

Date: Thursday 20 October 2022	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre
Meeting No: 12	Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the LGA.	

1. Welcome

Councillor Winney-Baartz acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples.

1.1 Attendees:

Members

Cr Peta Winney-Baartz	Councillor Member (Chair)
Cr Deahanna Richardson	Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) via Teams
Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor Member
Emmanuel Genlot	General Manager, Keolis Downer
John Merrell	Community Representative
Frank Roberson	Network Planning & Operations, Council Management, Ausgrid
Clint Thomson	Executive Manager Customer Delivery, Hunter Water Corporation
Corinne Thompson	Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW

Guests

Michelle Bisson	Executive Director Planning and Environment, City of Newcastle
Dan Champness	Director, Regional Community Partner North, Transport NSW
Rachel Howard	Executive Assistant (Minutes)
Jonathan Myers	Head of Growth, Innovation and Partnerships, Keolis Downer (for Item 4) via Teams
Joanne Rigby	Executive Director City Infrastructure (Committee Facilitator)
Ryan Tranter	Traffic and Transport Manager
Joshua Van Lier	Environmental Strategist, City of Newcastle (for Item 6)

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 5 July 2022 endorsed as circulated.

2.2 No outstanding actions.

2.3 The Committee noted that the Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect the adoption of the Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan. The Terms of Reference are available on the [Committee's webpage](#).

3. Sports Infrastructure Working Party Update

3.1 The Chair provided an update to the Committee:

3.1.1 The working group have agreed to draft and share a process with stakeholders in relation to applying for grants. This will enable improved prioritisation of sports infrastructure renewal within City of Newcastle's rolling capital works program.

4. Overview of the Zero Emissions Bus Strategy

- 4.1 Jonathan Myers provided an overview of Keolis Downer's (KD) Zero Emissions Bus Strategy.
- 4.1.1 KD has established a Centre of Excellence for the energy transition, from design to delivery. The Hunter is one part of Australia wide operations.
- 4.1.2 Stage One of the Battery Electric Buses project will see three battery electric vehicles delivered to Newcastle in the coming weeks.
- 4.1.3 A challenge for this project will be power capacity which is limited without sub-station / grid connection upgrade. Design for upgrading the grid connection at the Hamilton depot to accommodate further buses is a key next step. There are currently 120 diesel buses at the Hamilton depot.
- 4.1.4 The Committee noted the importance of sustainable lifecycle management of batteries including disposal. The battery range is increasing every year, with buses not needing to be charged during the day. Scheduled recharging is required to ensure the grid is not overwhelmed.
- 4.1.5 The Committee discussed future capability to produce zero emission vehicles in Australia. This technology is still in the very early stages and KD are keen to work with local suppliers. KD are working in partnership with a number of entities including the University of Newcastle.
- 4.1.6 The Committee discussed the capacity of the network and the ability of the network to cope once the full bus fleet has transitioned to hydrogen/electric. Stakeholders will work together to upgrade the system as needed.

5. Ausgrid's Draft Plan for 2024-2029

- 5.1 Frank Roberson provided an overview:
- 5.1.1 Every five years, Ausgrid is required to submit a plan to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) that details proposed service delivery, costs and prices for the next five-year period. The next regulatory proposal covers the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029.
- 5.1.2 Extensive engagement has been undertaken with Councils and a range of other stakeholders. This is the first time the draft plan has been shared and engaged with to this extent prior to being submitted to the regulator.
- 5.1.3 Nine Councils have provided submissions to date, including City of Newcastle.
- 5.1.4 The Committee viewed a [video](#) produced by Ausgrid to promote engagement with the community on the Draft Plan 2024-2029.

6 Coastal Hazards Awareness Campaign

- 6.1 Joshua van Lier provided an overview of development of the Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (CMP)
- 6.1.1 CMP's are required under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*. It is a five stage process which sets the long-term strategy for managing the coastal zone.

- 6.1.2 CN's coastal processes review found that unprotected areas are at risk sooner than previously thought along the Southern Beaches. The area most at risk is the currently unprotected section of coastline from the Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club at Bar Beach, to the cliffline at Dixon Park. Along this stretch there is no natural cliffline or man-made structure in place.
- 6.1.3 CN has published a wide array of information for the community on the [website](#). CN has engaged directly with Surf Life Saving Clubs, with a wide community campaign to take place over the summer.
- 6.1.4 Some potential management options include: sand nourishment, terminal or offshore protection structures, alongshore transport barrier structure, and relocation of assets.
- 6.1.5 The Committee discussed climate change and how this impacts the various models.

7. Stakeholder Updates

- 7.1 Transport for NSW (TfNSW):
 - 7.1.2 Dan Champness advised that a meeting with the Minister was held today regarding natural disaster recovery and resilience. A \$312 million pilot package to enable Councils to deliver assets and infrastructure back to standard post event has been announced. Applications will need to be submitted by 2 December 2022. TfNSW is working with Councils to identify their top three priorities.
- 7.2 Corrine Thompson provided an update on a range of TfNSW matters:
 - 7.2.1 The [Draft Hunter Regional Transport Plan](#) has been released for feedback closing Friday 11 November 2022. Feedback captured from stakeholders and the community will be used to refine and finalise the plan and the timing of initiatives.
 - 7.2.2 A decision on the M1 extension to Raymond Terrace is expected later this year. Contracts are expected to be awarded by the end of 2022.
 - 7.2.3 The Hexham Straight project is being delivered through an alliance contract which is expected to be announced in early 2023. Main construction is expected to commence in the second half of 2023.
 - 7.2.4 An online interactive portal to support community engagement during construction of the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass has been launched. Installation of the main site office and compound at Waratah will start in October.
 - 7.2.5 TfNSW is currently having broad discussions around light rail in the context of aligning Fast Rail and the Broadmeadow Catalyst Area. Alexandra Lyle, Director Regional Networks will meet with Council the coming weeks to further discuss light rail.
 - 7.2.6 TfNSW is currently preparing a community consultation report and the final environmental assessment on the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor, Fassifern to Hexham. It is expected to be published late this year. The report will be submitted to DPE and will help inform the Minister for Planning's decision on the protection of a corridor for the future project.
- 7.2 Hunter Water - Clint Thomson provided an update:

- 7.2.1 The challenges presented by current weather conditions in relation to waste and stormwater are continuing to be dealt with.
- 7.2.2 A very positive result via Beachwatch recently, which recorded an increase in water quality at a number of local beaches.
- 7.2.3 COVID impacts continue to present resourcing challenges and increased input costs e.g. fuel, power, steel, plastic and equipment from overseas.
- 7.2.4 It is currently National Water Week, an advertising campaign is being run around the three 'P's'.
- 7.2.5 Hunter Water have moved into the second iteration of their Reconciliation Action Plan, aiming to imbed First Nations' knowledge in all areas of operation.
- 7.2.6 A briefing on the IPART submission for 2025-2030 will be listed on the committee's forward agenda.
- 7.3 Keolis Downer - Emmanuel Genlot provided an update:
 - 7.3.1 Work on the post COVID recovery plan and returning to pre COVID operations is continuing. Recruitment is a key project, particularly attracting bus drivers with a focus on customer service.
 - 7.3.2 Fare compliance is going to be introduced in the coming weeks. This is transferring from TfNSW, with KD implementing a team of authorised officers on the network. This information is being shared with the community.
 - 7.3.3 A seniors safety campaign to mitigate injuries has been launched, including outreach at residential facilities.
 - 7.3.4 KD are currently preparing a response to the TfNSW autonomous bus trial expression of interest.
- 7.4 Ausgrid – Frank Roberson provided an update:
 - 7.4.1 Supply chains are beginning to move now which will assist the street lighting LED upgrade.
 - 7.4.2 Kerb side EV charging program including pole top charging opens up the benefits of electric vehicles to a wider audience. Ausgrid are in the process of scoping potential locations in Newcastle.

8. 2023 Meeting Schedule

- 8.1 The Committee adopted the meeting schedule as listed in the business papers:
 - 7 February 2023
 - 4 April 2023
 - 4 July 2023
 - 3 October 2023

Meetings will commence at 5.30pm and be held in the Lord Mayor's Reception Room at 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West.

9. General Business

- 9.1 Joanne Rigby noted CN's announcement of \$1.5 million co-funding in partnership with \$4.7 million Federal Government funding for the planning, design and approvals to secure sand for amenity nourishment at Stockton Beach. This is a significant milestone in the ongoing campaign to deliver actions in the Stockton CMP and offshore sand extraction. CN will be engaging with stakeholders on the next steps.

8. Closing

- 8.1 Next meeting: 5.30pm, Tuesday 7 February 2023
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre