, and battery development.
  - The exceptional accessibility of the Port of Newcastle for exporting "green" manufactured resources and materials such as green steel and hydrogen.
  - The strongest access to the National Energy Grid, allowing us to directly power the country with clean and renewable energy.
- This is supported through the Newcastle and the Hunter being nominated as a State Renewable Energy Zone by the NSW government and as a Hydrogen Hub by the Federal Government.

## Sustainability and CN

- We are guiding a whole of community approach to addressing the challenge of transitioning to a sustainable future through a number of strategies, key of which is our Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan. One of the 4 pillars is Sustainability, which is underpinned by three priority areas:

### *Action on Climate Change*

*Priority Statement:* A city that responds to the climate emergency by committing to zero emissions and preparing for increasing risks from increasing temperatures, storms, coastal erosion, flooding and bushfire.

The decisions we make build resilient communities, infrastructure and natural areas

### *For example:*

- Adopting the Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25 that commits the City of Newcastle to net zero emissions for its operations by no later than 2030, and a Net Zero Emission City by not later than 2040 (2020).
- Constructing a 5-megawatt solar farm to power the cities operations and provide a foundation for a new circular economy precinct (2019)
- Achieving 100% renewable electricity supply through onsite and offsite renewables (2020)
- Development a zero emissions vehicles fleet transition plan (2020).
- Supporting public transport electrification through installing a network of EV fast chargers throughout the city (ongoing).
- Installing > 800 kilowatts of rooftop solar PV on key council sites (ongoing).

### *Harnessing nature-based solutions*

*Priority Statement:* We manage and enhance our blue, green and wild spaces for biodiversity, recreational amenity and human wellbeing through education and engagement of our local community. We strengthen our blue and green

*grid through sustainable and integrated management, adaptable to current and future hazard risks. We regenerate our natural systems and work towards zero pollution through collaboration with our community and industry partners.*

*For example*

- Each year we plant around 1200 street and park trees through our Living Streets program. We prioritise areas most in need as well as recently completed stormwater, road and footpath repairs and construction.
- We have identified and planting species that are resilient to climate change

*Driving a circular economy*

*Priority Statement: We design out waste and transition our existing jobs to create new opportunities in our local economy, favouring renewable products and sustainable infrastructure, and thinking of our use of resources as a circular flow.*

*For example*

- Our Summerhill waste management center is transitioning to a resource recovery hub, where we value waste as a resource. We are doing this through opening a food and organics recycling service as well as a materials processing facility.

### **Global commitments**

- As a United Nations City CN has committed to, and has integrated, the Sustainable Development Goals into our Community Strategic Planning with the SDG's underpinning the strategic direction of the organisation and community.
- In order to lead our community in transitioning we have undertaken the following:
  - Formally committing to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement (2018)
  - As a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) committing to the requirements of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (2018)
  - Taking the Cities Race to Zero Pledge (2021).

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: The Malmo Commitment

Attachment B: Presentation "Together to take action: Cities, towns and communities for everyone"



ICLEI World Congress  
Malmö, Sweden • 2021 - 2022

## **Malmö Commitment on Inclusive & Equitable Communities**

### **Introduction**

Cities and towns all around the world are vibrant hubs of people with the strength, knowledge and capacity to drive significant change. Nowadays, cities are facing multiple, interconnected challenges: the climate and nature crises as well as social injustices. Cities and communities can be part of the solution to today's challenges, encouraging sustainable approaches, innovation, adaptability, participation, and inclusiveness.

The climate emergency calls for action now. Cities and communities are vital in the process of ensuring a green transition. The transition must however be inclusive and fair if cities are to contribute to the goals set in the Paris Agreement, as well as more broadly to the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, cities need to work with a holistic approach working with all aspects of sustainability.

People in cities, towns and communities are powerful agents for addressing both social and environmental injustices. As local governments, we must follow rights-based approaches and include all community members in policy processes. Empowering members of the community to participate in decision making processes gives people ownership and an active role in the development of local environments. We need to further support individual and community agency by providing equitable access to resources and services in ways that are sensitive to gender, race, age, religion, ability, sexual orientation, culture, ethnicity and income. We should reshape measures of success beyond GDP, and focus on the wellbeing of all members of the community, and embrace diversity in our cities and towns, which will lead to inclusive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable communities for all, locally and globally.

There are many challenges, but even more opportunities if we work together.

## **The Malmö Commitment**

**We commit to prioritizing all people and social equity at the core of local sustainable development.**

Sustainable cities, towns and communities are ones in which everyone is given a voice, where policy making is inclusive and participatory, and all community members are represented and valued. As local governments, we shall strive to develop inclusive policy processes that engage individuals, groups and communities in public governance and urban development, and allow all people to prosper. We shall work to adopt whole-of-society approaches to decision-making and policy development, and in doing so, prioritize partnering and participatory approaches, creative expression, and the facilitation of safe space for inclusive engagement. We shall strongly value social and cultural diversity and reflect this in policies, strategies, plans and actions.

How successful we are in resolving the climate, environmental and sustainability crises will be directly correlated to how inclusive and participatory our sustainable development policies are.

**We commit to fostering safe, vibrant cities, towns, and communities for all to live, work, and thrive.**

In recent decades we have seen increasing global and regional migration pushed by war, economic hardship or the climate crisis. Cities are also destinations of internal migration, places where people from different parts of our countries move to pursue their dreams, to work or educate themselves. Our cities and towns are well positioned to absorb new arrivals and to leverage these human resources, talent, and innovation.

Stability and peace are vital to achieving greater economic and social progress. We as local governments must build safe and peaceful cities and towns for all through processes that support social integration, strengthened communities and social cohesion. In this role, we must create and

foster opportunities and spaces that celebrate and showcase diversity within communities and connect community members with one another.

We shall also pursue and support policies and programs that actively reduce climate and economic stressors that may lead to, or are causing, forced or reluctant migration, as well as design programs that welcome and support new arrivals to our communities.

**We shall strive to foster environmentally-sound human wellbeing through three key elements:**

1. **Our cities and towns shall be for all**, and we as local governments shall ensure that all persons have equitable access to good-quality, safe, secure, affordable and sustainable resources and services in the following ways:
  - Adopt whole systems perspectives to measure and implement sustainable food, water, sanitation, energy, communications and waste systems;
  - Ensure fair and equitable access to quality, affordable housing, addressing and further preventing homelessness and housing overcrowding;
  - Use planning as a tool for more integrated cities and neighborhoods;
  - Invest in sustainable bulk infrastructure development;
  - Promote decentralised service delivery approaches;
  - Manage unplanned development and invest in upgrading unplanned settlements;
  - Support individual access to land tenure;
  - Develop effective financial models to support infrastructure expansion while ensuring affordable, quality services for all community members.
  
2. We shall promote **safe & healthy urban spaces and communities** by prioritizing both the health of people, as well as that of the planet, through our policies and activities, such as:
  - Creating open public space that supports community engagement, artistic expression and mental wellbeing;

- Planning and fostering neighbourhoods and communities that contribute to positive quality of life, providing safe places for all to live, work and thrive, promoting neighbourliness and community cohesion, and supporting healthy air quality and ambient noise levels;
- Designing cities that promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles by creating opportunities for exercise, providing supportive infrastructure for convenient, reliable mobility, and maintaining affordable, accessible, nourishing food environments;
- Supporting access to affordable and accessible healthcare programmes and facilities;
- Integrating nature into urban built environments through nature-based solutions that ensure environmental regeneration and ecological function, while also contributing positively to the physical and mental health of community members.

3. We shall ensure **just transitions to a sustainable local economy, providing opportunities for dignified livelihoods to all** by:

- Creating decent employment, particularly for youth and women. These jobs should support new local economies that are productive and not extractive, that contribute to restoring and enhancing the environment, that manage climate risk, or are otherwise supportive of safe, healthy, sustainable communities and lifestyles;
- Supporting employment and local entrepreneurship by enabling access to finance and affordable credit, supporting private sector forums, and fostering alternative business models that focus on delivering social and environmental benefits;
- Ensuring that labour supply matches the needs and demands of emerging markets and industries, through investment in skills development programmes.

**In order to bring about the change we are engaging to in creating and supporting inclusive and equitable cities, towns and communities, we hereby commit to:**

- Collaborate with community stakeholders to identify the key sustainability challenges that must be prioritized within the community, and the social dimensions against which each challenge must be addressed;
- Design smart social equity indicators to measure and monitor our progress in addressing key sustainability challenges facing our communities;
- Report our progress and share our successes and lessons learned with other committed local governments to develop a pool of knowledge for further advancing equitable sustainable local development around the world;
- Encourage the local governments of neighbouring communities, and those with which we work and partner, to commit to the Malmö Commitment and further enhance our collective efforts.



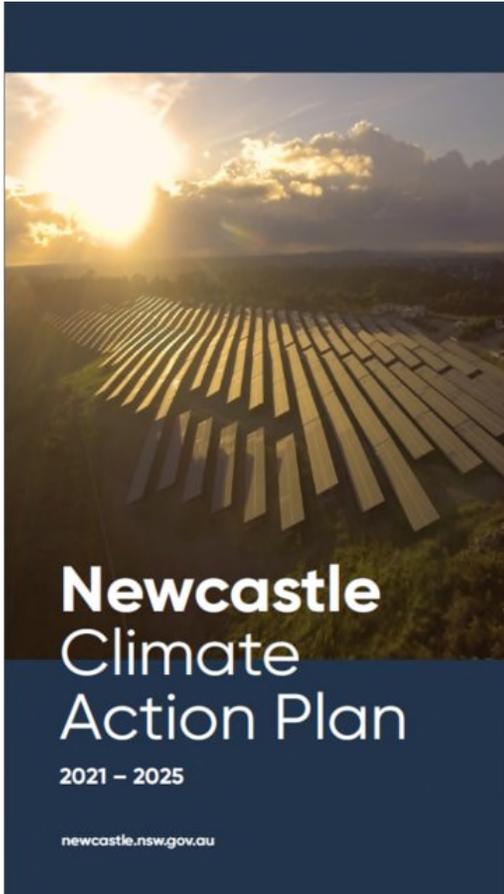
# ICLEI World Congress 2022

Together to take action: Cities, towns and communities for everyone

**Councillor Nuatali Nelmes**  
**Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle, Australia**

**13 May 2022**

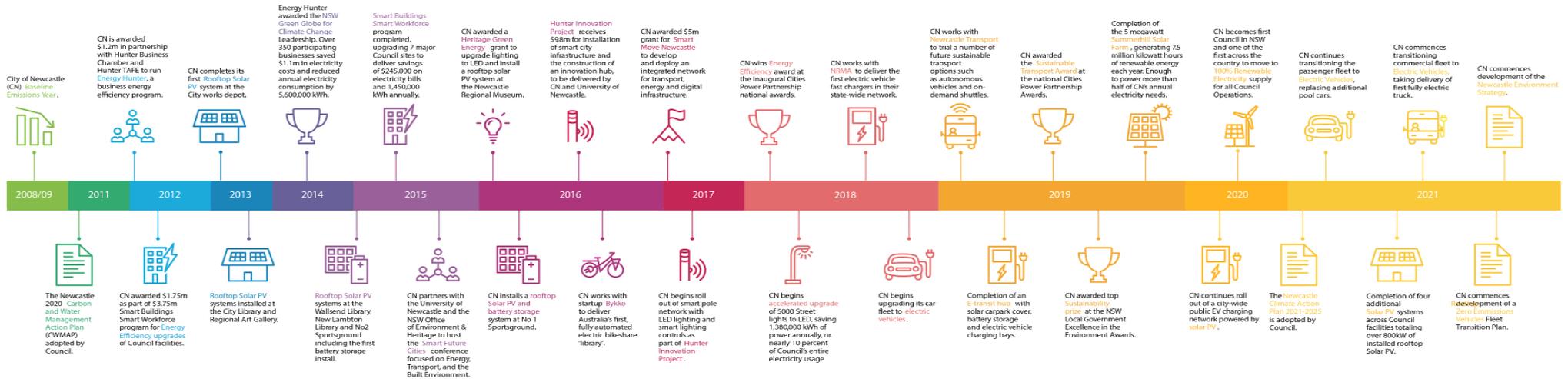




To Achieve this goal, this Climate Action Plan is structured around four key themes for reducing emissions across City of Newcastle Operations:



# Taking Action to reduce emissions



# Newcastle 2040

## Our Community Strategic Plan

Identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and sets our vision for the next 10 years.





# UN Sustainable Development Goals most important to our local community



While the SDGs are global, we seek to make them a reality in our city and organization by prioritizing them throughout our strategies and performance indicators. We do this by:

- Aligning the SDGs to the Newcastle 2030 priorities
- Localising our SDG contributions and identifying what they mean for Newcastle
- Aligning CN's internal plans and strategies
- Building our partnerships and capacity to deliver regionally and beyond
- Ensuring that the measures of success for our SDG contributions are SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound

# City of Newcastle's Social Strategy



## VISION

Newcastle is a place where all people reach their potential, make a contribution and share the benefits of an inclusive community.



## PRINCIPLES

- Ecologically Sustainable Development Principles
- Social Justice
- Local Democracy

# City of Newcastle's Environment Strategy

## VISION



Our environment sustains our community, economy, health and wellbeing; it is at the heart of all we do. Our city acts on climate change to achieve net zero emissions and build resilience in our communities, infrastructure and natural areas. We protect, enhance and connect our green and blue network, and we're transforming our city through circular economy solutions.



## MISSION

We regenerate our urban and natural environment, so they continue to grow in their value, connectivity, and health. We act on the climate emergency by achieving net zero emissions and investing in resilience.

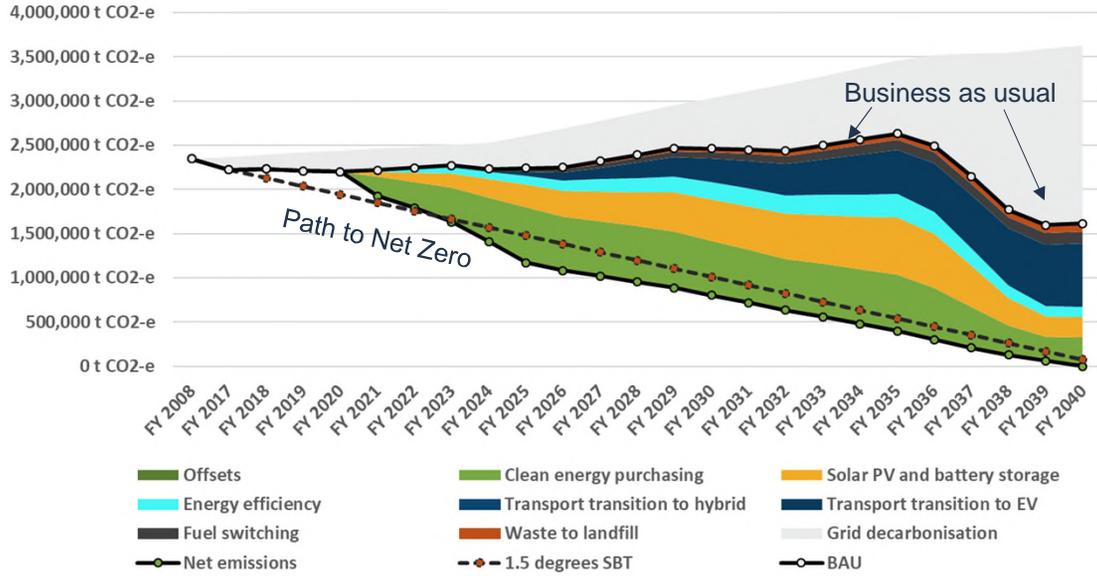


# Renewal of the Newcastle Environment Strategy

## TIMELINE & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



# Community Emission Reduction Towards a Net Zero Emissions City



- Low Emissions Development
- Encouraging Clean Technology
- Supporting an Electric Transport Future
- Advancing New Zero Emission Industries



# Towards a Net Zero Emissions City

## Objective:

To create a resilient city that reduces its share of emissions to ensure a cleaner and more sustainable future

### Low Emissions Development

- 5.1 Develop and adopt a set of low-carbon and low-water building performance enhancements for inclusion in the City's Development Control Plan (DCP) for all new buildings and major renovations, including encouraging the use of green roofs and solar panels.
- 5.2 Lobby the NSW Government for improvements to the Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) minimum performance requirements, through a combined approach from active Local Governments.
- 5.3 Work with the NSW State Government to identify neighbourhoods and catalyst areas suitable for establishing a low carbon precinct as a demonstration project.

### Encouraging Clean Technology

- 5.4 Support and share knowledge with residents, business and industry to encourage energy efficiency, the uptake of renewable energy and target 100% renewable electricity supply.
- 5.5 Support residents, business and industry in transitioning to low emissions technologies, including development of solar gardens, virtual microgrids, community renewable energy and battery storage initiatives.

- 5.6 Investigate and encourage the opportunity for Newcastle residents and businesses to buy and sell locally produced renewable energy and carbon offsets.

### Building a Low Carbon Circular Economy

- 5.7 Promote and encourage local resilience and a circular economy through sustainable procurement practices, and the local sourcing, production and consumption of materials.
- 5.8 Identify options to encourage and support waste avoidance opportunities for Newcastle residents, business and industry.
- 5.9 Identify and measure the carbon sequestration potential from street and park trees, bushland, wetland and other natural assets and promote the opportunities and multiple climate and resilience benefits of urban blue-green grids.

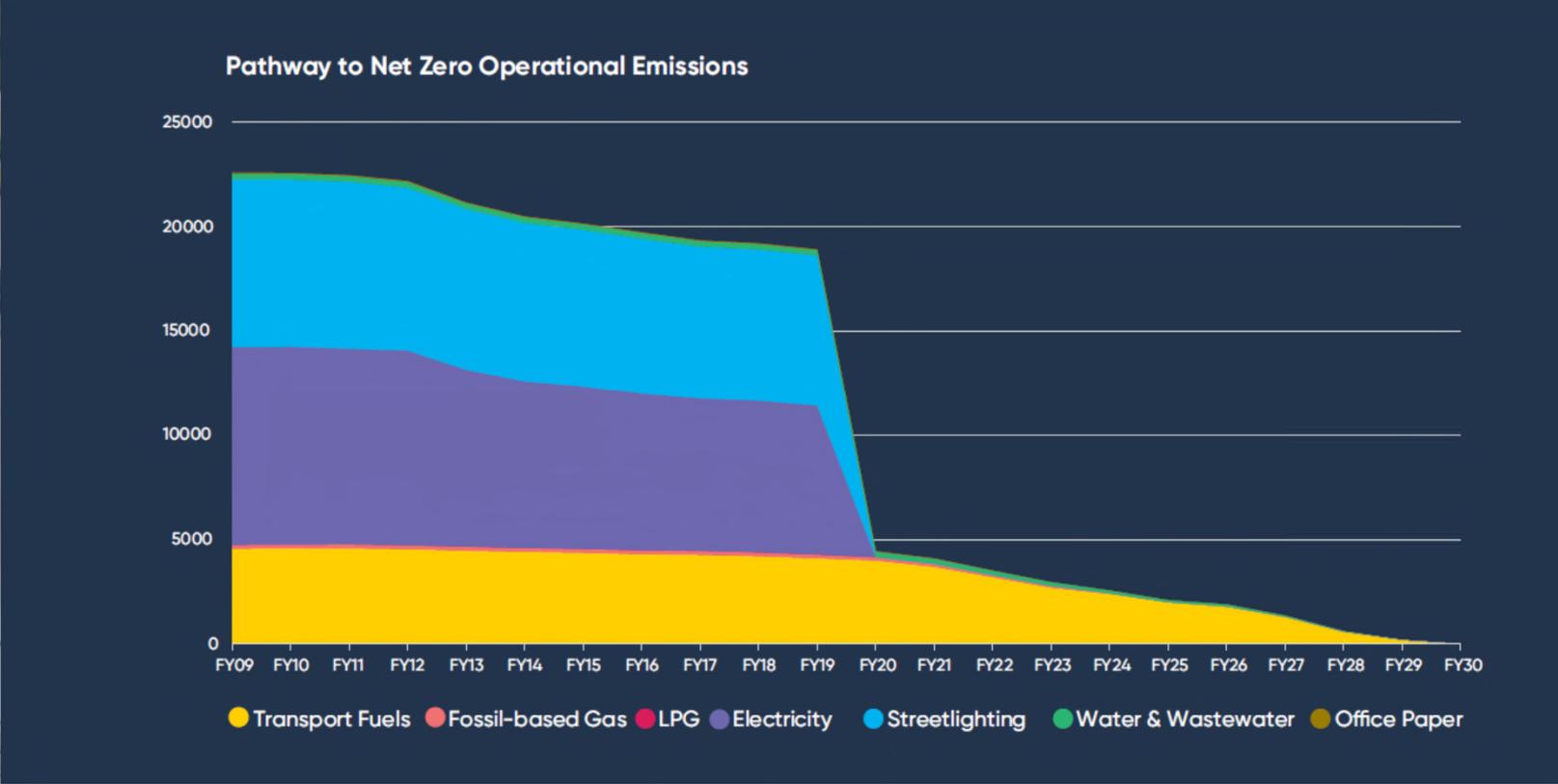


# Sustainable Supply Chain

- 3.1 Set targets and policies for the use of sustainable and recycled materials in procurement, civil and construction works.
- 3.2 Identify and implement opportunities to utilise green concrete and other low emissions materials in CN civil and construction works.
- 3.3 Utilise recycled glass, aggregate and other recovered materials in CN operations.
- 3.4 Identify and implement opportunities to utilise recycled plastics in street furniture, posts, playgrounds and other CN infrastructure.
- 3.5 Remove all single use plastics from operational activities.
- 3.6 Work with local businesses to trial, develop and implement low emissions materials and technologies.
- 3.7 Prioritise low emissions building materials in design and construction of CN assets.
- 3.8 Improve data capture on supply chain emissions, measure embodied energy in materials and develop metrics to improve circularity in CN's supply chain.



# The Pathway to Net Zero



## Achievements so far...

- Formally committed to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement
- Adoption of the United Nations' SDGs, which are embedded in CN's community, environmental and sustainability planning
- New resource recovery facility opened in 2019, diverting up to 30,000 tonnes of community recyclable waste away from landfill each year
- Creation in 2019 of a five-megawatt solar farm on a former landfill site, in addition to 900 kilowatts of individual rooftop solar systems installed across CN properties
- First local government in NSW to switch to 100% renewable electricity for operations in January 2020
- On track to reach net zero emissions for CN's operations by 2030

