ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

8.1 AUTHORISATION FOR SIGNING OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Attachment A: City of Newcastle's Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023
Attachment B: Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2) of the Act - General Purpose
Attachment C: Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2) of the Act - Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.3 ADOPTION OF NEWCASTLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY (NES)

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Attachment B: Newcastle Environment Strategy - Public Exhibition Engagement Report

8.4 CONSERVATION AGREEMENT FOR BLACK HILL WETLAND

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8.5 EXHIBITION OF DRAFT NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS REVIEW REPORT

Attachment A: Draft Newcastle City Centre HCAs Review Report
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8.6 ADOPTION OF ADAMSTOWN PARK MASTERPLAN

Attachment A: Adamstown Park Masterplan
Attachment B: Adamstown Park Masterplan - Public Exhibition Report

8.7 ADOPTION OF CROWN LAND PLAN OF MANAGEMENT 2023 AND APPLICATION TO THE MINISTER *(to be distributed under separate cover)*

Attachment A: City of Newcastle Crown Land Plan of Management 2023

DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

8.8 PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT COUNCIL PROPERTY LEASE AND LICENCE POLICY

Attachment A: Draft Council Property Lease and Licence Policy

8.9 APPLICATION FOR LOCAL EVENT DAY FOR NEWCASTLE SHOW 2024

Attachment A: NSW Government Guidelines for Local Event Day Applications
Attachment B: Engagement Report

8.13 EXECUTIVE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Attachment A: Executive Monthly Performance Report – September 2023

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/23 - AUTHORISATION FOR SIGNING OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

8.1	**Attachment A:**	CITY OF NEWCASTLE'S DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
	Attachment B:	STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 413(2) OF THE ACT – GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023.
	Attachment C:	STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 413(2) OF THE ACT – SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023.

8.1	**Attachment A:**	CITY OF NEWCASTLE'S DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Financial Reports

Newcastle City Council
For the year ended 30 June 2023



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City of Newcastle

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Newcastle City Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

City of Newcastle

Newcastle City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Overview

Newcastle City Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

Newcastle City Council
12 Stewart Avenue
Newcastle West NSW 2302

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au.

Newcastle City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by Councillors and Management
made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 31 October 2023.

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Lord Mayor	**Councillor**
Chief Executive Officer	**Responsible Accounting Officer**

Newcastle City Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Original unaudited budget 2023 $ '000		Notes	Actual 2023 $ '000	Actual 2022 $ '000
	Income from continuing operations			
208,307	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	**208,533**	199,056
102,132	User charges and fees	B2-2	**104,302**	87,506
10,356	Other revenues	B2-3	**13,564**	7,834
16,687	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	**36,727**	31,444
33,762	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	**20,240**	17,098
3,359	Interest and investment income	B2-5	**11,591**	4,981
6,039	Other income	B2-6	**9,604**	5,679
380,642	**Total income from continuing operations**		**404,561**	353,598
	Expenses from continuing operations			
125,271	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	**126,450**	122,540
104,359	Materials and services	B3-2	**123,493**	104,013
3,773	Borrowing costs	B3-3	**5,148**	3,490
63,407	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	**64,813**	60,134
44,650	Other expenses	B3-5	**47,505**	53,372
4,149	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	**9,078**	5,418
345,609	**Total expenses from continuing operations**		**376,487**	348,967
35,033	**Operating result from continuing operations**		**28,074**	4,631
35,033	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		**28,074**	4,631
1,271	**Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes**		**7,834**	(12,467)

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		**28,074**	4,631
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**152,517**	148,362
Impairment reversal (loss) on infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	B3-4,C1-8	**546**	(27)
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequent to operating result		**153,063**	148,335
Amounts which will be reclassified subsequently to the operating result when specific conditions are met			
Gain (loss) on hedging instruments	C1-2	**996**	–
Total items which will be reclassified subsequently to the operating result when specific conditions are met		**996**	–
Total other comprehensive income for the year		**154,059**	148,335
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		**182,133**	152,966

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	**74,325**	75,353
Investments	C1-2	**123,158**	84,907
Receivables	C1-4	**27,737**	34,653
Inventories	C1-5	**1,404**	1,267
Contract assets and contract cost assets	C1-6	**2,735**	36
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	C1-7	**1,233**	366
Other	C1-11	**3,246**	15,126
Total current assets		**233,838**	211,708
Non-current assets			
Investments and derivatives	C1-2	**205,731**	203,193
Receivables	C1-4	**1,311**	1,235
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-8	**1,889,589**	1,719,662
Investment property	C1-9	**16,060**	14,990
Intangible assets	C1-10	**2,656**	3,831
Right of use assets	C2-1	**32,131**	31,032
Investments accounted for using the equity method	D1-2	**487**	548
Other	C1-11	**283**	453
Total non-current assets		**2,148,248**	1,974,944
Total assets		**2,382,086**	2,186,652
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	**57,930**	52,208
Contract liabilities	C3-2	**12,103**	9,886
Lease liabilities	C2-1	**2,805**	2,405
Borrowings	C3-3	**2,303**	4,925
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**35,957**	34,986
Provisions	C3-5	**24,021**	21,223
Total current liabilities		**135,119**	125,633
Non-current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	**2,036**	165
Contract liabilities	C3-2	**6,309**	816
Lease liabilities	C2-1	**32,334**	31,719
Borrowings	C3-3	**58,657**	61,255
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	**1,115**	969
Provisions	C3-5	**53,041**	54,753
Total non-current liabilities		**153,492**	149,677
Total liabilities		**288,611**	275,310
Net assets		**2,093,475**	1,911,342
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		**1,526,208**	1,497,469
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	**566,271**	413,873
Hedging reserve	C4-1	**996**	–
Council equity interest		**2,093,475**	1,911,342
Total equity		**2,093,475**	1,911,342

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Accumulated surplus $ '000	2023 IPPE revaluation reserve $ '000	2023 Hedging reserve $ '000	2023 Total equity $ '000	2022 Accumulated surplus $ '000	2022 IPPE revaluation reserve $ '000	2022 Hedging reserve $ '000	2022 Total equity $ '000
Opening balance at 1 July		**1,497,469**	**413,873**	**–**	**1,911,342**	1,487,583	270,793	–	1,758,376
Restated opening balance		**1,497,469**	**413,873**	**–**	**1,911,342**	1,487,583	270,793	–	1,758,376
Net operating result for the year		**28,074**	**–**	**–**	**28,074**	4,631	–	–	4,631
Other comprehensive income									
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**–**	**152,517**	**–**	**152,517**	–	148,362	–	148,362
Gain (loss) on hedging instruments	C1-2	**–**	**–**	**996**	**996**	–	–	–	–
Impairment reversal (loss) on infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	B3-4,C1-8	**–**	**546**	**–**	**546**	–	(27)	–	(27)
Other comprehensive income		**–**	**153,063**	**996**	**154,059**	–	148,335	–	148,335
Total comprehensive income		**28,074**	**153,063**	**996**	**182,133**	4,631	148,335	–	152,966
Transfers between equity items on disposals of assets		**665**	**(665)**	**–**	**–**	5,255	(5,255)	–	–
Closing balance at 30 June		**1,526,208**	**566,271**	**996**	**2,093,475**	1,497,469	413,873	–	1,911,342

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Original unaudited budget 2023 $ '000		Notes	Actual 2023 $ '000	Actual 2022 $ '000
	Cash flows from operating activities			
	Receipts:			
208,184	Rates and annual charges		**208,323**	200,365
101,738	User charges and fees		**121,748**	84,189
5,370	Interest received		**10,487**	4,786
50,451	Grants and contributions		**57,252**	47,699
35	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		**282**	239
14,188	Other		**28,097**	21,086
	Payments:			
(124,271)	Payments to employees		**(124,563)**	(123,126)
(125,075)	Payments for materials and services		**(135,865)**	(116,850)
(3,773)	Borrowing costs		**(5,148)**	(3,490)
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		**(508)**	(73)
(44,875)	Other		**(32,437)**	(67,311)
81,972	**Net cash flows from operating activities**	G1-1	**127,668**	47,514
	Cash flows from investing activities			
	Receipts:			
127,835	Sale of investments		**33,013**	52,938
–	Redemption of term deposits		**201,558**	91,558
–	Sale of investment property		**–**	5,088
–	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		**3,353**	10,381
	Payments:			
(123,793)	Purchase of investments		**(42,073)**	(21,673)
–	Acquisition of term deposits		**(228,483)**	(78,819)
(700)	Purchase of investment property		**–**	–
(94,741)	Payments for IPPE		**(86,423)**	(61,070)
–	Purchase of intangible assets		**(117)**	(255)
(91,399)	**Net cash flows from investing activities**		**(119,172)**	(1,852)
	Cash flows from financing activities			
	Receipts:			
22,600	Proceeds from borrowings		**10,100**	9,550
	Payments:			
(6,905)	Repayment of borrowings		**(15,320)**	(4,743)
(4,944)	Principal component of lease payments		**(4,304)**	(4,070)
10,751	**Net cash flows from financing activities**		**(9,524)**	737
1,324	**Net change in cash and cash equivalents**		**(1,028)**	46,399
27,477	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**75,353**	28,954
28,801	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	**74,325**	75,353
341,332	plus: Investments on hand (excluding derivatives) at end of year	C1-2	**327,893**	288,100
370,133	Total cash, cash equivalents and investments (excluding derivatives)		**402,218**	363,453

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Newcastle City Council

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A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 31 October 2023. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and Regulations, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Unless otherwise indicated, all amounts disclosed in the financial statements are actual amounts. Specific budgetary amounts have been included for comparative analysis (to actuals) and are clearly marked in the following reports and notes:

- Income Statement
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Note B5-1 – Material budget variations

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- Fair values of investment properties – refer Note C1-9
- Fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-8
- Employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4
- Provisions – refer Note C3-5

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

- Impairment of receivables – refer Note C1-4
- Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 to B2-4.
- Determination of the lease term, discount rate (when not implicit in the lease) and whether an arrangement contains a lease – refer to Note C2-1.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Fund and other activities through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this report.

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A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the Council office by any person free of charge.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority are presented as operating cash flows.

Volunteer services

Volunteer hours are actual hours contributed to Council by registered Council volunteers. It does not include hours contributed by secondary groups that are Incorporated Associations. Volunteer activity takes place through not-for-profit organisations to benefit the Newcastle community, for no payment to the volunteer and in designated volunteer positions only. Council maintains a register of volunteer hours and can reliably measure the value of the volunteer services to Council.

Volunteer services received include:

- Art Gallery support
- Civic Theatre support
- Bushcare activities
- Landcare activities
- Library programs
- Museum support

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations (ie. pronouncements) have been published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period.

Council has elected not to apply any of these pronouncements in these financial statements before their operative dates.

Council's assessment of these new standards and interpretations are set out below:

AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*

This Standard modifies *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement* for application by not-for-profit public sector entities such as the Council.

It includes authoritative implementation guidance when fair valuing non-financial assets, not held primarily for their ability to generate cash inflows and also provides guidance and clarification when valuing assets that are restricted (in their use) at the Council.

This includes guidance and clarification regarding the determination of an assets highest and best use, the development and use of internal assumptions for unobservable inputs and allows for greater use of internal judgements when applying the cost approach in the measurement and determination of fair values.

Although the Council is yet to fully determine the impact of this standard, the changes will be evaluated in the future assessment of all property and infrastructure assets measured at fair value.

The standard applies prospectively from the 30 June 2025 reporting period.

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A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates*

This Standard amends a number of standards as follows:

- AASB 7 to clarify that information about measurement bases for financial instruments is expected to be material to an entity's financial statements;
- AASB 101 to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policies;
- AASB 108 to clarify how entities should distinguish changes in accounting policies and changes in accounting estimates;
- AASB 134 to identify material accounting policy information as a component of a complete set of financial statements; and
- AASB Practice Statement 2 to provide guidance on how to apply the concept of materiality to accounting policy disclosures.

The standard requires the Council to consider the materiality of the accounting policy information to be included in the financial statements.

AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements requires the disclosure of material accounting policy information rather than significant accounting policies.

"*Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements.*"

Accounting policy information is likely to be considered material if that information relates to material transactions, other events or conditions and:

- the Council has changed accounting policy during the reporting period and this change resulted in a material change to the information in the financial statements.
- the Council (or OLG) chose the accounting policy from one or more options permitted by Australian Accounting Standards.
- the accounting policy was developed in accordance with AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* in the absence of an Australian Accounting Standard that specifically applies.
- the accounting policy relates to an area for which the Council is required to make significant judgements or assumptions in applying an accounting policy, and the Council discloses those judgements or assumptions in the financial statements
- the accounting required for them is complex and users of the Council's financial statements would otherwise not understand those material transactions, other events or conditions.

Further, *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements* notes that '*Accounting policy information that relates to immaterial transactions, other events or conditions is immaterial and need not be disclosed*.'

This standard has an effective date for the 30 June 2024 reporting period.

AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current
AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current - Deferral of Effective Date

These standards amend *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements* to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that these standards are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

This standard has an effective date for the 30 June 2024 reporting period.

AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants

This standard amends *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements* to improve financial statement disclosures about long-term liabilities with covenants where the entity's right to defer settlement of those liabilities for at least twelve months after the reporting period is subject to the entity complying with conditions specified in the loan arrangement.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that this standard is likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

This standard has an effective date for the 30 June 2024 reporting period.

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A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective for the first time at 30 June 2023. None of these standards had a significant impact on reported position or performance.

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B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

	Income		Expenses		Operating results		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2023	2022	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022
	$ '000	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000	**$ '000**	$ '000
Functions or activities *										
Liveable	**54,932**	41,447	**104,655**	112,909	**(49,723)**	(71,462)	**29,794**	22,254	**950,477**	896,741
Sustainable	**95,758**	89,429	**128,977**	104,375	**(33,219)**	(14,946)	**2,202**	2,452	**337,357**	298,453
Creative	**41,765**	30,837	**61,850**	51,440	**(20,085)**	(20,603)	**6,154**	7,191	**395,840**	356,153
Achieving Together	**212,106**	191,885	**81,005**	80,243	**131,101**	111,642	**18,817**	16,645	**698,412**	635,305
Total functions and activities	**404,561**	353,598	**376,487**	348,967	**28,074**	4,631	**56,967**	48,542	**2,382,086**	2,186,652

(*) Comparatives have been reclassified to reflect priorities within Council's current Community Strategic Plan - Newcastle 2040

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B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Liveable

Our neighbourhoods are safe and thriving, with diverse and equitable housing and social and urban infrastructure that supports local living. Our public places bring people together for active living and social connection. We plan for areas of identified growth and change. Our city is walkable, connected by safe roads and accessible parking, and options for active transport are available, enabling access to services and facilities. Our community is connected and equitable, and everyone is valued. We use innovation and technology and promote health, wellbeing and equal opportunities to increase residents' quality of life.

Council's services that contribute to meeting these community priorities are: Library services; Strategic Planning; Regulatory Services; Facility Management and City Presentation; Development Assessment; Transport, Traffic and Local Roads; Digital Services and Innovation Projects; Open Spaces and City Greening; Aquatic Services; Parking Services; Community Facilities, Programs and Partnerships; Construction and Building Trades.

Sustainable

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

Council's services that contribute to meeting these community priorities are: Sustainability Programs; Waste Collections and Cleaning Services; Resource Recovery and Recycling; Commercial and Internal Waste; Asset Services; Natural Area/Bushland Services; Landfill Operations; Education Programs; Innovation and Futures; Fleet Management.

Creative

Our city is vibrant, inclusive and creative. Newcastle is a destination known for its culture, heritage, entertainment and innovative ideas. We are excited about the city's opportunities in the areas of jobs, education and the economy. Multiculturalism, Aboriginal culture, diverse communities and the arts are celebrated. Locals and visitors gather for events and cultural experiences, and to feel part of the community. Newcastle is driven by city-shaping partnerships that enhance our opportunities and attract people to live, play and invest in our city.

Council's services that contribute to meeting these community priorities are: Art Gallery; Civic Theatre and Playhouse; Newcastle Venues; Marketing; Tourism; Business Development; Museum; Visitor Information Centre; Libraries and Learning; City Events; Economic Development.

Achieving Together

Our people come together to collaborate, share ideas and opportunities, and co-create positive change for our organisation and city. Our culture is one of trust and understanding, where honest conversations empower our people, customers and community. We value diverse perspectives and deliver what we promise. Our strength is growing our capability to manage community and customer expectations and continuously improve our service delivery.

Council's services that contribute to meeting these community priorities are: Procurement and Contracts; Corporate Finance; Legal Services; Records and Information; Information Technology; Customer Experience; Corporate Planning and Performance; Rates and Debt Management; Governance; Audit and Risk; Media and Stakeholder Relations; People and Culture.

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B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Ordinary rates		
Residential	**110,952**	107,625
Farmland	**23**	22
Business	**62,235**	60,850
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(1,841)**	(1,938)
Rates levied to ratepayers	**171,369**	166,559
Pensioner rate subsidies received	**1,014**	1,059
Total ordinary rates	**172,383**	167,618
Special rates		
Town improvement	**81**	79
Main street	**1,286**	1,267
Rates levied to ratepayers	**1,367**	1,346
Total special rates	**1,367**	1,346
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	**31,053**	26,787
Stormwater management services	**2,396**	2,055
Waste management services (non-domestic)	**1,355**	1,285
Section 611 charges	**223**	195
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	**(543)**	(508)
Annual charges levied	**34,484**	29,814
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	**299**	278
Total annual charges	**34,783**	30,092
Total rates and annual charges	**208,533**	199,056

Council has used 2019 valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Accounting policy

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

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B2-2 User charges and fees

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)		
Waste management services (non-domestic)	**4,724**	4,798
Total specific user charges	**4,724**	4,798
Other user charges and fees		
(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)		
Building inspection fee	**150**	154
Compliance fees	**268**	248
Inspection fees - food shops	**520**	497
Private works – section 67	**147**	119
Dog control / registration fees	**144**	135
Regulatory / statutory fees	**3,977**	4,029
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)	**500**	469
Section 603 certificates	**315**	365
Subdivision fees	**578**	431
Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory	**6,599**	6,447
(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))		
Art Gallery	**2**	33
Cemeteries	**170**	132
Child care	**1,265**	1,128
City Hall	**1,790**	408
Civic Theatre	**4,284**	1,962
Local Committees	**278**	215
Fort Scratchley	**619**	54
Library fees	**89**	43
Merchant service fee	**135**	145
Museum	**382**	263
Newcastle Airport	**15,932**	8,488
Ocean baths / inland pools	**115**	64
Parking stations / meter fees	**7,434**	5,503
Parks and garden usage	**1,380**	1,055
RMS charges (state roads not controlled by Council)	**5,075**	3,939
Tipping fees / resource recovery	**50,069**	49,649
Road restorations	**543**	452
Stockton Beach Holiday Park	**2,919**	2,276
Tourism	**116**	45
Other	**382**	407
Total fees and charges – other	**92,979**	76,261
Total other user charges and fees	**99,578**	82,708
Total user charges and fees	**104,302**	87,506
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees		
User charges and fees recognised over time	**6,542**	6,127
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time	**97,760**	81,379
Total user charges and fees	**104,302**	87,506

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B2-2 User charges and fees (continued)

Accounting policy

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 14 days of the provision of the service or in some cases such as caravan parks, the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

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B2-3 Other revenues

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Fines – parking	**3,883**	2,334
Fines – other	**284**	213
Insurance claims recoveries	**3,323**	228
Commissions and agency fees	**205**	200
Sales of inventories	**1,917**	1,645
Diesel rebate	**190**	196
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)	**308**	290
Joint library scheme recoveries	**429**	372
Investment recoupment	**1,230**	–
Sponsorships	**123**	15
Summerhill waste management – electricity generation	**900**	535
Volunteer services	**249**	238
Newcastle Airport	**112**	384
Energy Savings Certificates	**182**	690
Other	**229**	494
Total other revenue	**13,564**	7,834

Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time	**429**	372
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	**13,135**	7,462
Total other revenue	**13,564**	7,834

Accounting policy

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other non-contractual revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

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B2-4 Grants and contributions

	Operating 2023 $ '000	Operating 2022 $ '000	Capital 2023 $ '000	Capital 2022 $ '000
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)				
Financial Assistance Grant [1]				
- Relating to current year	**3,007**	6,778	**–**	–
- Prepayment received in advance for subsequent year	**14,337**	10,414	**–**	–
Amount recognised as income during current year	**17,344**	17,192	**–**	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)				
Cash contributions				
Child care	**91**	50	**–**	–
Community services	**250**	–	**–**	13
LIRS subsidy	**44**	92	**–**	–
Recreation and culture	**1,403**	1,854	**5,785**	4,418
Street lighting	**616**	604	**–**	–
Waste	**239**	439	**–**	–
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	**12,269**	6,519	**2,393**	3,132
Health, safety and emergency response	**1,444**	1,819	**–**	–
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	**101**	107	**–**	–
Other	**1,142**	824	**729**	173
Community facilities	**9**	269	**–**	27
Economic development	**3**	–	**–**	–
Employees corporate fitness / entitlements	**192**	135	**–**	–
Parks and gardens	**–**	14	**–**	–
Roads and drainage	**1,522**	1,491	**–**	171
Newcastle airport	**–**	–	**1,133**	586
Recovery of amounts for non-performance of bonded works	**–**	–	**100**	–
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions – cash	**19,325**	14,217	**10,140**	8,520
Non-cash contributions				
Art Gallery	**–**	–	**196**	294
Library	**–**	–	**–**	38
Museum	**–**	–	**52**	265
Roads and drainage	**–**	–	**3,701**	595
Other	**–**	–	**80**	–
Operational land	**–**	–	**111**	–
Total other contributions – non-cash	**–**	–	**4,140**	1,192
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)	**19,325**	14,217	**14,280**	9,712
Total grants and non-developer contributions	**36,669**	31,409	**14,280**	9,712
Comprising:				
– Commonwealth funding	**19,765**	22,358	**1,133**	–
– State funding	**15,671**	7,046	**8,178**	8,262
– Other funding	**1,233**	2,005	**4,969**	1,450
	36,669	31,409	**14,280**	9,712

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B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

	Notes	Operating 2023 $ '000	Operating 2022 $ '000	Capital 2023 $ '000	Capital 2022 $ '000
Developer contributions: (s7.4, s7.11 and s7.12 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):	G3				
Cash contributions					
S7.11 – Contributions towards amenities/services		**58**	10	**2,630**	1,129
S7.12 – Fixed development consent levies		**–**	–	**3,106**	6,257
S7.4 – Planning Agreements		**–**	25	**–**	–
Total developer contributions – cash		**58**	35	**5,736**	7,386
Non-cash contributions					
S7.4 – Planning Agreements		**–**	–	**224**	–
Total developer contributions – non-cash		**–**	–	**224**	–
Total developer contributions		**58**	35	**5,960**	7,386
Total contributions		**58**	35	**5,960**	7,386
Total grants and contributions		**36,727**	31,444	**20,240**	17,098
Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions					
Grants and contributions recognised over time		**239**	439	**8,261**	7,680
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time		**36,488**	31,005	**11,979**	9,418
Total grants and contributions [1]		**36,727**	31,444	**20,240**	17,098

(1) $14.3m of the 2023-2024 Financial Assistance Grant from Commonwealth Government was received by City of Newcastle in June 2023 and hence is reported as 2022-2023 income although it relates to 2023-2024 financial year.

The prior year comparatives report $10.4m of the Financial Assistance Grant received in advance and reported as 2021-2022 income although relating to the 2022-2023 financial year.

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Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

	Operating 2023 $ '000	Operating 2022 $ '000	Capital 2023 $ '000	Capital 2022 $ '000
Unspent grants and contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	**1,832**	838	**23,995**	22,251
Add: Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	**6,816**	1,534	**6,718**	7,615
Add: Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	**490**	107	**7,806**	710
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	**(455)**	(75)	**(6,016)**	(6,440)
Less: Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	**(239)**	(572)	**(303)**	(141)
Unspent funds at 30 June	**8,444**	1,832	**32,200**	23,995

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B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Accounting policy

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations
Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligation is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but some include staffing requirements and specific recycling targets. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants
Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer contributions
Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions
Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

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B2-5 Interest and investment income

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	**255**	284
– Cash and investments	**10,288**	3,534
Dividend income from investments at fair value through profit or loss	**1,018**	1,172
Amortisation of discounts and premiums on financial instrument transactions		
– Debt securities at amortised cost / held to maturity investments	**30**	(9)
Total interest and investment income (losses)	**11,591**	4,981

Accounting Policy

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

Dividends are recognised as income in profit or loss unless the dividend clearly represents a recovery of part of the cost of the investment.

B2-6 Other income

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Fair value increment on investment properties	C1-9	**–**	1,000
Rental income	C2-2	**5,826**	4,679
Fair value increment on investments	C1-2	**3,778**	–
Total other income		**9,604**	5,679

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B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Salaries and wages	**97,052**	92,936
Employee termination costs	**1,395**	640
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	**17,419**	16,029
Superannuation	**12,091**	11,489
Workers' compensation insurance	**4,075**	6,766
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	**363**	284
Other	**5**	64
Total employee costs	**132,400**	128,208
Less: capitalised costs	**(5,950)**	(5,668)
Total employee costs expensed	**126,450**	122,540

Accounting policy

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

All employees of Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Active Super), however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

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B3-2 Materials and services

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Raw materials and consumables		**28,600**	26,372
Contractor costs		**55,492**	57,266
Audit Fees	F2-1	**363**	316
Bank charges		**714**	597
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	**745**	597
Election expenses		**–**	984
Insurance		**4,063**	3,845
Street lighting		**2,109**	2,370
Telephone and communications		**921**	924
Cost of sales		**1,441**	857
Training and travel		**970**	824
Electricity		**1,471**	1,389
Newcastle Airport		**4,624**	3,400
S355 local committee working expenses		**203**	161
Water		**1,381**	1,018
Volunteer services		**249**	238
Rehabilitation and restoration expenses		**12,684**	(3,407)
Legal expenses		**1,141**	776
Expenses from short-term leases		**508**	24
Expenses from leases of low value assets		**16**	25
Variable lease expense relating to usage		**3,885**	3,839
Other		**1,913**	1,598
Total materials and services		**123,493**	104,013

Accounting policy

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the council receives the goods or services.

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B3-3 Borrowing costs

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
(i) Interest bearing liability costs			
Interest on leases		**1,019**	1,022
Interest on loans *		**2,101**	2,151
Interest on loans - Newcastle Airport *		**1,830**	316
Total interest bearing liability costs		**4,950**	3,489
Less: capitalised costs		**(217)**	–
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed		**4,733**	3,489
(ii) Other borrowing costs			
Discount adjustments relating to movements in provisions (other than ELE)			
– Remediation liabilities	C3-5	**310**	1
Other borrowing costs		**105**	–
Total other borrowing costs		**415**	1
Total borrowing costs expensed		**5,148**	3,490

Accounting policy
Borrowing costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are capitalised during the period of time that is required to complete and prepare the asset for its intended use or sale. Other borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

(*) Comparatives have been reclassified to disclose borrowing costs separately for Newcastle Airport

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B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Depreciation and amortisation			
Property, plant and equipment	C1-8	**8,382**	8,209
Infrastructure	C1-8	**45,566**	41,910
Newcastle Airport	C1-8	**3,019**	2,663
Other assets	C1-8	**2,042**	2,290
Right of use assets	C2-1	**4,220**	3,789
Intangibles - software	C1-10	**1,292**	1,359
Intangibles - Newcastle Airport	C1-10	**125**	125
Less: capitalised depreciation		**(208)**	(215)
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		**64,438**	60,130
Impairment (reversals) / revaluation decrement of IPPE			
Capital WIP		**375**	–
Operational land		**(153)**	(1,916)
Community land		**–**	(1,856)
Crown land		**(618)**	–
Infrastructure		**225**	3,799
Plant and equipment		**–**	4
Amounts taken through revaluation reserve		**546**	(27)
Total IPP&E impairment / revaluation decrement costs		375	4
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for intangibles and IPPE		**64,813**	60,134

Accounting policy

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

Reversals of impairment of non-financial assets

After an impairment loss has been recognised, it is reversed only if there has been a change in the assumptions used to determine the asset's recoverable amount. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its recoverable amount, nor exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation, had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years.

The reversal is recognised in other comprehensive income and is treated as a revaluation increase, except to the extent that an impairment loss on the same class of asset was previously recognised in the Income Statement, where a reversal of that impairment loss is also recognised in the Income Statement.

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B3-5 Other expenses

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Impairment of receivables	C1-4	**235**	470
Fair value decrement on investments	C1-2	**–**	5,260
Fair value decrement on investment properties	C1-9	**254**	–
Net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method	D1-2	**61**	170
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		**1,832**	4,321
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)		**4,111**	3,449
– NSW government waste levy		**38,518**	38,607
– Other levies		**2,494**	1,095
Total other expenses		**47,505**	53,372

Accounting policy

Other expenses are recorded on an accruals basis when Council has an obligation for the expenses.

Impairment expenses are recognised when identified.

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B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

	Notes	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8		
Proceeds from disposal – infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		**1,213**	995
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment sold/written off		**(10,486)**	(6,324)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**(9,273)**	(5,329)
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments	C1-2		
Proceeds from disposal – investments		**–**	5,025
Less: carrying amount of investments sold		**–**	(5,000)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**–**	25
Gain (or loss) on disposal of non-current assets held for sale	C1-7		
Proceeds from disposal – non-current assets held for sale		**2,140**	9,386
Less: carrying amount of non-current assets held for sale sold/written off		**(1,945)**	(9,500)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		**195**	(114)
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		**(9,078)**	(5,418)

Accounting policy

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

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B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 28 June 2022 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

$ '000	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Variance		
Revenues					
Rates and annual charges	208,307	208,533	226	0%	F
User charges and fees	102,132	104,302	2,170	2%	F
Other revenues	10,356	13,564	3,208	31%	F
Favourable variance is largely driven by the recovery from insurance claims and recoupment of investments. This is partially offset by a reduction in revenue from parking fines related to a change in consumer behaviour post Covid.					
Operating grants and contributions	16,687	36,727	20,040	120%	F
Favourable variance includes additional revenues received for the Financial Assistance Grant, with the FY24 portion received 100% in advance. Additional funds were received relating to disaster recovery funding and an increase in federal and state transport grants.					
Capital grants and contributions	33,762	20,240	(13,522)	(40)%	U
Unfavourable variance is driven by a reduction in developer contributions due to changing economic conditions and a reduction in non-cash contributions of community land, roads and drainage.					
Interest and investment revenue	3,359	11,591	8,232	245%	F
Favourable result is related to better than forecast investment conditions and the increasing interest rate environment.					
Other income	6,039	9,604	3,565	59%	F
Variance is driven by a favourable increment in the value of Council's investments compared to budget and an increase in rental income from Council's share of Newcastle Airport.					

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B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

$ '000	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Variance		
Expenses					
Employee benefits and on-costs	125,271	126,450	(1,179)	(1)%	U
Materials and services	104,359	123,493	(19,134)	(18)%	U
Unfavourable variance is related to revised contract estimates for the rehabilitation of a former landfill site and increased costs in the delivery of Council's capital works program.					
Borrowing costs	3,773	5,148	(1,375)	(36)%	U
Unfavourable variance is related to the increased cost of borrowings related to market conditions and Council's share of Newcastle Airport costs.					
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	63,407	64,813	(1,406)	(2)%	U
Other expenses	44,650	47,505	(2,855)	(6)%	U
Net losses from disposal of assets	4,149	9,078	(4,929)	(119)%	U
The unfavourable result to budget is driven by the write-off of existing assets due to renewal work completed on large, long-life infrastructure within the city.					
Statement of cash flows					
Cash flows from operating activities	81,972	127,668	45,696	56%	F
Favourable variance to budget was driven by additional receipts compared to Council's long-term financial plan.					
Cash flows from investing activities	(91,399)	(119,172)	(27,773)	30%	U
Unfavourable variance due to an increase in payments for investing activities compared to Council's long-term financial plan.					
Cash flows from financing activities	10,751	(9,524)	(20,275)	(189)%	U
Unfavourable variance due to the reduction in proceeds from borrowings and an increase in repayment of borrowings compared to Council's long-term financial plan.					

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C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Cash assets		
Cash at bank and on hand	**37,236**	55,265
Deposits at call	**37,089**	20,088
Total cash and cash equivalents	**74,325**	75,353

Accounting policy
For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

C1-2 Financial investments and derivatives

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss				
Managed funds	**–**	**48,514**	–	43,717
Total	**–**	**48,514**	–	43,717
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Term deposits – fixed rate	**61,805**	**26,000**	31,809	33,000
Term deposits – floating rate	**10,000**	**–**	11,000	10,000
Floating rate notes	**38,502**	**67,947**	36,400	45,975
Bonds	**12,851**	**62,274**	5,698	70,501
Total	**123,158**	**156,221**	84,907	159,476
Derivatives - Newcastle Airport				
Interest rate swap contract - cash flow hedge	**–**	**996**	–	–
Total	**–**	**996**	–	–
Total financial investments	**123,158**	**205,731**	84,907	203,193
Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments	**197,483**	**205,731**	160,260	203,193

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C1-2 Financial investments and derivatives (continued)

Derivatives - instruments used

Newcastle Airport Partnership holds derivative financial instruments at fair value based on Level 2 observable inputs (refer to Note E2-1). As at 30 June 2023, 87% (30 June 2022: 0%) of externally drawn borrowings for Newcastle Airport Partnership were hedged through interest rate swaps, as follows:

$ '000	2023	2022
Hedge relationship	Cash flow hedge	-
Instrument type	AUD IRS	
Notional amount	30,000	
Weighted average hedged rate	3.518%	
Hedge ratio	1:1	
At reporting date		
Carrying amount of hedging instruments – Assets	996	
Carrying amount of hedging instruments – Liabilities	-	
Balances deferred in OCI (Hedge Reserves)	(996)	
During the period		
Change in fair value of hedging instruments	996	
Change in value of hedged item used to determine hedge effectiveness	(1,106)	
Changes in the value of the hedging instrument recognised in OCI	996	
Hedge ineffectiveness recognised in profit or loss	-	

Hedge accounting

On initial designation of a derivative as a hedging instrument, Newcastle Airport Partnership documents the relationship between the hedging instrument and hedged item, including the risk management objectives and strategy for undertaking the hedge transaction.

Derivative financial instruments are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured to their fair value at each reporting date. Any gains or losses arising from changes in fair value of derivatives, except those that qualify as effective hedges, are immediately recognised in profit or loss. When Newcastle Airport Partnership designates certain derivatives to be part of a hedging relationship, and they meet the criteria for hedge accounting, all hedges are classified as cash flow hedges.

The hedge ratio is one, due to the notional value of the hedged item equating to the notional value of the hedging instrument.

Cash flow hedges

Newcastle Airport Partnership's interest rate swaps are accounted for as cash flow hedges. They are used to hedge exposure to variability in forecast cash flows where the transaction is committed or highly probable. Initial recognition of the derivative is at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, the effective portion of changes in the fair value of the derivative is recognised in other comprehensive income and presented in the cash flow hedge reserve under equity. Any ineffective portion of the derivative is recognised immediately in profit or loss. The amount accumulated in the cash flow hedge reserve is reclassified to profit or loss in the same period that the hedged cash flow affects profit or loss.

If the derivative no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, for example if it expires, is sold, terminated, exercised or the designation is revoked, then hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively and the balance in equity is reclassified to profit or loss when the forecast transactions are not expected to occur anymore.

The amounts relating to items designated as hedging instruments and hedge ineffectiveness were as above.

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C1-2 Financial investments and derivatives (continued)

Financial investments - Accounting policy

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification

On initial recognition, Council has classified its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

Amortised cost

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, term deposits, floating rate notes, and bonds in the Statement of Financial Position.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

Financial assets through profit or loss

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Net gains or losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

Council's financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss comprise investments in managed funds in the Statement of Financial Position.

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C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	**403,214**	363,453
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	**(61,630)**	(44,128)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**341,584**	319,325
External restrictions		
External restrictions – included in liabilities		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	**1,412**	1,638
Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund	**10,097**	2,342
Deferred Salary Scheme	**418**	–
External restrictions – included in liabilities	**11,927**	3,980
External restrictions – other		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Developer contributions – general	**22,506**	21,664
Specific purpose unexpended grants (recognised as revenue) – general fund	**7,697**	1,329
Domestic waste management	**11,611**	9,369
Bequests and donations	**1,542**	1,559
Special Benefit Rates	**1,254**	1,005
Rawson Crown Land Reserve	**3,376**	3,433
Childcare sinking Fund	**806**	608
Building Better Cities	**324**	454
Contributions to specific works	**344**	491
Community Facilities Fund	**243**	236
External restrictions – other	**49,703**	40,148
Total external restrictions	**61,630**	44,128

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

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C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
(b) Internal allocations		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	**341,584**	319,325
Less: Internally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	**(315,072)**	(292,686)
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	**26,512**	26,639
Internal allocations		
At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:		
Employees leave entitlements	**13,451**	11,976
Works program - New and upgrade	**14,722**	35,589
Works program - Infrastructure Agreed level of service	**173,478**	135,085
Works program - Specific projects	**19,614**	26,743
Newcastle Airport	**9,717**	13,144
Workers compensation: Self insurance	**10,001**	2,859
Local committees and childcare	**628**	438
Superannuation - Defined benefits	**655**	643
Waste Management - Remediation provision	**61,972**	60,139
Works carried forward	**10,834**	6,070
Total internal allocations	**315,072**	292,686

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

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C1-4 Receivables

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Rates and annual charges	**6,518**	**436**	6,043	457
Interest and extra charges [1]	**363**	**125**	372	109
User charges and fees	**13,266**	**–**	23,178	–
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on financial investments and derivatives	**2,128**	**–**	1,061	–
Government grants and subsidies	**694**	**–**	22	–
Net GST receivable	**3,323**	**–**	3,368	–
Revenue NSW	**1,642**	**854**	1,045	823
Total	**27,934**	**1,415**	35,089	1,389
Less: provision for impairment				
User charges and fees	**(66)**	**–**	(300)	–
Revenue NSW	**(131)**	**(104)**	(136)	(154)
Total provision for impairment – receivables	**(197)**	**(104)**	(436)	(154)
Total net receivables	**27,737**	**1,311**	34,653	1,235

(1) Interest was charged on overdue rates and charges at 6.00% (2022: 6.00%). Generally all other receivables are non-interest bearing.

Accounting policy

Recognition and measurement
Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment
Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

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C1-5 Inventories

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Inventories at cost				
Stores and materials	**1,404**	**–**	1,267	–
Total inventories	**1,404**	**–**	1,267	–

Accounting policy

Stores and materials
Stores and materials are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

C1-6 Contract assets and Contract cost assets

Contract assets

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Work relating to infrastructure grants	**2,735**	**–**	36	–
Total contract assets	**2,735**	**–**	36	–

Accounting policy

Contract assets
Contract assets represent Council's right to payment in exchange for goods or services the Council has transferred to a customer when that right is conditional on something other than the passage of time.

Contract assets arise when the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract and therefore the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer. Once an invoice or payment claim is raised or the relevant milestone is reached, Council recognises a receivable.

Impairment of contract assets is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recognised on initial recognition.

Contract cost asset – costs to fulfil a contract
Where costs are incurred to fulfil a contract and these costs are outside the scope of another accounting standard, they are capitalised as contract cost assets if the following criteria are met:

- the costs relate directly to a contract
- the costs generate or enhance resources of Council that will be used to satisfy performance obligations in the future and
- the costs are expected to be recovered.

The capitalised costs are recognised in the Income statement on a systematic basis consistent with the timing of revenue recognition.

Refer to B3-4 for the accounting policy for impairment of contract cost assets.

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C1-7 Non-current assets classified as held for sale

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Non-current assets held for sale		
Land	–	366
Buildings	1,233	–
Total non-current assets held for sale	1,233	366
Total non-current assets classified as held for sale	1,233	366

Details of assets and disposal groups

On 23 May 2023, Council endorsed the sale of 16 relocatable cabins from Stockton Beach Holiday Park. The cabins were sold by public auction on 8 August 2023.

Settlement occurred during the financial year for the land previously classified as held for sale.

Accounting policy

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use and are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Non-current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

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C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2022 Gross carrying amount	At 1 July 2022 Accumulated depreciation and impairment	At 1 July 2022 Net carrying amount	Asset movements during the reporting period Renewals	New assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation and Impairment	Transfers	Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	At 30 June 2023 Gross carrying amount	At 30 June 2023 Accumulated depreciation and impairment	At 30 June 2023 Net carrying amount
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
Capital WIP	46,679	(1,558)	45,121	17,963	17,697	(243)	(375)	(17,196)	–	64,038	(1,071)	62,967
Plant and equipment	54,362	(35,387)	18,975	3,885	1,453	(1,262)	(6,043)	1,652	–	55,424	(36,764)	18,660
Office equipment	5,731	(2,901)	2,830	–	1,348	(204)	(1,091)	–	–	6,583	(3,700)	2,883
Furniture and fittings	20,498	(3,533)	16,965	37	189	(31)	(974)	172	–	20,845	(4,487)	16,358
Land:												
– Operational	145,834	(153)	145,681	–	111	–	–	(696)	19,049	164,145	–	164,145
– Community	79,492	–	79,492	–	–	–	–	(2,207)	11,042	88,327	–	88,327
– Crown	34,521	(618)	33,903	–	–	–	–	–	7,765	41,668	–	41,668
– Under roads (post 30/6/08)	10,132	–	10,132	–	80	–	–	–	4,753	14,965	–	14,965
– Depreciable land improvements	6,074	(2,176)	3,898	–	275	–	(274)	–	571	7,278	(2,808)	4,470
Infrastructure:												
– Buildings	414,609	(217,295)	197,314	314	696	(426)	(10,045)	(630)	37,707	436,106	(211,176)	224,930
– Other structures	175,246	(101,145)	74,101	2,025	4,322	(891)	(7,424)	5,768	9,095	209,996	(123,000)	86,996
– Roads	777,222	(416,695)	360,527	9,518	1,555	(4,168)	(15,800)	4,292	20,364	827,087	(450,799)	376,288
– Bridges	55,568	(30,361)	25,207	1,416	–	(247)	(616)	142	4,643	66,016	(35,471)	30,545
– Footpaths	208,457	(104,466)	103,991	251	2,135	(285)	(4,589)	1,264	5,876	223,747	(115,104)	108,643
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	215,826	–	215,826	–	7	(232)	–	–	12,308	227,909	–	227,909
– Stormwater drainage	309,744	(176,549)	133,195	846	2,544	(1,867)	(3,429)	1,499	6,537	325,562	(186,237)	139,325
– Swimming pools	35,206	(20,389)	14,817	–	–	–	(421)	–	2,106	40,357	(23,855)	16,502
– Other open space/recreational assets	34,948	(15,165)	19,783	1,561	1,619	(455)	(1,440)	1,417	2,643	43,224	(18,096)	25,128
– Other infrastructure	114,093	(56,929)	57,164	175	759	(45)	(1,802)	387	7,658	131,462	(67,166)	64,296
Other assets:												
– Heritage collections	81,837	–	81,837	–	248	–	–	–	–	82,085	–	82,085
– Library books	14,668	(7,004)	7,664	–	378	(57)	(442)	–	946	16,242	(7,753)	8,489
– Other	20	(20)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	(20)	–
Waste management asset	28,179	(15,615)	12,564	–	(1,352)	–	(1,600)	–	–	26,828	(17,216)	9,612
Newcastle Airport	82,753	(24,078)	58,675	–	19,060	(73)	(3,019)	(245)	–	100,608	(26,210)	74,398
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	2,951,699	(1,232,037)	1,719,662	37,991	53,124	(10,486)	(59,384)	(4,381)	153,063	3,220,522	(1,330,933)	1,889,589

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C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2021 Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Asset movements during the reporting period Renewals	New assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation and Impairment	Transfers	Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	At 30 June 2022 Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
Capital WIP	36,199	(1,558)	34,641	15,258	16,420	(198)	–	(21,000)	–	46,679	(1,558)	45,121
Plant and equipment	52,855	(32,023)	20,832	2,374	777	(714)	(6,031)	1,737	–	54,362	(35,387)	18,975
Office equipment	5,274	(2,006)	3,268	55	172	(45)	(898)	278	–	5,731	(2,901)	2,830
Furniture and fittings	20,498	(2,517)	17,981	–	–	–	(1,016)	–	–	20,498	(3,533)	16,965
Land:												
– Operational	116,759	(2,069)	114,690	–	621	–	–	(125)	30,495	145,834	(153)	145,681
– Community	76,799	(1,856)	74,943	–	–	(2)	–	(366)	4,917	79,492	–	79,492
– Crown	34,521	(618)	33,903	–	–	–	–	–	–	34,521	(618)	33,903
– Under roads (post 30/6/08)	10,132	–	10,132	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,132	–	10,132
– Depreciable land improvements	5,952	(1,965)	3,987	95	54	(112)	(268)	142	–	6,074	(2,176)	3,898
Infrastructure:												
– Buildings	352,849	(178,121)	174,728	1,070	475	(757)	(8,628)	2,512	27,914	414,609	(217,295)	197,314
– Other structures	171,122	(95,812)	75,310	2,075	1,290	(1,816)	(7,228)	4,474	(4)	175,246	(101,145)	74,101
– Roads	696,442	(364,882)	331,560	6,859	1,989	(2,092)	(14,656)	2,770	34,097	777,222	(416,695)	360,527
– Bridges	55,629	(28,835)	26,794	296	13	(122)	(637)	–	(1,137)	55,568	(30,361)	25,207
– Footpaths	184,891	(90,697)	94,194	611	1,622	(189)	(4,120)	2,357	9,516	208,457	(104,466)	103,991
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	194,391	–	194,391	13	12	(12)	–	–	21,422	215,826	–	215,826
– Stormwater drainage	273,653	(155,637)	118,016	1,995	332	(263)	(3,040)	2,904	13,251	309,744	(176,549)	133,195
– Swimming pools	35,206	(19,968)	15,238	–	–	–	(421)	–	–	35,206	(20,389)	14,817
– Other open space/recreational assets	33,977	(13,959)	20,018	771	364	(122)	(1,364)	116	–	34,948	(15,165)	19,783
– Other infrastructure	108,929	(52,995)	55,934	14	1,745	(17)	(1,816)	3,453	(2,149)	114,093	(56,929)	57,164
Other assets:												
– Heritage collections	71,172	–	71,172	–	652	–	–	–	10,013	81,837	–	81,837
– Library books	15,304	(7,570)	7,734	–	460	(35)	(495)	–	–	14,668	(7,004)	7,664
– Other	20	(20)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	(20)	–
Waste management asset	37,839	(13,819)	24,020	–	(9,661)	–	(1,795)	–	–	28,179	(15,615)	12,564
Newcastle Airport	74,029	(21,686)	52,343	–	9,021	(26)	(2,663)	–	–	82,753	(24,078)	58,675
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	2,664,442	(1,088,613)	1,575,829	31,486	26,358	(6,522)	(55,076)	(748)	148,335	2,951,699	(1,232,037)	1,719,662

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C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Accounting policy

Initial recognition of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)
IPPE is measured initially at cost. Cost includes the fair value of the consideration given to acquire the asset (net of discounts and rebates) and any directly attributable cost of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use (inclusive of import duties and taxes).

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is acquired by Council at significantly below fair value, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Useful lives of IPPE
Land, bulk earthworks and heritage assets are not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

	Years		Years
Office equipment	3 to 5	Roadside furniture	20
Furniture and fittings	2 to 25	Sealed roads: surface	17 to 74
Plant and equipment	3 to 50	Sealed roads: pavement	114 to 119
Library books	3 to 100	Sealed roads: kerb and gutter	79
Depreciable land improvements	20 to 50	Unsealed roads: surface	28
Buildings[1]	20 to 100	Bridge: substructure, superstructure	67 to 89
Other structures[2]	3 to 200	Bridge: handrail, guardrail	45 to 89
Swimming pools	60 to 100	Footways	28 to 49
Other open space/recreational assets	15 to 60	Other infrastructure	15 to 100
Stormwater drainage	18 to 94	Newcastle Airport	2 to 100

[1] 100 year life is only applicable to the building shell on four culturally significant buildings.
[2] 200 year life is only applicable to one leading light tower.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Revaluation Model
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that they are not materially different from current fair value.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Land under roads
Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

Crown reserves
Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated. Where the Crown reserves are under a lease arrangement they are accounted for under AASB 16 Leases, refer to Note C2-1.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

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C1-8 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Rural Fire Service assets

Under Section 119 of the Rural Fire Services Act 1997 (NSW), “all firefighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the council of the area for or on behalf of which the firefighting equipment has been purchased or constructed”.

Council has confirmed there are no Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets in the Newcastle Local Government Area. Therefore, no RFS assets are recognised as assets of the Council in these financial statements.

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C1-9 Investment properties

Owned investment property

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
At fair value		
Opening balance at 1 July	**14,990**	13,990
Net gain/(loss) from fair value adjustments	**(254)**	1,000
Transfers from owner-occupied property	**1,324**	–
Closing balance at 30 June	**16,060**	14,990

Accounting policy

Investment property, principally comprising freehold buildings and land, is held for long-term rental yields and is not occupied by the Council. Changes in fair values are recorded in the Income Statement as part of other income.

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C1-10 Intangible assets

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Software		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	**9,967**	9,776
Accumulated amortisation	**(7,603)**	(6,435)
Net book value – opening balance	**2,364**	3,341
Movements for the year		
Purchases	**–**	382
Transfers	**–**	–
Gross book value written off	**(862)**	(191)
Accumulated amortisation charges written off	**859**	191
Amortisation charges	**(1,292)**	(1,359)
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	**9,105**	9,967
Accumulated amortisation	**(8,036)**	(7,603)
Total software – net book value	**1,069**	2,364
Newcastle Airport		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	**1,889**	1,900
Accumulated amortisation	**(422)**	(306)
Net book value – opening balance	**1,467**	1,594
Movements for the year		
Other movements	**245**	–
Amortisation charges	**(125)**	(125)
Gross book value written off	**–**	(11)
Accumulated amortisation charges written off	**–**	9
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	**2,134**	1,889
Accumulated amortisation	**(547)**	(422)
Total Newcastle Airport – net book value	**1,587**	1,467
Total intangible assets – net book value	**2,656**	3,831

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Accounting policy

Costs incurred in developing products or systems and costs incurred in acquiring software and licenses that will contribute to future period financial benefits through revenue generation and/or cost reduction are capitalised to software and systems.

Costs capitalised include external direct costs of materials and service, direct payroll, and payroll related costs of employees' time spent on the project. Software development costs include only those costs directly attributable to the development phase and are only recognised following completion of technical feasibility, and where Council has an intention and ability to use the asset. Amortisation is calculated on a straight line basis over periods generally ranging from three to sixty years.

C1-11 Other

Other assets

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Prepayments	**3,234**	**283**	8,674	453
Security Deposits	**12**	**–**	6,452	–
Total other assets	**3,246**	**283**	15,126	453

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C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council has leases over a range of assets including land and buildings, plant and machinery and waste equipment. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

Terms and conditions of leases

Land & Buildings
Council leases land and buildings for their corporate offices and other buildings; the leases are generally between 5 and 15 years and some of them include a renewal option to allow Council to renew for up to twice the non-cancellable lease term at their discretion.

The building leases contains an annual pricing mechanism based on either fixed increases or CPI movements at each anniversary of the lease inception.

Plant & Equipment
Council leases plant and equipment with lease terms of 5 years with some having options to renew; the lease payments are fixed during the lease term.

Waste
Council has a lease for recycling services; the lease was for a period of 10 years with a one year option of renewal. Council agreed to the renewal option. The leases contain annual pricing mechanism based on fixed increases at each anniversary of the lease inception. The lease includes variable payments based on usage.

Newcastle Airport
Newcastle Airport is lessee under a Head Lease with the Commonwealth for the land on which it operates. The lease period ends on 31 December 2075, with 3 x 10 year option periods thereafter. The lease payments include a fixed lease component and an amount equal to 4% of adjusted revenue. The leased asset and liability recognised in the year ended 30 June 2023 reflect the minimum value of future lease payments for the fixed component of the future lease payments in accordance with AASB 16.

Extension options
Council includes options in the building leases to provide flexibility and certainty to Council operations and reduce costs of moving premises; and the extension options are at Council's discretion.

At commencement date and each subsequent reporting date, Council assesses where it is reasonably certain that the extension options will be exercised.

There are $12,444,829 in potential future lease payments which are not included in lease liability as Council has assessed that the exercise of the option is not reasonably certain at this point in time.

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C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

(a) Right of use assets

	Plant and Machinery $ '000	Land and Buildings $ '000	Waste $ '000	Newcastle Airport $ '000	Total $ '000
2023					
Opening balance at 1 July	**88**	**30,163**	**449**	**332**	**31,032**
Additions to right-of-use assets	**1,622**	**–**	**2,555**	**–**	**4,177**
Adjustments to right-of-use assets due to re-measurement of lease liability	**–**	**1,124**	**–**	**18**	**1,142**
Depreciation charge	**(223)**	**(1,840)**	**(2,153)**	**(4)**	**(4,220)**
Balance at 30 June	**1,487**	**29,447**	**851**	**346**	**32,131**
2022					
Opening balance at 1 July	663	29,538	1,798	334	32,333
Additions to right-of-use assets	15	–	–	–	15
Adjustments to right-of-use assets due to re-measurement of lease liability	43	2,428	–	6	2,477
Depreciation charge	(633)	(1,803)	(1,349)	(4)	(3,789)
Impairment of right-of-use assets	–	–	–	(4)	(4)
Balance at 30 June	88	30,163	449	332	31,032

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Total lease liabilities	**2,805**	**32,334**	2,405	31,719

(b) Lease Liabilities

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is based on contractual undiscounted cash flows and therefore the amounts will not be the same as the recognised lease liability in the statement of financial position:

	< 1 year $ '000	1 – 5 years $ '000	> 5 years $ '000	Total $ '000	Total per Statement of Financial Position $ '000
2023					
Cash flows	**3,750**	**13,752**	**25,673**	**43,175**	**35,139**
2022					
Cash flows	3,310	12,131	27,209	42,650	**34,124**

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C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

(c) Income Statement

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to leases where Council is a lessee are shown below:

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Interest on lease liabilities	**1,019**	1,022
Variable lease payments based on usage not included in the measurement of lease liabilities	**3,885**	3,839
Income from sub-leasing right of use assets	**(440)**	164
Depreciation of right of use assets	**4,220**	3,789
Expenses relating to short-term leases	**508**	24
Expenses relating to low-value leases	**16**	25
	9,208	8,863

(d) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	**5,542**	5,294
	5,542	5,294

(e) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has multiple leases at significantly below market for land and buildings which are used for:

- Community service centres
- Sports Clubs
- Emergency Services
- Community Halls

The leases are around 2 years and require payments of a maximum amount of $1,000 per year. The use of the right-to-use asset is restricted by the lessors to specified community services which Council must provide, these services are detailed in the leases.

None of the leases in place are individually material from a Statement of Financial Position or performance perspective.

Accounting policy

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

At the lease commencement, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Council believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is re-measured when there is a lease modification, or change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI).

Where the lease liability is re-measured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the re-measurement.

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C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

Exceptions to lease accounting
Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Leases at significantly below market value / Concessionary leases
Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

Council leases out a number of properties and/or plant and equipment; these leases have been classified as operating leases for financial reporting purposes and the assets are included in the Statement of Financial Position as:

- investment property – where the asset is held predominantly for rental or capital growth purposes (refer note C1-9)
- property, plant and equipment – where the rental is incidental, or the asset is held to meet Council's service delivery objective (refer note C1-8).

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
(i) Assets held as investment property		
Investment property operating leases relate to properties which are leased to tenants under long-term operating leases with rental payable monthly.		
The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	**839**	813
Total income relating to operating leases for investment property assets	**839**	813
Operating lease expenses		
Direct operating expenses that generated rental income	**(78)**	(120)
Direct operating expenses that did not generate rental income	**(222)**	(225)
Total expenses relating to operating leases	**(300)**	(345)
(ii) Assets held as property, plant and equipment		
Council provides operating leases on Council assets for the purpose of commerical and community use, the table below relates to operating leases on assets disclosed in C1-8.		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	**4,987**	3,866
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	**4,987**	3,866
Amount of IPPE leased out by Council under operating leases		
Buildings	**58,381**	36,516
Plant and Equipment	**611**	423
Newcastle Airport	**2,018**	4,018
Total amount of IPPE leased out by Council under operating leases	**61,010**	40,957

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C2-2 Council as a lessor (continued)

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
(iii) Maturity analysis of undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for all operating leases:		
Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:		
< 1 year	**3,488**	2,531
1–2 years	**3,040**	2,659
2–3 years	**2,861**	1,472
3–4 years	**2,131**	1,411
4–5 years	**2,012**	1,362
> 5 years	**29,656**	19,909
Total undiscounted lease payments to be received	**43,188**	29,344

Accounting policy

When Council is a lessor, the lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease at inception date, based on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset have been transferred to the lessee. If the risks and rewards have been transferred then the lease is classified as a finance lease, otherwise it is an operating lease.

When Council has a sub-lease over an asset and is the intermediate lessor then the head lease and sub-lease are accounted for separately. The classification of the sub-lease is based on the right-of-use asset which arises from the head lease rather than the useful life of the underlying asset.

If the lease contains lease and non-lease components then the non-lease components are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term for an operating lease.

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C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Goods and services	**44,974**	**–**	40,269	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Salaries and wages	**3,539**	**–**	2,683	–
– Other expenditure accruals	**305**	**–**	411	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	**1,412**	**–**	1,638	–
Government departments and agencies	**390**	**–**	147	–
Prepaid rates	**3,007**	**–**	2,767	–
Newcastle Airport accruals	**4,303**	**2,036**	4,293	165
Total payables	**57,930**	**2,036**	52,208	165

Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.

Total payables	**–**	–

Accounting policy

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs. Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 25 days of recognition.

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C3-2 Contract Liabilities

	Notes	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	**3,583**	**6,024**	1,603	500
Unexpended operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	**490**	**–**	239	–
Total grants received in advance		**4,073**	**6,024**	1,842	500
Other income received in advance:					
Funds received prior to performance obligations (AASB 15)	(ii)	**3,351**	**–**	3,142	–
Deposits received in advance of services provided	(iii)	**4,679**	**285**	4,902	316
Total other income received in advance		**8,030**	**285**	8,044	316
Total contract liabilities		**12,103**	**6,309**	9,886	816

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets including community and sporting facilities, organics recycling facility and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The current liability is expected to be recognised as revenue in the next 12 months.

(ii) The contract liability relates to funds and grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(iii) Deposits received in advance are recorded as a contract liability upon receipt and recognised as revenue when the service has been provided.

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Revenue recognised (during the financial year) from opening contract liability balances

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Grants and contributions received in advance:		
Capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	**303**	–
Operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	**239**	873
Other income received in advance:		
Funds received prior to performance obligations (AASB 15)	**2,378**	1,929
Deposits received in advance of services provided	**4,879**	50
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	**7,799**	2,852

Significant changes in contract liabilities

The receipt of significant grant funding in advance for projects such as roads and construction of Council controlled assets.

Accounting policy

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

C3-3 Borrowings

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Loans – secured	**2,303**	**24,157**	4,925	36,855
Loans – Newcastle Airport	**–**	**34,500**	–	24,400
Total borrowings	**2,303**	**58,657**	4,925	61,255

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

	2022		Non-cash movements			2023
	Opening Balance $ '000	Cash flows $ '000	Acquisition $ '000	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy $ '000	Other non-cash movement $ '000	Closing balance $ '000
Loans – secured	41,780	**(15,320)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**26,460**
Loans - Newcastle Airport	24,400	**10,100**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**34,500**
Lease liability (Note C2-1b)	34,124	**(4,304)**	**4,177**	**–**	**1,142**	**35,139**
Total liabilities from financing activities	100,304	**(9,524)**	**4,177**	**–**	**1,142**	**96,099**

	2021		Non-cash movements			2022
	Opening Balance $ '000	Cash flows $ '000	Acquisition $ '000	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy $ '000	Other non-cash movement $ '000	Closing balance $ '000
Loans – secured	46,523	(4,743)	–	–	–	41,780
Loans - Newcastle Airport	14,850	9,550	–	–	–	24,400
Lease liability (Note C2-1b)	35,706	(4,069)	15	–	2,472	34,124
Total liabilities from financing activities	97,079	738	15	–	2,472	100,304

(b) Financing arrangements

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Total financing facilities available at reporting date:		
– Intraday facility	**3,000**	3,000
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**350**	350
– Loans - secured	**26,459**	41,780
– Loans - Newcastle Airport	**117,500**	50,000
Total financing arrangements	**147,309**	95,130
Drawn facilities at reporting date:		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**46**	37
– Loans - secured	**26,459**	41,780
– Loans - Newcastle Airport	**34,500**	24,400
Total drawn financing arrangements	**61,005**	66,217

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C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Undrawn facilities at reporting date:		
– Intraday facility	**3,000**	3,000
– Credit cards/purchase cards	**304**	313
– Loans - secured	**–**	–
– Loans - Newcastle Airport	**83,000**	25,600
Total undrawn financing arrangements	**86,304**	28,913

Breaches and defaults
During the current year, up to and including 30 June 2023, there were no defaults or breaches on any of the loans.

Security over loans
Security provided by Council is by way of a deemed charge over Council's rates income.

Bank overdrafts
Council has an intraday overdraft facility on its main operating account which is utilised on occasion.

Accounting policy

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the Income Statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective-interest method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the drawdown occurs. To the extent that there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a prepayment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Borrowings are removed from the Statement of Financial Position when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or finance cost.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless Council has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

Loan covenants
Under the terms of a major borrowing facility, Council is required to comply with the following financial covenant:

- The debt ratio does not exceed 40%

Council has complied with this covenant throughout the reporting period. As at 30 June 2023 the debt ratio was 7% (excluding transactions and balances relating to Newcastle Airport).

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C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-current $ '000
Annual leave	**11,132**	**–**	11,226	–
Sick leave	**4,780**	**–**	4,790	–
Long service leave	**19,551**	**1,115**	18,933	969
Termination benefits	**439**	**–**	–	–
Other	**55**	**–**	37	–
Total employee benefit provisions	**35,957**	**1,115**	34,986	969

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Current employee benefit provisions not expected to be settled within the next 12 months	**22,559**	23,047

Accounting policy

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave, vested long service leave and accumulated sick leave is presented as current.

Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including annual leave, accumulating sick leave and termination benefits expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave, accumulating sick leave and termination benefits are recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave, accumulating sick leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on Commonwealth government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

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C3-5 Provisions

	2023 Current $ '000	2023 Non-Current $ '000	2022 Current $ '000	2022 Non-Current $ '000
Asset remediation	**22,332**	**44,709**	18,595	48,092
Self insurance – workers compensation	**1,689**	**8,312**	2,628	6,651
Other	**–**	**20**	–	10
Total provisions	**24,021**	**53,041**	21,223	54,753

Movements in provisions

	Self insurance $ '000	Asset remediation $ '000	Other $ '000	Total $ '000
2023				
At beginning of year	**9,279**	**66,687**	**10**	**75,976**
Changes to provision:				
– New provision	**–**	**–**	**10**	**10**
– Revised discount rate	**91**	**(2,052)**	**–**	**(1,961)**
– Revised costs	**3,711**	**13,384**	**–**	**17,095**
Unwinding of discount	**–**	**310**	**–**	**310**
Amounts used (payments)	**(3,080)**	**(11,288)**	**–**	**(14,368)**
Total provisions at end of year	**10,001**	**67,041**	**20**	**77,062**
2022				
At beginning of year	6,310	80,079	10	86,399
Changes to provision:				
– Revised discount rate	(803)	(13,521)	–	(14,324)
– Revised costs	6,817	454	–	7,271
Unwinding of discount	–	1	–	1
Amounts used (payments)	(3,045)	(326)	–	(3,371)
Total provisions at end of year	9,279	66,687	10	75,976

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation
The provision for asset remediation represents the present value of the future estimated costs Council will incur to remove, restore and remediate sites as a result of past and/or current operations.

Self insurance
Self insurance provisions represent both (i) claims incurred but not reported and (ii) claims reported and estimated as a result of Council being a self insurer up to certain levels of excess.

Other
Other provisions represent the present value of make good condition clauses for end of term, within leases where Council is the lessee.

Accounting policy

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

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C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Provisions for close-down and restoration, and environmental clean-up costs

Restoration

Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs.

Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The costs are estimated on the basis of a closure plan. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

Rehabilitation

Where rehabilitation is conducted systematically over the life of the operation, rather than at the time of closure, provision is made for the estimated outstanding continuous rehabilitation work at each reporting date, and the cost is charged to the Income Statement.

Provision is made for the estimated present value of the costs of environmental clean-up obligations outstanding at the reporting date. These costs are charged to the Income Statement. Movements in the environmental clean-up provisions are presented as an operating cost, except for the unwinding of the discount which is shown as a borrowing cost.

The ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close-down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

Self insurance

Council has decided to self insure for workers compensation. A provision for self insurance has been made to recognise outstanding claims. Council also maintains cash and investments to meet expected future claims; refer to Note C1-3.

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C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

Hedging reserve

The hedging reseve is used to record movements in fair value for the derivative instruments held by Newcastle Airport. The interest rate swaps held by Newcastle Airport are designated in a cash flow hedge relationship, with gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive income.

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D Council structure

D1 Interests in other entities

	Notes	Council's share of net assets 2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Council's share of net assets			
Net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method – assets			
Associates	D1-2	**487**	548
Total Council's share of net assets		**487**	548

D1-1 Interests in joint arrangements

Joint operations

	Principal activity	Principal place of business	Percentage owned (%) 2023	2022
(a) Council is involved in the following joint operations (JO's)				
Name of joint operation:				
Newcastle Airport Partnership	Civil aviation facilities	Williamtown	**50%**	50%
Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Partnership	Civil aviation facilities	Williamtown	**50%**	50%

The percentage ownership interest held is equivalent to the percentage voting rights for all joint arrangements. All joint arrangements have the same year end as Council.

Council has entered into two joint arrangements; Newcastle Airport Partnership, and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Partnership. Both entities have a principal place of business of Williamtown, NSW. Under these arrangements, the partners hold rights to their share of assets and liabilities of the entities, and their unanimous consent is required for decisions regarding the relevant activities of the entities. Council has therefore classified these arrangements as joint operations and has included its interests in the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the partnerships in the appropriate line items of the Statement of Financial Position and Income Statement respectively.

During the reporting period, Newcastle Airport Pty Limited in its capacity as agent for the Newcastle Airport Partnership, entered into a new finance arrangement. The Syndicated Facility Agreement places restrictions on the payment of distributions to partners, including a clause preventing payment of distributions until the terminal expansion has reached practical completion and a completion certificate has been issued under the construction contract.

Accounting policy

Council has determined that it has joint operations.

Joint operations

In relation to its joint operations, where Council has the rights to the individual assets and obligations arising from the arrangement, Council has recognised:

- its assets, including its share of any assets held jointly
- its liabilities, including its share of any liabilities incurred jointly
- its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation
- its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly

These figures are incorporated into the relevant line item in the primary statements.

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D1-2 Interests in associates

Associates

	Principal place of business	Nature of relationship	Percentage owned (%) 2023	2022
Arrow Collaborative Services Limited	Thornton, NSW	Associate	**19%**	19%

The percentage ownership interest held is not equivalent to the percentage voting rights for all associates. Voting rights held in Arrow Collaborative Services Limited are at 9%. Council has determined it has significant influence through its board representation and the ability to participate in policy-making decisions.

Details

	Principal activity	Measurement method
Arrow Collaborative Services Limited	Provider of services to local government throughout the Hunter Region	Equity

Council has an interest in Arrow Collaborative Services Limited, along with other participating councils of Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO). The activities of this organisation are not controlled by any one Council.

Arrow Collaborative Services Limited (and its wholly owned subsidiaries Hunter Councils Legal Services Limited and Arrow Collaborative Communications) are companies limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)* and established to improve the quality and efficiency of local government service throughout the Hunter Region. These organisations offer tailored local government services through its five divisions; Local Government Training Institute, Local Government Legal, GoodChat TV, Regional Procurement, Screen Hunter (which, under delegation from member councils, licences film production on council owned and controlled land), and the Hunter JO Policy & Programs Division (which delivers on the strategic priorities of the Hunter JO, including the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environment Program, on behalf of both Hunter JO member councils and Central Coast Council).

City of Newcastle has representation on the Arrow Collaborative Services Limited Board, and shares ownership and governance of the entity with the other member councils of the Hunter Region.

The following information is provided for associates that are individually material to the group. Included are the amounts as per the individual associates' financial statements, adjusted for fair value adjustments at acquisition date and differences in accounting policies, rather than the group's share.

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D1-2 Interests in associates (continued)

Summarised financial information for associates

	Arrow Collaborative Services Limited	
	2023	2022
	$ '000	$ '000
Statement of financial position		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**2,808**	1,753
Other current assets	**1,997**	1,891
Non-current assets	**1,472**	2,182
Current liabilities		
Payables	**700**	549
Other current liabilities	**2,971**	2,428
Non-current liabilities		
Other non-current liabilities	**110**	39
Net assets	**2,496**	2,810
Statement of income and other comprehensive income		
Income	**9,411**	8,269
Expenses	**(9,725)**	(9,142)
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	**(314)**	(873)
Profit/(loss) for period	**(314)**	(873)
Total comprehensive income	**(314)**	(873)
Share of income – Council (%)	**19%**	19%
Profit/(loss) – Council ($)	**(61)**	(170)
Total comprehensive income – Council ($)	**(61)**	(170)
Reconciliation of carrying amount of interest in associate to summarised financial information for associates accounted for using the equity method		
Opening net assets (1 July)	**2,810**	3,683
Profit/(loss) for the period	**(314)**	(873)
Closing net assets	**2,496**	2,810
Council's share of net assets (%)	**19%**	19%
Council's share of net assets ($) ^	**487**	548

(^) Council's share of net assets ($) represent the quoted fair value of investment

Accounting policy

Interests in associates are accounted for using the equity method in accordance with AASB128 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures.* Under this method, the investment is initially recognised at cost and the carrying amount is increased or decreased to recognise the Council's share of the profit or loss and other comprehensive income of the investee after the date of acquisition.

If Council's share of losses of an associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, Council discontinues recognising its share of further losses.

Council's share in the associate's gains or losses arising from transactions between itself and its associate are eliminated.

Adjustments are made to the associate's accounting policies where they are different from those of Council for the purposes of the consolidated financial statements.

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E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including price risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk.

Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of Council.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's Finance, Property & Performance service unit under policies approved by Council.

The fair value of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, payables, borrowings and investments at fair value through profit and loss approximates the carrying amount.

For those financial assets where the total values don't approximate the carrying value, a comparison of the carrying amounts and fair values is presented below.

	Carrying value 2023 $ '000	Carrying value 2022 $ '000	**Fair value 2023 $ '000**	Fair value 2022 $ '000
Financial assets				
Measured at amortised cost				
Investments				
– Debt securities at amortised cost	**279,379**	244,383	**277,206**	241,774

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments while maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. Council's Finance, Property & Performance service unit manages the cash and investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors.

Council has an investment policy which complies with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Ministerial Investment Order. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by local government regulations.

The risks associated with the instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether their changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of capital or income in nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments in accordance with the established risk management framework within the Council's Investment and Borrowing Policy.

Council also seeks advice from independent advisors, where deemed appropriate, before placing any funds in cash equivalents and investments.

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E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
The impact on result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.		
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	**2,654**	2,162
Impact of a 10% movement in price of investments		
– Equity / Income Statement	**4,851**	4,372

Newcastle Airport
Newcastle Airport Partnership's interest rate risk arises primarily from interest bearing liabilities with variable interest rates where interest rate movements can impact Newcastle Airport Partnership's cash flows.

Newcastle Airport Partnership uses derivative financial instruments to mitigate its exposures to interest rate risks.

Newcastle Airport Partnership's policy is to maintain hedging arrangements in accordance with the bands below:

Year 1-3	50%-100%
Year 4-7	25%-75%

By entering into Interest rate swap contracts, Newcastle Airport Partnership agrees to exchange the net difference between fixed and floating interest rate amounts (based on Australian BBSY) calculated by reference to agreed notional principal amounts.

All floating for fixed IRS are designated as cash flow hedges. The IRS and the interest payments on the related loan occur simultaneously and the amount deferred in equity is recognised in profit or loss over the loan period.

The fair value of IRS contracts at reporting date are determined by discounting the related future cash flows using the cash and swap curves at the reporting date and credit risk inherent in the contract.

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise rates and annual charges and user charges and fees.

The major risk associated with these receivables is credit risk i.e. the risk that debts due and payable to Council may not be repaid in full. Council manages this risk by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. Council also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council monthly and benchmarks are set and monitored for acceptable collection performance. Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

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E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to secure a charge over the land relating to the debts – that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages the payment of debt.

	Not yet overdue rates and annual charges			
	Not yet overdue $ '000	< 5 years $ '000	≥ 5 years $ '000	Total $ '000
2023				
Gross carrying amount	**109**	**6,230**	**615**	**6,954**
2022				
Gross carrying amount	106	5,794	600	6,500

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses prescribed by AASB 9, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision as at 30 June 2023 is determined as follows:

	Not yet overdue $ '000	Overdue debts 0 - 30 days $ '000	31 - 60 days $ '000	61 - 90 days $ '000	> 90 days overdue $ '000	Total $ '000
2023						
Gross carrying amount	**9,756**	**8,023**	**1,327**	**670**	**2,031**	**21,807**
Expected loss rate (%)	**0.00%**	**0.10%**	**3.34%**	**6.53%**	**10.09%**	**1.38%**
ECL provision	**–**	**8**	**44**	**44**	**205**	**301**
2022						
Gross carrying amount	9,718	11,066	3,197	425	2,240	26,646
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.05%	1.25%	8.83%	22.61%	2.21%
ECL provision	–	6	40	38	506	590

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(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are subject to liquidity risk – the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can in extenuating circumstances be extended, financial instruments can be sold and and overdraft facilities utilised as required.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs and debt servicing requirements. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures. The Finance service unit regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities and, therefore, the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting. For interest rate swap contracts the cash flows will be estimated based on net settlement cash flows using the forward interest rates applicable at the end of the reporting period.

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E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

	Weighted average interest rate %	Subject to no maturity $ '000	payable in: ≤ 1 Year $ '000	1 - 5 Years $ '000	> 5 Years $ '000	Total cash outflows $ '000	Actual carrying values $ '000
2023							
Payables	**0.00%**	**1,412**	**56,518**	**1,700**	**336**	**59,966**	**59,966**
Borrowings	**5.77%**	**–**	**6,287**	**25,201**	**53,365**	**84,853**	**60,960**
Derivatives - Interest rate swap contracts	**3.52%**	**–**	**(291)**	**(726)**	**(54)**	**(1,071)**	**(996)**
Total financial liabilities / (financial assets)		**1,412**	**62,514**	**26,175**	**53,647**	**143,748**	**119,930**
2022							
Payables	0.00%	1,638	50,570	165	–	52,373	52,373
Borrowings	4.29%	–	7,858	47,489	27,109	82,456	66,180
Derivatives - Interest rate swap contracts	0.00%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total financial liabilities / (financial assets)		1,638	58,428	47,654	27,109	134,829	118,553

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E2-1 Fair value measurement

Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:
- infrastructure, property plant and equipment
- investment property
- financial assets

During the reporting period Council has also measured the following asset class on a non-recurring basis:
- non-current assets classified as held for sale

Council measures non-current assets classified as held for sale at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. Therefore measurement is on a non-recurring basis when the carrying amount exceeds the fair value.

(a) Fair value hierarchy

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date
Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data; i.e unobservable inputs

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by Council:

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
$ '000	Notes	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022	**2023**	2022
Recurring fair value measurements							
Financial investments and derivatives	C1-2						
At fair value through profit or loss		**48,514**	43,717	**–**	–	**48,514**	43,717
Derivatives - Newcastle Airport		**996**	–	**–**	–	**996**	–
Total financial investments and derivatives		**49,510**	43,717	**–**	–	**49,510**	43,717
Investment property	C1-9						
Commercial office and retail		**16,060**	–	**–**	14,990	**16,060**	14,990
Total investment property		**16,060**	–	**–**	14,990	**16,060**	14,990
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-8						
Plant and equipment		**–**	–	**18,660**	18,975	**18,660**	18,975
Office equipment		**–**	–	**2,883**	2,830	**2,883**	2,830
Furniture and fittings		**–**	–	**16,358**	16,965	**16,358**	16,965
Operational land		**–**	–	**164,145**	145,681	**164,145**	145,681
Community land		**–**	–	**88,327**	79,492	**88,327**	79,492
Crown land		**–**	–	**41,668**	33,903	**41,668**	33,903
Land under roads		**–**	–	**14,965**	10,132	**14,965**	10,132
Depreciable land improvements		**–**	–	**4,470**	3,898	**4,470**	3,898
Buildings – non-specialised		**–**	–	**2,669**	352	**2,669**	352
Buildings – specialised		**–**	–	**222,261**	196,962	**222,261**	196,962
Other structures		**–**	–	**86,996**	74,101	**86,996**	74,101
Roads		**–**	–	**376,288**	360,527	**376,288**	360,527
Bridges		**–**	–	**30,545**	25,207	**30,545**	25,207
Footpaths		**–**	–	**108,643**	103,991	**108,643**	103,991
Bulk earthworks (non depreciable)		**–**	–	**227,909**	215,826	**227,909**	215,826

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
$ '000	Notes	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Stormwater drainage		–	–	139,325	133,195	139,325	133,195
Swimming pools		–	–	16,502	14,817	16,502	14,817
Other open space/rec assets		–	–	25,128	19,783	25,128	19,783
Other infrastructure		–	–	64,296	57,164	64,296	57,164
Heritage collections		–	–	82,085	81,837	82,085	81,837
Library books		–	–	8,489	7,664	8,489	7,664
Waste management asset		–	–	9,612	12,564	9,612	12,564
Newcastle Airport		–	–	74,398	58,675	74,398	58,675
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		–	–	1,826,622	1,674,541	1,826,622	1,674,541
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	C1-7						
Land and buildings		–	–	1,233	366	1,233	366
Total Non-current assets classified as held for sale		–	–	1,233	366	1,233	366

(b) Transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy

Council's policy for determining transfers between fair value hierarchies is to make an assessment at the end of the reporting period.

Valuations of Investment Properties performed at the end of the year utilised both a market and income approach so were transferred from level 3 to level 2 in the fair value heirarchy.

(c) Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets; i.e Level 1 inputs, Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (Level 2) and unobservable inputs (Level 3).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

Financial investments and derivatives

This asset class is comprised of funds invested into TCorp's Individually Managed Long Term Growth Fund, and Interest Rate Swaps (IRS) held by Newcastle Airport (NAP) of which Council holds 50% ownership.

The valuation applied to the TCorp fund is based on readily available and observable summary statements prepared and provided by the fund arranger, however, no active market exists for the fund as it is only accessible to government agencies. Council's TCorp fund holding consists of an identifiable number of units held in the fund unit trust.

Valuation of IRS was provided by KPMG and derived using third party licensed derivative pricing tool, based on contractual terms stipulated in swap confirmations, observable market data and generally accepted valuation techniques applicable to IRS. Fair valuation methodology was applied in calculating the risk-free fair values of derivatives (using relevant market rates) using external pricing tools and comparison of the risk free fair values to those of counterparty banks.

The value of financial instruments and derivatives are determined based on observable market inputs, categorised as Level 2.

Investment property

The best evidence of fair value is the current price in an active market for similar assets. The following information is used where necessary:

- Current prices in an active market for different types of properties or similar properties in a less active market;
- Discounted cash flow projections based on management's best estimates of future rental income and expenditure.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Typically, Council obtains independent valuations for its investment property portfolio on an annual basis and, at the end of each reporting period, the financial statements reflect the most up-to-date valuation. A full revaluation is performed every three years and a desktop valuation every other year.

At 30 June 2023, valuations for three of Council's investment properties were undertaken and inputs considered to be observable inputs, therefore at Level 2 of the Fair Value Hierarchy.

The fair value of Council's Investment properties is determined by independent, qualified valuers who have experience in the location of the properties. Council reviews the valuation reports and discusses significant movements with the valuers. As at 30 June 2023, the full valuations of Investment properties were performed by Preston Rowe Paterson, David A Rich, Director, AAPI CPV, API Member No 69265.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Plant & equipment, Office equipment, Furniture & fittings and Other assets
Plant & equipment, Office equipment, Furniture & fittings and Other assets are valued at cost but are disclosed at fair value in the notes. The carrying amount of these assets is assumed to approximate fair value due to the nature of the items. Examples of assets within these classes are as follows:

- Plant and equipment - motor vehicles, trucks, tractors, ride-on mowers, street sweepers, compactors and earthmoving equipment
- Office Equipment - computer equipment, projectors, refrigerators, cameras and photocopiers
- Other assets - musical instruments

The key unobservable inputs to the valuation are internal factors surrounding the remaining useful life, pattern of consumption, asset condition and residual value. Where items are of a material value, Council reviews the value of these assets against quoted prices for the gross current replacement cost of similar assets and by taking into account the unobservable inputs mentioned.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Operational land
This asset class comprises all of Council's land classified as Operational land under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*. The key unobservable input to the valuation is market value.

Council's operational land is valued using market valuations with a comprehensive valuation completed and revalued every five years. At each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full valuation was performed by AssetVal Pty Ltd, Suzanna Ham, Certified Practising Valuer AAPI, API Member No 70497, at 30 June 2023.

Council's operational land is reviewed for impairment and any material changes in value after identifying all elements that would be taken into account by buyers and sellers in setting the price, including but not limited to zoning, topography, location, size, shape, access, exposure to traffic and businesses. The condition of the asset and its future cash flows are also considered when determining the fair value.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Community and Crown land
Council's 'Community and Crown' land (including owned by Council, the Crown and various other Government Agencies that are managed by Council) by definition is land intended for public access and use or where other restrictions applying to the land create some obligation to maintain public access (such as a trust deed, dedication under section 7.11 of the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*). This gives rise to the restrictions in the Act, intended to preserve the qualities of the land.

Community and Crown land:

- Cannot be sold;
- Cannot be leased, licensed, or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years and;
- Must have a plan of management for it.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuations of all Council's Community land and Council managed land were based on the Unimproved Capital Values (UCV) provided by the Valuer-General which are not considered to be observable market evidence, therefore have been classified as Level 3.

Full revaluations of community and crown land are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed as at 30 June 2019 by applying Valuer-General land values. As at 30 June 2023, Council performed desktop valuations of crown land and community land.

Land under roads
Land under roads (LUR) is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips. Council has elected not to recognise LUR acquired before 1 July 2008, in accordance with AASB 1051 Land Under Roads.

LUR acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment. Council recognised this asset for the first time in financial year 2008/09. LUR was valued in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standard AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment, and the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

A full revaluation of LUR values was performed at 30 June 2019 using a valuation of Council's total LUR at the average unit rate of land and applying discounting factors which reflect the restrictions placed on such assets. As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Land under roads.

This asset class is classified as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as significant inputs used in this methodology are unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Depreciable land improvements
The land improvements asset class consists of sports field drainage, irrigation and spear points. These assets may be located in parks, reserves and sporting fields.

Land improvements were valued in-house using the cost approach by experienced Council engineers and asset management staff. The cost approach has been utilised whereby the replacement cost was estimated for each asset by taking into account a range of factors. Inputs such as estimates of pattern of consumption, residual value, asset condition and useful life required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of Land Improvements - Depreciable occur at least every 5 years, the most recent performed internally at 30 June 2021. As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Depreciable land improvements.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Buildings – Non-specialised and Specialised
Non-specialised buildings include commercial and general purpose buildings for which there is a secondary market. Specialised buildings are buildings designed for a specific limited purpose. Such buildings would include specialised buildings to house specialised infrastructure or plant and some heritage properties.

Council's buildings are revalued every five years with the most recent full valuation undertaken as at 30 June 2023. Valuations were performed by external valuers AssetVal Pty Ltd, Suzanna Ham, Certified Practising Valuer AAPI, API Member No 70497. At each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences.

Non-Specialised Buildings
The market sale approach to the valuation of assets comprises reference to market evidence of the sale of the identical and or similar assets. The valuation aspects are generally, but not limited to, the location, size, condition, style and utility of the asset. Since most of these inputs require judgement and are unobservable, the asset class has been classified as Level 3.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Specialised Buildings
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

This approach estimates the replacement cost for each building by componentising the building (for complex structures) into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors such as the remaining useful life of the asset, condition, pattern of consumption and residual value.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Other Structures
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted. This asset class comprises of Council's outdoor shelters, monuments, floodlighting systems, Summerhill waste disposal cells, fencing and other smaller structures.

The cost approach has been utilised whereby the replacement cost was estimated for each asset by taking into account a range of factors and by componentising its significant parts where applicable. Inputs such as estimates of pattern of consumption, residual value, asset condition and useful life required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of other structures are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed at 30 June 2021 by engaging both internal experts and external valuers (AssetVal and Aurecon). As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Other structures.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Roads
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

This asset class comprises the following road components – surface, pavement, kerb & gutter and roadside furniture.

The cost approach was utilised to value roads by componentising the assets into significant parts and then rolling up these component values to provide an overall road valuation (for each road segment) within Council's asset system. Input estimates such as the replacement costs (based on unit rates), pattern of consumption, asset condition and useful life required significant professional judgement which impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of road assets are performed at least every 5 years, however, at each reporting period the carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed at 30 June 2020 using the methodology outlined above. As at 30 June 2023, Council performed a desktop valuation of Road assets.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Bridges
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

Bridges were valued in house by experienced Council engineering staff, with condition data collected in house and unit rates provided by independent external consultant Vasey Consulting. This asset class is componentised into significant parts, comprising of the Bridge Substructure, Superstructure and Handrail/Guardrail, each with differing useful lives.

The replacement cost for each bridge component has been supplied by Vasey Consulting based on unit rate calculations. In order to calculate condition based depreciation and fair value, other input estimates like the useful life, condition ratings, residual value and pattern of consumption have been used. These inputs require significant professional judgement, therefore this asset class has been categorised as Level 3.

Full revaluations of bridges are performed at least every 5 years, however, at each reporting period the carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed at 30 June 2020 using the methodology outlined above. As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Bridges

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

There has been no change in the valuation process during the reporting period.

Footpaths
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted. This asset class comprises the following road components – footpaths.

Replacement costs (unit rates) and useful lives of Council's footpaths were determined using technical knowledge. Input estimates such as the replacement costs (based on unit rates), pattern of consumption, asset condition and useful life requiring significant professional judgement impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of footpath assets are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed internally as at 30 June 2020. As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Footpaths.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

The cost approach estimated the replacement cost for each asset taking into account a range of factors. Input estimates such as the replacement costs (based on unit rates) required significant professional judgement which impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of bulk earthworks assets are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed internally as at 30 June 2020. As at 30 June 2023, Council performed a desktop valuation of Bulk earthworks.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Stormwater drainage
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

Council’s drainage assets comprise pits, pipes, culverts, stormwater quality improvement devices, headwalls, open channels - civil, constructed water courses and tidal gates used to collect, store and remove stormwater.

The cost approach estimated the replacement cost for each asset with differing useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. Inputs such as estimates of the pattern of consumption, asset condition and useful life required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value. Additionally due to limitations in the historical records of very long lived underground assets there is uncertainty regarding the actual design, specifications and dimensions of some assets.

Full revaluations of stormwater drainage assets are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed internally as at 30 June 2020. As at 30 June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Stormwater drainage.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Swimming pools
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

This asset class comprises Council’s outdoor swimming pools and ocean bath shells.

The cost approach has been utilised whereby the replacement cost was estimated for each asset by taking into account a range of factors and by componentising its significant parts where applicable. Inputs such as estimates of pattern of consumption,

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

residual value, asset condition and useful life required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of swimming pool assets are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed as at 30 June 2021 by engaging internal expertise and external valuers (AssetVal). As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Swimming pools.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Other open space/recreational assets
In determining the current cost of a specialised asset, reference is made to the cost of replacing the assets service potential and in doing so the Modern Engineering Equivalent Replacement Asset (MEERA) is adopted.

This asset class comprises Council's outdoor skate facilities, sporting facilities, playgrounds and other smaller recreational assets.

The cost approach has been utilised whereby the replacement cost was estimated for each asset by taking into account a range of factors and by componentising its significant parts where applicable. Inputs such as estimates of pattern of consumption, residual value, asset condition and useful life required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

Full revaluations of Other Open space/recreational assets are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences.The most recent full revaluation was performed at 30 June 2021 by engaging both internal experts and external valuers (Kico and AssetVal). As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Other open space/recreational assets.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Other infrastructure
The Other infrastructure asset class consists of ground level car parks, retaining walls, river and sea walls, boat ramps and other infrastructure assets. These assets may be located on parks, reserves and sporting fields.

Other infrastructure assets were valued in-house using the cost approach by experienced Council engineers and asset management staff. The cost approach has been utilised whereby the replacement cost was estimated for each asset by taking into account a range of factors. Inputs such as estimates of pattern of consumption, residual value, asset condition and useful life required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Full revaluations of other infrastructure assets are performed at least every 5 years, however at each reporting period carrying amount of assets is assessed against fair value for any material differences. The most recent full revaluation was performed internally at 30 June 2021. As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Other infrastructure.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Heritage collections
Assets within this class comprise of Art Gallery and Museum collections. Market value is used to determine the fair value of the Art Gallery and Museum collections at least every 5 years.

Due to the specialised nature of the heritage collections, Council engaged two independent valuers for the Art Gallery collection and an independent valuer for the Museum collection. These independent qualified valuers provided market valuations for the collections representing fair value at the end of the reporting period.

The most recent full revaluation of the Heritage collections was at 30 June 2020; with the valuation of the Art Gallery collection performed by Annette Larkin Fine Art and Daniel McOwan, while the valuation of the Museum collection was performed by Ravenswick. As at 30 June 2023, the last valuation performed by council was a desktop valuation on 30 June 2022.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Library books
This asset category comprises of assets such as media, fiction, non fiction, rare (heritage) books, research books and local studies. Library Books are valued at cost but are disclosed at fair value in the notes. The carrying amount of these assets is assumed to approximate fair value due to the nature of the items.

The most recent full revaluation was performed at 30 June 2021. The rare (heritage) books collection was valued by external valuer Simon Taaffe using the market approach. The remainder of library books were valued internally. Where items were of a material value, Council reviewed the value of these assets against quoted prices for the gross current replacement cost of similar assets and by taking account of the pattern of consumption, estimated remaining useful life and the residual value. As at 30th June 2023, council performed a desktop valuation of Library books.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Waste management asset
The Summerhill Waste Management Centre encompasses a landfill operation as well as a wide range of waste disposal services, resource recovery services, recycled and reclaimed products, and waste management educational activities. It has been recognised that there will be significant costs associated with the closure and post closure management of the landfill site.

Closure of the landfill will involve a wide range of activities including preparation of a Landfill Closure and Management Plan, final capping of the landfill waste and site re-vegetation, revision of the surface water management system and leachate management infrastructure to suit post-closure operation, decommissioning and removing infrastructure and equipment that will not be required post-closure, and fencing sensitive infrastructure.

An evaluation of costs for the landfill closure and post closure management was prepared by Summerhill's senior management during 2015. Council reviews and updates the cost model annually, which ensures the waste management asset reflects fair value at the end of each reporting period. The key unobservable inputs are the discount rate, cost escalation rate, actual timing of costs and future environmental management requirements.

This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Newcastle Airport
Council participates in two joint operations with Port Stephens Council for the operation of civil aviation facilities at Newcastle Airport. Under this structure, the partners hold the rights to their share of the assets and obligations of the partnership.

This asset category comprises of property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets. The carrying amount of these assets is assumed to approximate fair value due to the nature of the items.

The key unobservable inputs to the valuation are internal factors surrounding the remaining useful life, pattern of consumption, asset condition and residual value. This asset class is categorised as Level 3 as some of the above-mentioned inputs used in the valuation of these assets require significant professional judgement and are therefore unobservable.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

(d) Reconciliation of movements

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

	Notes	Total 2023 $ '000	Total 2022 $ '000
Opening balance		**1,689,897**	1,555,178
Total gains or losses for the period			
Recognised in profit or loss – realised	B2-6,B3-5	**–**	1,000
Other movements			
Transfers from/(to) level 2 FV hierarchy		**(14,990)**	–
Transfers from/(to) another asset class		**15,627**	20,618
Purchases (GBV)		**55,455**	26,166
Disposals (WDV)		**(12,188)**	(6,324)
Depreciation and impairment		**(59,009)**	(55,076)
Revaluation increment/(decrement)		**153,063**	148,335
Closing balance		**1,827,855**	1,689,897

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

(e) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

The following table summarises the quantitative information relating to the significant unobservable inputs used in deriving the various Level 3 asset class fair values.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Class	Fair value 2023 $'000	Valuation technique(s)	Unobservable inputs	Range of inputs	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
Plant & equipment	18,660	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 50 years	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Office equipment	2,883	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 5 years	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Furniture & fittings	16,358	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 25 years	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Operational land	164,145	Market approach	• Total value of land	• Unit rates ($ per sq metre) variable dependent on site	Significant changes in the rate per square metre would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Community land	88,327	Market approach	• Average unit rate based on VG valuations	• VG assessment	Significant changes in the unimproved capital value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Crown land	41,668	Market approach	• Average unit rate based on VG valuations	• VG assessment	Significant changes in the unimproved capital value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Class	Fair value 2023 $'000	Valuation technique(s)	Unobservable inputs	Range of inputs	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
Land under roads	14,965	Market approach, discounted average land value	• Average unit rate based on total land valuation • Discounting factors	• Unit rate ($ per square metre) based on total land within area of control • 65% adjustment factor for Englobo value and 25% for access rights (cumulative discount of 90%)	Significant changes in the unimproved capital value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Depreciable land improvements	4,470	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 50 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Buildings – Non specialised	2,669	Market approach	• Market value • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the market value, asset condition and recent sales prices of similar properties would result in significant changes in fair value measurement.
Buildings – specialised	222,261	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern Equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Other structures	86,996	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 200 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Roads	376,288	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 120 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition or pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Class	Fair value 2023 $'000	Valuation technique(s)	Unobservable inputs	Range of inputs	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
Bridges	30,545	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition or pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Footpaths	108,643	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern Equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 50 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition or pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Bulk earthworks (non depreciable)	227,909	Cost approach	• Average unit rate	• Unit rates ($ per cubic metre)	Significant changes to the average unit rate would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Stormwater drainage	139,325	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition or pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Swimming pools	16,502	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Other open space/ recreational assets	25,128	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 60 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Other infrastructure	64,296	Cost approach	• Current Replacement Cost of Modern Equivalent asset • Remaining Useful Life • Asset Condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Heritage collections	82,085	Market approach	• Market Value • Asset Condition	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the market value, and asset condition would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.

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E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Class	Fair value 2023 $'000	Valuation technique(s)	Unobservable inputs	Range of inputs	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
Library books	8,489	Cost approach Market approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life • Asset condition • Market value	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years • Very poor to excellent	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Waste management asset	9,612	Cost approach	• Discount rate • Cost escalation rate	• 3.95% • 2.43%	Significant changes in the discount rate and cost escalation rate would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.
Newcastle Airport	74,398	Cost approach	• Current replacement cost of modern equivalent asset • Remaining useful life	• Varies significantly from asset to asset • 0 to 100 years	Significant changes in the gross replacement value, asset condition, and pattern of consumption affecting the remaining useful life or residual value would result in significant changes to fair value measurement.

(f) Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

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E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure are considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Defined benefit plan

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Active Super), named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for the purposes of AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

Description of the funding arrangements

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working lifetime of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 point members; Nil for 180 point members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 point members, employers are required to contribute 8.0% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2023 (increasing to 8.5% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of $20 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2022. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation and monitored annually between triennials.

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding past service contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of Council.

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2023 was $989,782. The last formal valuation of the Fund was undertaken by the Fund Actuary, Richard Boyfield FIAA as at 30 June 2022.

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E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

The amount of past service contributions included in the total employer contribution advised above is $630,997. Council's expected contribution to the plan (including past service contributions) for the next annual reporting period is $1,002,279.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2023 is:

Defined Benefit reserves only*	$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,290.9	
Past Service Liabilities	2,236.1	102.4%
Vested Benefits	2,253.6	101.7%

* excluding other accumulation accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The share of this deficit that is broadly attributed to Council is 3.27% as at 30 June 2023.

Council's share of any funding surplus or deficit cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils. For this reason, no asset for the surplus has been recognised in Council's accounts. Council has a possible obligation that may arise should the Scheme require immediate payment to correct any future deficiency.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	6.0% for FY 22/23 2.5% per annum thereafter

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review will be completed by December 2023.

2. Self insurance - workers compensation

Council is a self insurer for workers compensation. A provision for outstanding claims, based on actuarial assessment, has been recognised in Note C3-5.

Under the Workers Compensation Act 1987 self insurers and specialised insurers are required to provide financial security to meet their outstanding workers compensation claim liabilities. Security may take the form of cash, securities, bank guarantees and bonds. Council provides bank guarantees to the value of $9.279 million to the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA). Subsequent to 30 June 2023, the security requirement has increased to $10.001 million.

3. Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

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E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

4. Developer contributions

Council receives Section 7.11 contributions and 7.12 levies on various developments across the Council area through the required contribution plans. As part of these plans, Council has received funds for which it will be required to expend the monies in accordance with those plans.

These plans also indicate proposed future expenditure to be undertaken by Council, which will be funded in future years by making levies and receipting funds, or where a shortfall exists, by the use of Council's general funds.

These future expenses do not yet qualify as liabilities at the reporting date but represent Council's intention to spend funds in the manner and timing set out in those plans.

5. Other contingent liabilities

(i) Legal proceedings

Council has been named as the defendant in a number of proceedings by parties seeking compensation. Due to the considerable uncertainty in legal proceedings and the need to maintain legal professional privilege, the liability cannot be accurately determined at this time and as such has not been brought to account in the financial statements. While no determination can be made as to the outcome of any particular matter, Council considers that there are meritorious defences available in those matters currently the subject of litigation. Any liability, including any legal costs, which may arise, should not have a material adverse effect on the Council's consolidated financial position. Further, Council will investigate if these liabilities can be reimbursed through relevant insurance policies.

(ii) EPA prosecution

Council was served in March 2022 by the EPA with four Court Attendance Notices (CANs) filed in the Local Court. In August 2022 the EPA subsequently withdrew two of the CANs. The CANs related to events that occurred at the Summerhill Waste Management Facility between 23 March 2021 to 7 April 2021, with the EPA prosecuting one offence of water pollution under section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and one offence of failure to comply with EPA license conditions under section 64 of the POEO Act. Council has entered a plea of guilty to the two offences, and the parties are still negotiating to settle upon an agreed set of facts in preparation for sentencing. Each offence in the Local Court carries a maximum penalty of $110,000 under section 215(2) of the POEO Act.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

1. Infringement notices/fines

Fines and penalty income as a result of Council issuing infringement notices, are followed up and collected by Revenue NSW. Council's revenue recognition policy for such income is to account for it as revenue when the penalty is applied, to the extent of the impairment provision (determined on an expected credit loss basis).

Accordingly, at year end, there is a potential asset owed to Council, representing issued but unpaid infringement notices that are in excess of the accrued revenue recognised in the accounts. Due to the limited information available on the status and duration of outstanding notices, Council is unable to reliably determine the full value of collectible fine and penalty income.

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F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

	2023	2022
	$ '000	$ '000
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	**6,089**	6,047
Post-employment benefits	**544**	505
Other long-term benefits	**104**	42
Termination benefits	**497**	108
Total	**7,234**	6,702

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F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP) (continued)

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has determined that transactions at arm's length between KMP and Council as part of Council delivering a public service objective (e.g. access to a library or Council swimming pool) will not be disclosed.

Nature of the transaction	Transactions during the year $ '000	Outstanding balances (incl. loans and commitments) $ '000	Terms and conditions	Impairment provision on outstanding balances $ '000	Impairment expense $ '000
2023					
Employee expenses relating to close family members [1]	**164**	**–**	Enterprise Agreement 2019, Enterprise Agreement 2023	**–**	**–**
2022					
Employee expenses relating to close family members [1]	139	–	Enterprise Agreement 2019	–	–

A councillor, through their role as an elected member, is a Director on the Board of the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation (Foundation) and currently has 10% of voting power. This entitlement increases to 26% for special resolutions. The Foundation has agreed to provide funding to Council for the purpose of the Newcastle Art Gallery expansion project. During the 2022-23 financial year, Council received $0.6M. The Foundation has committed to providing at least $10.5M in funding, to a maximum of $13.0M.

(1) Close family members of Council's KMP are employed by Newcastle City Council under the current Enterprise Agreement on an arm's length basis. There were 4 close family members of KMP employed by Council during 2023 (2022: 3).

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F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	**104**	102
Councillors' fees	**453**	395
Councillor superannuation (incl. mayor)	**56**	–
Councillor expenses (incl. mayor) – other (excluding fees above)	**132**	100
Total	**745**	597

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by Council's auditor:		
Auditors of the Council: NSW Auditor-General:		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit and review of financial statements	**145**	142
Total fees paid or payable to the NSW Auditor-General	**145**	142
Other services: Other firms		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Other audit and assurance services	**218**	174
Total fees paid or payable to other firms	**218**	174
Total audit fees	**363**	316

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G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

(a) Reconciliation of net operating result to cash provided from operating activities

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Net operating result from Income Statement	**28,074**	4,631
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**64,438**	60,130
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	**9,078**	5,418
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	**(4,364)**	(1,192)
Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the P&L:		
– Investments classified as 'at fair value' or 'held for trading'	**(3,778)**	5,260
– Investment property	**254**	(1,000)
– Revaluation decrements / impairments of IPP&E direct to P&L	**375**	4
Amortisation of premiums, discounts and prior period fair valuations		
– Financial assets at amortised cost / held to maturity (2022)	**(30)**	9
Share of net (profits)/losses of associates/joint ventures using the equity method	**61**	170
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	**7,129**	(8,571)
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	**(289)**	(192)
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	**(137)**	(136)
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	**12,050**	(6,988)
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	**(2,699)**	(36)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	**4,705**	1,677
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	**750**	597
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	**2,138**	(519)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	**7,710**	(234)
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	**1,117**	(1,091)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	**1,086**	(10,423)
Net cash flows from operating activities	**127,668**	47,514

(b) Non-cash investing and financing activities

Other dedications	**4,364**	1,192
Total non-cash investing and financing activities	**4,364**	1,192

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G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

	2023 $ '000	2022 $ '000
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Buildings	**10,817**	54,843
Plant and equipment	**4,550**	59,486
Open Spaces	**6,915**	374
Land improvements	**32,847**	62,507
Road infrastructure	**1,129**	930
Other	**3,337**	3,200
Total commitments	**59,595**	181,340

Details of capital commitments

Building commitments relate to terminal expansion development at Newcastle Airport, as well as construction of an organics processing facility at Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

Plant and equipment commitments include expenses related to system upgrades.

Open spaces commitments relate to the construction of grandstands at Lambton Pool, Passmore Oval and Darling St Oval along with other works to park amenities.

Land improvements commitments include expenses related to capping the former Astra Street landfill site, construction along Bathers Way, and airfield development at Newcastle Airport.

Road infrastructure commitments include expenses related to bridge repairs at Yangan Drive Beresfield and other road and traffic repairs.

Other commitments relate to the increase in social and affordable housing in the Newcastle LGA.

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G3 Statement of developer contributions as at 30 June 2023

G3-1 Summary of developer contributions

	Opening balance at 1 July 2022	Contributions received during the year		Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2023	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land						
	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000	$ '000
Traffic and transport	615	67	–	–	21	(20)	–	683	–
Social infrastructure	14,155	202	–	–	461	–	–	14,818	–
Open space and recreation	993	1,667	–	–	36	(1,541)	–	1,155	–
Transport	–	386	–	–	4	(260)	–	130	–
Community facilities	53	308	–	–	12	–	–	373	–
Plan preparation and administration	–	58	–	–	–	(44)	–	14	–
S7.11 contributions – under a plan	15,816	2,688	–	–	534	(1,865)	–	17,173	–
S7.12 levies – under a plan	5,823	3,106	–	–	166	(3,762)	–	5,333	–
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	21,639	5,794	–	–	700	(5,627)	–	22,506	–
S7.4 planning agreements	25	–	–	224	–	(249)	–	–	–
Total contributions	21,664	5,794	–	224	700	(5,876)	–	22,506	–

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

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G3-2 Developer contributions by plan

	Opening balance at 1 July 2022 $ '000	Contributions received during the year: Cash $ '000	Non-cash Land $ '000	Non-cash Other $ '000	Interest and investment income earned $ '000	Amounts expended $ '000	Internal borrowings $ '000	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2023 $ '000	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from $ '000
Contribution plan – Western Corridor									
Traffic and transport	615	67	–	–	21	(20)	–	683	–
Social infrastructure	14,155	202	–	–	461	–	–	14,818	–
Total	14,770	269	–	–	482	(20)	–	15,501	–
Contribution plan – Fern Bay cross boundary									
Open space and recreation	820	8	–	–	27	–	–	855	–
Total	820	8	–	–	27	–	–	855	–
Contribution plan - S7.11 Development contributions plan									
Transport	–	386	–	–	4	(260)	–	130	–
Open space and recreation	173	1,659	–	–	9	(1,541)	–	300	–
Community facilities	53	308	–	–	12	–	–	373	–
Plan preparation and administration	–	58	–	–	–	(44)	–	14	–
Total	226	2,411	–	–	25	(1,845)	–	817	–

S7.12 Levies – under a plan

Development Contributions Plan - Jan 2022									
Other	5,823	3,106	–	–	166	(3,762)	–	5,333	–
Total	5,823	3,106	–	–	166	(3,762)	–	5,333	–

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G4 Statement of performance measures

G4-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

$ '000	Amounts 2023	Indicator 2023	Indicator 2022	Benchmark
1. Operating performance				
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses [1, 2] / Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions [1]	**14,059 / 380,543**	**3.69%**	(0.64)%	> 0.00%
2. Own source operating revenue				
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions [1] / Total continuing operating revenue inclusive of all grants and contributions [1]	**343,816 / 400,783**	**85.79%**	86.23%	> 60.00%
3. Unrestricted current ratio				
Current assets less all external restrictions / Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	**212,093 / 106,657**	**1.99x**	1.95x	> 1.50x
4. Debt service cover ratio				
Operating results before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation [1, 2] / Principal repayments (from the Statement of Cash Flows) + borrowing costs (from the Income Statement)	**83,645 / 24,772**	**3.38x**	5.00x	> 2.00x
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage				
Rates and annual charges outstanding / Rates and annual charges collectable	**7,442 / 216,077**	**3.44%**	3.36%	< 10.00%
6. Cash expense cover ratio				
Current year's cash and cash equivalents + term deposits / Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	**172,130 / 26,512**	**6.49 months**	6.05 months	> 3.00 months

(1) Excludes fair value increments, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets, and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements, impairment losses on receivables, net loss on disposal of assets, and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

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End of the audited financial statements

Newcastle City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Independent Auditor’s Reports:

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])

Independent Auditor's Report

Please uplift Council's Audit Report PDF (opinion) for inclusion in the GPFS report (via the Home screen).

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Newcastle City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Independent Auditor’s Reports: (continued)

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])

Independent Auditor's Report

Please uplift Council's Audit Report PDF (commentary) for inclusion in the GPFS report (via the Home screen).

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Newcastle City Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

City of Newcastle

Newcastle City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Background

i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.

ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than $2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Newcastle City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by Councillors and Management
made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement, *'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'*,
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines, *'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'*, and
- the Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.*

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- present overhead reallocation charges to the businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 31 October 2023.

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Lord Mayor	**Councillor**
Chief Executive Officer	**Responsible Accounting Officer**

Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of Waste Management Collection Service

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Rates and annual charges	**19,666**	17,121
User charges and fees	**4,747**	4,810
Other income	**23**	34
Total income from continuing operations	**24,436**	21,965
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**4,397**	4,406
Materials and services	**9,507**	10,527
Borrowing costs	**52**	71
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**2,413**	1,598
Calculated taxation equivalents	**174**	155
Total expenses from continuing operations	**16,543**	16,757
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**7,893**	5,208
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(1,973)**	(1,302)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**5,920**	3,906
Opening accumulated surplus	**4,095**	3,844
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**174**	155
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**1,973**	1,302
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**(8,689)**	(5,112)
Closing accumulated surplus	**3,473**	4,095
Return on capital %	**208.0%**	109.7%

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Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of Waste Management Disposal Service

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Rates and annual charges	**12,192**	10,438
User charges and fees	**51,765**	54,012
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**120**	242
Other income	**376**	279
Total income from continuing operations	**64,453**	64,971
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**4,168**	3,964
Materials and services	**8,524**	7,764
Borrowing costs	**28**	13
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**8,223**	7,596
Other expenses	**38,518**	38,607
Calculated taxation equivalents	**203**	194
Total expenses from continuing operations	**59,664**	58,138
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**4,789**	6,833
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (30%) [based on result before capital]	**(1,437)**	(2,049)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**3,352**	4,784
Opening accumulated surplus	**57,627**	63,710
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**203**	194
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**1,437**	2,049
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**(121)**	(13,110)
Closing accumulated surplus	**62,498**	57,627
Return on capital %	**6.7%**	10.5%

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Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of Civic Theatre and Playhouse

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
User charges and fees	**4,316**	1,937
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**163**	545
Other income	**1,354**	840
Total income from continuing operations	**5,833**	3,322
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3,567**	2,570
Materials and services	**2,609**	2,063
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**1,258**	1,058
Calculated taxation equivalents	**167**	95
Total expenses from continuing operations	**7,601**	5,786
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**(1,768)**	(2,464)
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**–**	–
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(1,768)**	(2,464)
Opening accumulated surplus	**4,317**	4,178
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**167**	95
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**2,445**	2,508
Closing accumulated surplus	**5,161**	4,317
Return on capital %	**(7.8)%**	(11.0)%

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Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of City Hall

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 2 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
User charges and fees	**1,695**	435
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**58**	68
Other income	**683**	720
Total income from continuing operations *	**2,436**	1,223
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**2,383**	1,387
Materials and services	**1,306**	1,032
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**1,488**	1,274
Other expenses	**1**	–
Calculated taxation equivalents	**117**	59
Total expenses from continuing operations	**5,295**	3,752
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**(2,859)**	(2,529)
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**–**	–
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(2,859)**	(2,529)
Opening accumulated surplus	**20,878**	21,844
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**117**	59
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**2,310**	1,504
Closing accumulated surplus	**20,446**	20,878
Return on capital %	**(6.5)%**	(7.4)%

(*) Gross operating revenue exceeded $2 million in the 2022/23 reporting period, redefining the business activity from Category 2 to Category 1.

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Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of Commercial Properties

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 2 $ '000	2022 Category 2 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
User charges and fees	**12**	10
Other income	**839**	812
Fair value increment on investment property	**–**	1,000
Total income from continuing operations	**851**	1,822
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**5**	7
Materials and services	**245**	288
Fair value decrement on investment property	**254**	–
Net loss from the disposal of assets	**–**	58
Calculated taxation equivalents	**162**	252
Total expenses from continuing operations	**666**	605
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**185**	1,217
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(46)**	(304)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**139**	913
Opening accumulated surplus	**14,700**	18,802
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**162**	252
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**46**	304
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**822**	(5,571)
Closing accumulated surplus	**15,869**	14,700
Return on capital % [1]	**1.2%**	8.1%

(1) For the purpose of calculating return on capital, the fair value of investment properties as at 30 June has been utilised rather than the written down value of IPPE.

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Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of Stockton Beach Holiday Park

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
User charges and fees	**2,918**	2,276
Other income	**9**	6
Total income from continuing operations	**2,927**	2,282
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**3**	6
Materials and services	**1,643**	1,021
Borrowing costs	**12**	22
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**207**	187
Other expenses	**142**	114
Calculated taxation equivalents	**64**	61
Debt guarantee fee	**8**	13
Total expenses from continuing operations	**2,079**	1,424
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**848**	858
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**(212)**	(215)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**636**	643
Opening accumulated surplus	**10,922**	11,156
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**64**	61
– Debt guarantee fees	**8**	13
– Corporate taxation equivalent	**212**	215
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**(1,775)**	(1,166)
Closing accumulated surplus	**10,067**	10,922
Return on capital %	**10.3%**	9.9%

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Newcastle City Council

Income Statement of Beresfield Childcare Centre

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 2 $ '000	2022 Category 2 $ '000
Income from continuing operations		
User charges and fees	**1,266**	1,128
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	**92**	104
Interest and investment income	**1**	–
Total income from continuing operations	**1,359**	1,232
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	**1,245**	1,068
Materials and services	**403**	552
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	**57**	48
Other expenses	**19**	–
Calculated taxation equivalents	**2**	–
Total expenses from continuing operations	**1,726**	1,668
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	**(367)**	(436)
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	**–**	–
Surplus (deficit) after tax	**(367)**	(436)
Opening accumulated surplus	**924**	971
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Taxation equivalent payments	**2**	–
Add:		
– Subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations	**302**	389
Closing accumulated surplus	**861**	924
Return on capital %	**(22.7)%**	(32.5)%

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Management Collection Service

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Receivables	**689**	587
Total current assets	**689**	587
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**3,820**	4,812
Right of use assets	**852**	450
Total non-current assets	**4,672**	5,262
Total assets	**5,361**	5,849
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	**12**	8
Lease liabilities	**865**	781
Employee benefit provisions	**969**	947
Total current liabilities	**1,846**	1,736
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**42**	18
Total non-current liabilities	**42**	18
Total liabilities	**1,888**	1,754
Net assets	**3,473**	4,095
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**3,473**	4,095
Total equity	**3,473**	4,095

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Waste Management Disposal Service

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Investments	**23,507**	23,380
Receivables	**3,270**	8,877
Total current assets	**26,777**	32,257
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**71,985**	64,913
Right of use assets	**1,480**	76
Total non-current assets	**73,465**	64,989
Total assets	**100,242**	97,246
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	**3,327**	8,609
Lease liabilities	**296**	83
Employee benefit provisions	**1,081**	973
Total current liabilities	**4,704**	9,665
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**25**	25
Provisions	**28,577**	29,929
Total non-current liabilities	**28,602**	29,954
Total liabilities	**33,306**	39,619
Net assets	**66,936**	57,627
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**55,690**	52,377
Revaluation reserves	**11,246**	5,250
Total equity	**66,936**	57,627

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Civic Theatre and Playhouse

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Receivables	**270**	263
Inventories	**60**	71
Total current assets	**330**	334
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**22,703**	22,385
Total non-current assets	**22,703**	22,385
Total assets	**23,033**	22,719
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	**3,630**	4,265
Employee benefit provisions	**336**	327
Total current liabilities	**3,966**	4,592
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**19**	36
Total non-current liabilities	**19**	36
Total liabilities	**3,985**	4,628
Net assets	**19,048**	18,091
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**5,161**	4,317
Revaluation reserves	**13,887**	13,774
Total equity	**19,048**	18,091

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of City Hall

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 2 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Inventories	**16**	12
Total current assets	**16**	12
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**43,840**	34,005
Total non-current assets	**43,840**	34,005
Total assets	**43,856**	34,017
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	**366**	321
Employee benefit provisions	**301**	210
Total current liabilities	**667**	531
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**35**	14
Total non-current liabilities	**35**	14
Total liabilities	**702**	545
Net assets	**43,154**	33,472
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**20,447**	20,878
Revaluation reserves	**22,707**	12,594
Total equity *	**43,154**	33,472

(*) Gross operating revenue exceeded $2 million in the 2022/23 reporting period, redefining the business activity from Category 2 to Category 1.

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Commercial Properties

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 2 $ '000	2022 Category 2 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Receivables	**127**	59
Total current assets	**127**	59
Non-current assets		
Investment property	**16,060**	14,990
Total non-current assets	**16,060**	14,990
Total assets	**16,187**	15,049
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	**31**	31
Employee benefit provisions	**2**	1
Total current liabilities	**33**	32
Non-current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	**285**	317
Total non-current liabilities	**285**	317
Total liabilities	**318**	349
Net assets	**15,869**	14,700
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**15,869**	14,700
Total equity	**15,869**	14,700

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Stockton Beach Holiday Park

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 1 $ '000	2022 Category 1 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**3,376**	3,433
Receivables	**–**	97
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	**1,233**	–
Total current assets	**4,609**	3,530
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**8,322**	8,927
Total non-current assets	**8,322**	8,927
Total assets	**12,931**	12,457
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	**555**	–
Contract liabilities	**129**	50
Borrowings	**102**	200
Employee benefit provisions	**1**	39
Total current liabilities	**787**	289
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	**102**	205
Employee benefit provisions	**–**	4
Total non-current liabilities	**102**	209
Total liabilities	**889**	498
Net assets	**12,042**	11,959
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**10,067**	10,922
Revaluation reserves	**1,975**	1,037
Total equity	**12,042**	11,959

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Newcastle City Council

Statement of Financial Position of Beresfield Childcare Centre

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 Category 2 $ '000	2022 Category 2 $ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Receivables	**34**	22
Total current assets	**34**	22
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	**1,618**	1,341
Total non-current assets	**1,618**	1,341
Total assets	**1,652**	1,363
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**122**	95
Total current liabilities	**122**	95
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit provisions	**11**	26
Total non-current liabilities	**11**	26
Total liabilities	**133**	121
Net assets	**1,519**	1,242
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	**861**	924
Revaluation reserves	**658**	318
Total equity	**1,519**	1,242

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Note – Significant Accounting Policies

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the Special Purpose Financial Statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair values of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's General fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. The *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses - A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality,* Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1 – business activities with gross operating revenue more than $2 million

Waste Management Collection Service
Collection of commercial, domestic and other waste

Waste Management Disposal Service
Waste disposal site activities

Civic Theatre and Playhouse
Operation of entertainment theatre

City Hall
Provision of conference, reception and entertainment facilities

Stockton Beach Holiday Park
Operation of holiday park

Category 2 – business activities with gross operating revenue less than $2 million

Commercial Properties
Commercial rental properties

Beresfield Childcare Centre
Operation of childcare centre

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continued on next page ...

Note – Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs. However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in the Special Purpose Financial Statements.

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

- Corporate income tax rate – 25.0% (or 30.0% for businesses with aggregated turnover greater than $50 million).
- Land tax – the first $969,000 of combined land values attracts 0%. For the combined land values in excess of $969,000 up to $5,925,000 the rate is 1.6% + $100. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds $5,925,000 a premium marginal rate of 2.0% applies.
- Payroll tax – 5.45**%** on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of $1,200,000.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities. While income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested. Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the relevant corporate income tax rate, currently 25.0% (or 30.0% for businesses with aggregated turnover greater than $50 million).

Income tax is only applied where a gain from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved. Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations – it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council.

Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the Special Purpose Financial Statements. The rate applied of 25.0% (or 30.0% where aggregated turnover exceeds $50 million) is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges payable on all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur when Council provides services on a less-than-cost-recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations.

Accordingly, 'subsidy paid/(contribution) to operations' (in relation to National Competition Policy) represents the difference between revenue generated from 'rate of return' pricing and revenue generated from prices set by Council in any given financial year.

The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statement of each reported business activity.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that Councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

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Note – Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Such funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies.

The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on their respective Income Statement.

The return on capital is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts + interest expense}}{\text{Written down value of I,PP\&E as at 30 June}}$$

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.02% at 30 June 2023.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities.

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Newcastle City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Newcastle City Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES

for the year ended 30 June 2023

City of Newcastle

Newcastle City Council

Special Schedules
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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Newcastle City Council

Permissible income for general rates

	Notes	Calculation 2022/23 $ '000	**Calculation 2023/24 $ '000**
Notional general income calculation [1]			
Last year notional income yield	a	169,498	**174,762**
Plus or minus adjustments [2]	b	930	**280**
Notional general income	c = a + b	**170,428**	**175,042**
Permissible income calculation			
Special variation percentage [3]	d	2.50%	**0.00%**
Or rate peg percentage	e	0.00%	**3.70%**
Plus special variation amount	f = d x c	4,261	**–**
Or plus rate peg amount	g = e x c	–	**6,477**
Sub-total	h = (c + f + g)	**174,689**	**181,519**
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total		86	**13**
Sub-total	i	**86**	**13**
Total permissible income	j = h + i	174,775	**181,532**
Less notional income yield	k	174,762	**181,525**
Catch-up or (excess) result	l = j - k	13	**7**
Less unused catch-up [4]	m	–	**–**
Carry forward to next year [5]	n = l + m	13	**7**

Notes

(1) The 'notional general income' will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis, which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.

(2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW).*

(3) The 'special variation percentage' is inclusive of the rate peg percentage and where applicable, the Crown land adjustment.

(4) Unused catch-up amounts or the rate-peg balance amounts will be deducted if they are not caught up within ten years. These amounts can be adjusted for when setting the rates in a future year.

(5) Carry forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the NSW Government Gazette in accordance with section 512 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The OLG will extract these amounts from permissible income from general rates in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.

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Permissible income for general rates

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Newcastle City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2023

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard $ '000	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council $ '000	2022/23 Required maintenance [a] $ '000	2022/23 Actual maintenance $ '000	Net carrying amount $ '000	Gross replacement cost (GRC) $ '000	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost 1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	6,070	36,488	9,310	8,365	224,930	436,106	5.4%	51.0%	33.3%	7.3%	3.0%
	Sub-total	**6,070**	**36,488**	**9,310**	**8,365**	**224,930**	**436,106**	**5.4%**	**51.0%**	**33.3%**	**7.3%**	**3.0%**
Other structures	Other structures	1,583	2,406	3,382	219	86,996	209,996	9.7%	22.3%	61.7%	4.2%	2.1%
	Sub-total	**1,583**	**2,406**	**3,382**	**219**	**86,996**	**209,996**	**9.7%**	**22.3%**	**61.7%**	**4.2%**	**2.1%**
Roads	Sealed roads	4,373	29,269	7,265	8,549	376,269	826,825	15.1%	54.8%	25.3%	4.4%	0.4%
	Unsealed roads	18	197	–	–	19	262	1.3%	14.4%	9.2%	75.1%	0.0%
	Bridges	387	4,836	40	–	30,545	66,016	18.9%	57.8%	16.1%	7.2%	0.0%
	Footpaths	159	1,433	1,264	2,214	108,643	223,747	9.6%	74.8%	15.0%	0.5%	0.1%
	Other road assets (including bulk earthworks)	–	–	–	–	227,909	227,909	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	**4,937**	**35,735**	**8,569**	**10,763**	**743,385**	**1,344,759**	**28.8%**	**49.0%**	**18.8%**	**3.2%**	**0.2%**
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	31,434	69,005	814	1,064	139,325	325,562	7.7%	43.8%	10.3%	6.9%	31.3%
	Sub-total	**31,434**	**69,005**	**814**	**1,064**	**139,325**	**325,562**	**7.7%**	**43.8%**	**10.3%**	**6.9%**	**31.3%**
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools	756	4,157	701	1,816	16,502	40,357	8.5%	0.0%	79.3%	12.2%	0.0%
	Other Open Space/Rec Assets	24	98	1,971	8,064	25,128	43,224	22.9%	64.6%	12.2%	0.1%	0.2%
	Sub-total	**780**	**4,255**	**2,672**	**9,880**	**41,630**	**83,581**	**15.9%**	**33.4%**	**44.6%**	**5.9%**	**0.2%**
Other infrastructure assets	Other infrastructure assets	6,985	25,589	577	1	64,296	131,462	19.7%	37.6%	22.3%	2.4%	18.0%
	Sub-total	**6,985**	**25,589**	**577**	**1**	**64,296**	**131,462**	**19.7%**	**37.6%**	**22.3%**	**2.4%**	**18.0%**
	Total – all assets	**51,789**	**173,478**	**25,324**	**30,292**	**1,300,562**	**2,531,466**	**19.6%**	**45.3%**	**24.8%**	**4.5%**	**5.8%**

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Key for asset condition

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal/upgrading required

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Newcastle City Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2023

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

$ '000	Amounts 2023	Indicator 2023	Indicator 2022	Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio				
Asset renewals [1]	**33,855**	**74.30%**	68.88%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	**45,566**			
Infrastructure backlog ratio				
Estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard	**51,789**	**3.98%**	3.87%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	**1,300,562**			
Asset maintenance ratio				
Actual asset maintenance	**30,292**	**119.62%**	124.01%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	**25,324**			
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level				
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed level of service set by Council	**173,478**	**6.85%**	5.77%	
Gross replacement cost	**2,531,466**			

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

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8.1 **Attachment B:** STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 413(2) OF THE ACT – GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023.

Newcastle City Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management
made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 31 October 2023.

Lord Mayor	**Councillor**
Chief Executive Officer	**Responsible Accounting Officer**

ITEM-XX **Attachment C:** STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 413(2) OF THE ACT – SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023.

DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Newcastle City Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management
made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement, *'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'*,
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines, *'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'*, and
- the Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.*

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- present overhead reallocation charges to the businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 31 October 2023.

Lord Mayor	**Councillor**
Chief Executive Officer	**Responsible Accounting Officer**

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/2023 – ADOPTION OF NEWCASTLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2023

8.3	**Attachment A:**	Newcastle Environment Strategy 2023
8.3	**Attachment B:**	Newcastle Environment Strategy - Public Exhibition Engagement Report

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Newcastle ENVIRONMENT Strategy

Roadmap to a sustainable Newcastle

2023



City of Newcastle

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Cover image: Ironbark Creek rehabilitation

Acknowledgement of Country

City of Newcastle (CN) acknowledges its Local Government Area (LGA) sits within the Country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancient relationships. We acknowledge the custodianship of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and the care and stewardship they have performed in this place since time immemorial. We recognise the history of truth that acknowledges the impact of invasion and colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how this still resonates today.



City of Newcastle

Caring for Country

CN supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart to champion constitutional change and come together to support a First Nations voice.

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors.

This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

(Excerpt from Uluru Statement from the Heart 2017)



City of Newcastle

Overlooking the nationally important Hexham Swamp



A message from our Lord Mayor

CN has long been a local government leader when it comes to protecting our precious natural environment, while investing into progressive actions to ensure our city is more sustainable for all. From our world class beaches to Blackbutt Reserve, from the river foreshore to our local parks and green open spaces, our environment underpins the Newcastle lifestyle.

Our shared community vision, *Newcastle 2040*, reflects the importance of the environment to all Novocastrians. We want Newcastle to be an even more sustainable city, where we value our natural environment and continue to take decisive action at the local level to respond to challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and the overuse of resources. The Newcastle Environment Strategy (NES) is our definitive roadmap for achieving our progressive environmental ambitions. Through this strategy, we are sending a signal to the community that we are strongly committed to protecting and enhancing Newcastle's natural environment today, and for future generations of Novocastrians.

Already, we have taken significant steps to reduce the city's emissions. With our 5MW solar farm at Summerhill and more than 900KW of solar power capacity installed across 16 sites, we ensured that in January 2020, CN became the first New South Wales council to be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity.

We continue to advocate in support of large-scale initiatives to transition towards clean energy including supporting the Newcastle Offshore Wind Zone and the Renewable Energy Zone, while working with our partners in the Federal Government on the establishment of the National Net Zero Authority to protect local jobs.

Since the watershed Pathways to Sustainability International Conference held in Newcastle in 1997, under the leadership of former Lord Mayor Greg Heys, and just two months after the announcement of the imminent closure of the BHP steelworks, we have recognised that we must take local action towards addressing global challenges. Through the NES, and our local, national and international collaborations, we recognise the important role cities play in creating a sustainable future, and how our local action will contribute to global change.

We are an active member of global networks and initiatives aimed at prioritising real action to address climate change. We have championed implementation of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and we are a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, an international alliance of cities promoting climate change action. We were also a pioneering city in pledging support for the Malmo Commitment, which positions local governments at the centre of the global response to the climate and nature emergencies and were one of the first cities to join the ICLEI Australia chapter of Cities With Nature, a shared global platform that encourages cities to incorporate nature-based solutions into urban planning and development.

We recognise that the United Nations has declared this decade 'The Decade of Action' for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The NES supports this call to action by contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and responding to the triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

CN is a leading government authority in Australia when it comes to implementing strong and decisive initiatives to address climate change, which is why we have already formally committed to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement. We will continue to provide regional leadership in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and responding to the triple planetary crises at the local government level.

Through our NES, we will act local, think global.

Councillor Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor of Newcastle



A message from our CEO

The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In 2021, the IPCC's latest report defined a climate tipping point as a "critical threshold beyond which a system reorganises, often abruptly and/or irreversibly".

The use of the word irreversibly places into context the gravity of what the NES is attempting to prevent from occurring. The latest science tells us that a climate tipping point could be reached in the event of a just 1.5°C degree increase in global temperature. By 2030 maximum temperatures in the Hunter are projected to rise by 0.7°C and continue to rise by 2°C by 2070. This will result in an average of 5 more days above 35°C per year by 2030 and 14 more days above 35°C per year by 2070. More specifically, erosion of our coastline will expediate as we have already started to see at Bar Beach, Dixon Park and Merewether Beach. Other avoidable impacts will include a decline in organic matter, a loss of biodiversity, and rising sea levels leading to an increased number of homes being identified as flood prone.

Globally, the triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution has delivered to our current leaders a responsibility to make transformative change now or forever be the generation that history will hold accountable for allowing the world to reach a point where broken systems can no longer be repaired.

Our elected Council has for many decades been a leader in responsible environmental activism. Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Newcastle Declaration, a historic declaration signed in our city and presented to the United Nations to demonstrate local governments' commitment to sustainable development. We have long championed local climate action and have led the development of natural asset and urban tree management systems. We are proud of our environmental achievements to date, but we also know that there is more work ahead of us than behind us, if we are to address our global challenges.

The NES provides the roadmap for addressing our global environmental challenges and building a liveable and sustainable city over the next ten years. We will enhance the delivery of our existing large and diverse portfolio of environmental works and programs. We will also increase investment in our community. We will continue our leadership role in responding to climate change by reducing our own organisational emissions, supporting our community to reduce their emissions, and encouraging innovation and new low carbon industries. We will build a climate resilient city by continuously improving our knowledge of climate change risks, integrating the risks into our organisational decision making, and designing and developing our city in response to the risks.

We will demonstrate organisational leadership by improving circularity and resource recovery in our operations and supply chain. We will support and advocate for industry, business and community to transition to a circular economy.

CN is committed to applying an adaptive management approach, where we will continuously improve by learning from the outcomes of our practices. We will share and promote our progress, innovative outcomes and achievements in implementing the NES.

We look forward to working together to create a more liveable and sustainable city.

Jeremy Bath
CEO of City of Newcastle

NEWCASTLE 2040 it's our future Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Newcastle ENVIRONMENT Strategy 2023 (NES)

	Action on climate change	Nature-based solutions	Circular economy
CSP priority			
CSP objectives What we want to accomplish and the outcomes CN wants to achieve for a sustainable Newcastle.	**Towards net zero emissions** Achieve net zero emissions by increasing energy and waste efficiency and reducing emissions from buildings, transport, infrastructure, and supply chains. Encourage clean technology and future energy initiatives and industries. **Know and share our climate risk** Undertake holistic, evidence-based assessment and monitoring of climate risks to enable best-practice risk and investment planning as we prepare for extreme weather events and support community and business to do likewise. **Resilient urban and natural areas** Create resilient communities, economies and natural areas that prepare for and adapt to climate risks. Prioritise social equity and ensure vulnerable communities are not left behind.	**Regenerate natural systems** Strengthen our natural environments, including our waterways and beaches, to support healthy, biodiverse systems; minimise pollution; and maintain recreational amenity as well as ecological and community value. **Expand the urban forest** Manage and care for Newcastle's urban forest and maximise urban greening, resulting in a healthy, green and biodiverse city that provides economic, ecological and social benefits. **Achieve a water-sensitive city** Integrate the water cycle in planning, design and construction to create liveable urban spaces. Capture water at the source, mitigate flood impacts through design, and create public spaces that collect, clean and recycle water.	**Design out waste** Create sustainable material cycles through the city's economy. Establish resource recovery industries and circular economy precincts. Increase recycling and productive reuse of organics. **Localised supply chain and sustainable procurement** Foster resilience and sustainability through procurement, resource-sharing and construction activities that preference local suppliers and supply chains.
NES strategic priorities Our key focus areas for achieving a sustainable Newcastle over the next 10 years	Supported by Four-year Delivery Plan (Appendix 1) Transition City of Newcastle (CN) operations to net zero emissions through the electrification or use of low emissions alternatives for our vehicles, plant and equipment, and reducing operational emissions at Summerhill Waste Management Centre. Support the transition of the Newcastle Local Government Area to net zero emissions through an accelerated uptake of onsite solar and batteries; electric or zero emissions transport and buildings; community renewable energy and battery storage projects; and the transformation of business and industry. Expand our understanding of local climate risks on our built and natural environment and our community and integrate evidence-based climate risk management into organisational decision making, investment planning and service delivery. Apply adaptive management to urban planning and development, infrastructure design and natural area management in response to increased climate risks from flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, storms, heatwaves, heat stress, drought, and bush and grass fires.	Apply the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Nature Futures Framework (Nature for Nature, Nature for Society and Nature for Culture) to guide projects and initiatives that respond to the climate change, nature loss and pollution crises. Build a network of high quality blue and green spaces that connects town centres, public transport hubs, schools and residential areas (a blue green grid) for enhanced liveability and biodiversity outcomes.	Improve circularity and resource recovery in CN's operations and supply chain, and support and advocate for industry, business and the community to transition to a circular economy.
NES indicators and targets Measuring our success and tracking our progress towards a sustainable Newcastle.	Appendix 2 ↑ number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives Net zero emissions from CN operations by 2030. 100% ↓ in city-wide GHG emissions from electricity by 2030. ↑ number of people using CN's flood alert system. Improvement in CN climate risk and resilience evaluation framework indicators. EV car sales ↑ to 52% of total car sales by 2030-31. ↑ solar PV uptake in Newcastle LGA. No one street and park tree species represent more than 10% of the tree population (biannual).	20% of CN bushland areas in excellent condition by 2033. Two strategic biodiversity corridor gaps protected or enhanced annually at a landscape scale. Annual length of watercourses rehabilitated. ↑ satisfaction with our blue, green and wild spaces. 40% tree canopy cover in the Newcastle LGA by 2045. 30% road reserve, and 30% open space, canopy cover by 2045. ↓ three-year average trend in potable water use in CN operations. ↑ overall Water-Sensitive Cities Index Score.	Improvement in CN sustainable procurement evaluation framework indicators.
Strategic links to NES	Newcastle Climate Action Plan Our Sustainable Waste Strategy Newcastle Transport Strategy On Our Bikes Cycling Plan Climate Change Risk and Resilience Plan (supports delivery of NES)	Urban Forest Action Plan (supports delivery of NES) Water-Sensitive City Action Plan (supports delivery of NES) Blue Green Grid Action Plan (supports delivery of NES)	Newcastle Climate Action Plan Our Sustainable Waste Strategy

Newcastle ENVIRONMENT Strategy 2023

Roadmap to a sustainable Newcastle



Our Newcastle

Our city, our people

Newcastle is located about 160km north of Sydney. It is Australia's seventh-largest city and is the heart of the Greater Newcastle Region, the largest regional centre in NSW.

Our population

Newcastle population 2021

169,317

Population by 2041

201,113

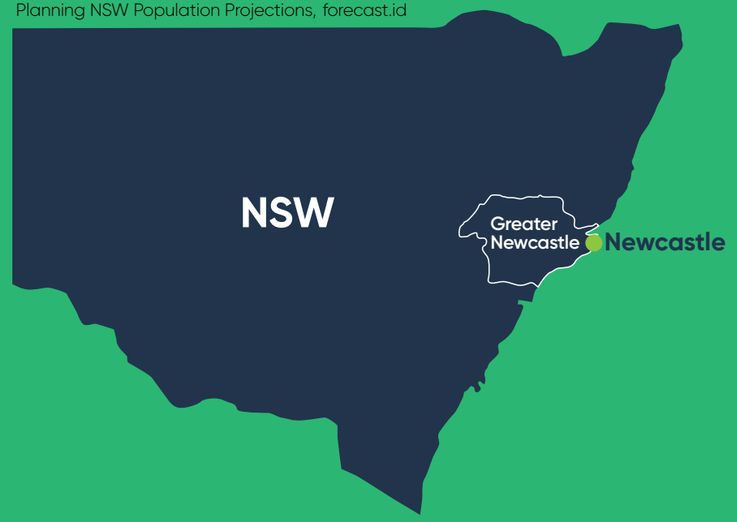
Greater Newcastle population 2021

604,115

Population by 2041

773,825

Planning NSW Population Projections, forecast.id



Estimated annual population growth rate
1.18% (2021-2022)

Local economy total spend

Newcastle **$19.8 billion**

Hunter Region **$64.1 billion**

(Research undertaken commissioned by CN using data from REMPLAN 2022)

Local citywide spending

Newcastle	60%	
Hunter Region	56%	$35.9b

Median age

Newcastle	37
NSW	39

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

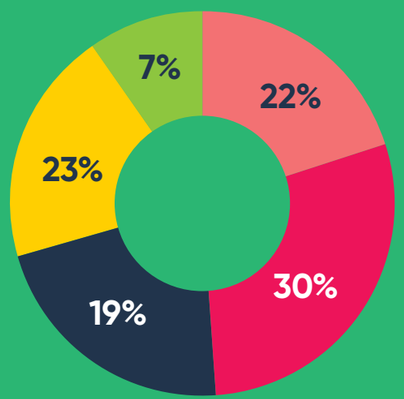
Newcastle	4.4%
NSW	3.4%

Born overseas

Newcastle	15%
NSW	29%

Speak a language other than English

Newcastle	11%
NSW	27%



Income by households (p/week)

- low income < $886
- lower to middle income $87 to $1,824
- middle to upper income $1,825 to $3,134
- high income earners $3,135+
- haven't stated their income

Top 3 industry sectors by employment

Healthcare and social assistance – creating **20,293** jobs

Education and training – creating **9,789** jobs

Retail trade – creating **8,803** jobs

102,800 jobs in Newcastle

49% live within LGA

$1,802 (p/week) average household income

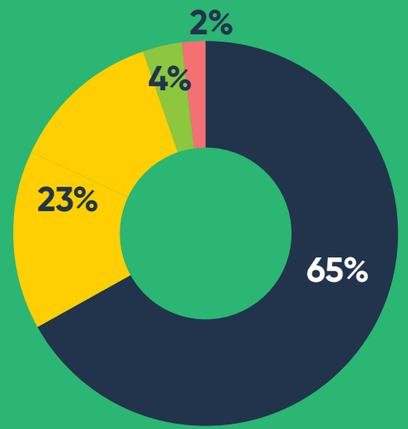
4.9% unemployment rate

53.5% journey to work by car

36,331 businesses

30% of the Hunter's developed industrial space

80% of the Hunter's office space



How we travel

- car
- worked at home
- walk/ride
- public transport

1 ferry - Queens Wharf to Stockton

2.7km light rail, with **6** stations

127 transport shelters

850km of roads

52 suburbs

2.34 people average household size

78.4% internet access at home

33% of dwellings are medium or high density

28.3% of residents fully own their home;
29.4% have a mortgage; **35.6%** are renting

40% recycling rate

Our environment

Newcastle is home to unique and diverse natural areas, including beaches, coastal headlands, wetlands, mangrove forests, rainforest gullies and bushland.

Our city is defined by the water that surrounds us. We have world-class beaches at our doorstep, and the Hunter River flows from the largest coastal catchment in NSW[1] to the sea in our city. Local waterways, including Ironbark, Throsby and Cottage Creeks, wind their way through our suburbs, and we are home to one of the largest expanses of coastal wetlands in south-eastern Australia, with around one third of the Newcastle LGA covered by wetlands.

Our city is also home to a mosaic of bushland. Expansive areas of bushland provide core fauna habitat at Glenrock State Conservation Area, Blackbutt Reserve, Jesmond Bushland, Blue Gum Hills Regional Park and surrounds. Smaller areas of public and private bushland provide tenuous corridors between our core patches of bushland.

The bushland and wetlands in the north-west of our LGA, including Mount Sugarloaf, Pambalong Wetland and Black Hill Bushland, contribute to the regionally significant Watagans to Stockton biodiversity corridor.

Newcastle retains a rich and diverse array of flora and fauna, including threatened species.

Over 30 vegetation communities have been mapped in our LGA, and we are home to nine endangered ecological communities, including Freshwater Wetlands, coastal Themeda grasslands and Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest. Around 100 threatened plant and animal species have been recorded in our city[2] , including the pink flowering shrub Black-eyed Susan and the critically endangered Scrub Turpentine, which are found in our bushland parcels.

1 NSW Water, *Hunter,* accessed 1 May 2023.

2 NSW Environment and Heritage, *Bionet Atlas*, accessed 17 April 2023.



Natural landscape features and known sacred sites include:

Whibayganba

Whibayganba is Newcastle's famous landmark, Nobbys. It is said that a notorious kangaroo jumped from Tahlbihn Point, at the site now known as Fort Scratchley, to the safety of Whibayganba. The kangaroo remains hidden in the island's bowels occasionally thumping its tail and making the land tremble. The thumping is said to be a reference to the region's earthquake activity.

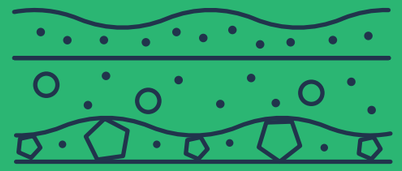
Yi-ran-na-li

There is also a high cliff at South Newcastle beach named Yi-ran-na-li, renowned for being a fearful place. Yi-ran-na-li must be respected by all, and no one should linger or speak in its vicinity because of the danger of falling rocks.

The Superb Fairy Wren inhabits many of our suburban gardens and the threatened Powerful Owl, the largest owl in Australasia[1], nests in the large trees of our bushland remnants. The nationally threatened Grey-Headed Flying-Fox graces our evening skies with camps found in the rainforest pockets of Blackbutt Reserve and the mangroves of Throsby Creek. Families of the threatened Squirrel Glider move through the trees of our larger bushland remnants at night, including Blue Gum Hills Regional Park and Blackbutt Reserve.

The Hunter River estuary is recognised as the most important migratory shorebird habitat in NSW, and our internationally important (Ramsar) estuarine wetlands provide habitat for threatened species and migratory shorebirds. The Bar-tailed Godwit can be found enjoying the summer months in our estuary before returning to the northern hemisphere for breeding[2]. The Godwit has recorded the longest non-stop migration by a bird, travelling 13,560km from Alaska to Tasmania without stopping[3] . Our estuary is also a key fish and prawn nursery, supporting fisheries for hundreds of kilometres along the Pacific coast.

Whilst our environment retains significant biodiversity values, it has experienced extensive and rapid change over the past 200 years. We have transitioned from a penal colony in the early 1800s to Australia's seventh largest city. During this time agriculture, mining, heavy industry and urban development have all impacted our environment, leading to habitat loss and fragmentation, the introduction of invasive species and a legacy of contamination.



The living part of soil is a critical part of every ecosystem, and is vital for maintaining fertility, species diversity and resilience in natural ecosystems. Soil biodiversity, including symbiotic fungi and mycelium, is increasingly recognised as being important for human health and wellbeing because healthy soils can suppress disease-causing soil organisms and positively influence the quality of food, air and water [4].



Pollinators play a vital role in our ecosystems, with almost 90% of the world's flowering plants and 75% of the world's food crops depending on pollinators. Worldwide, more than 20,000 species of bees and many species of butterflies, flies, moths, wasps, beetles, birds, bats and other animals contribute to pollination[5] (IPBES 2016).

1 NSW Environment and Heritage, 2022, *Powerful Owl – Profile.*
2 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, *Limosa lapponica*, accessed 17 April 2023.
3 Guinness World Records, 2023, The record-breaking bird that flew from Alaska to Australia without stopping.
4 Wall, D.H., Uffee, N.N., and Johan, S. 'Soil biodiversity and human health'. *Nature,* 528, 69–76 (2015).
5 IPBES, 2016. Press Release: *Pollinators Vital to Our Food Supply Under Threat.*

Environmental features of the Newcastle LGA

26% canopy cover (excluding waterbodies)

117,000 CN street and park trees

98 threatened plants and animals

9 endangered ecological communities

11.8 hectares of coastal *Themeda* grasslands

91 CN managed bushland parcels, covering **512** hectares

1,513 CN habitat trees

106 CN nest boxes

10 beaches

80 kilometres of creeks on CN land

8,600 hectares of wetlands in lower Hunter Estuary

3,000 hectares of internationally important (Ramsar) wetlands

65 CN managed wetlands, covering **200** hectares

4.5 kilometres of sand dunes

23 priority weed species

83% of our residents living within **500** metres of a natural area

From local to global

How the NES aligns with other strategies and plans

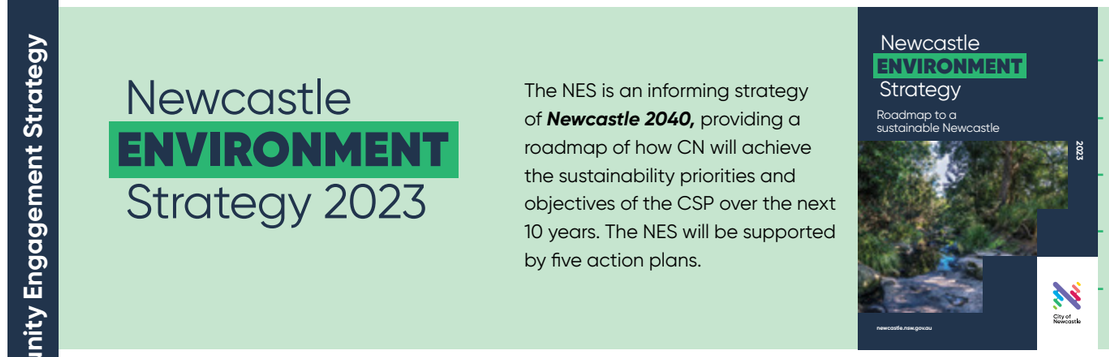


Continuous monitoring and review

Community Engagement Strategy



Our Sustainable Waste Strategy
A roadmap to transition to a resource recovery hub, by embracing best practice waste and resource management and catalysing our local circular economy. Key objectives of the strategy include delivering a long-term behaviour change program to improve the diversion of waste from landfill; creating and developing long-term local resource recovery options, like the organics processing facility and the materials recovery facility; powering future Summerhill Waste Management Centre infrastructure and operations through renewable energy; and collaborating with other Hunter Councils, State and Federal Government, industry experts and universities to explore and promote circular economy innovation.



- Climate Action Plan
- Climate Risk and Resilience Action Plan
- Urban Forest Action Plan
- Blue Green Grid Action Plan
- Water-Sensitive City Action Plan

Delivered in conjunction with:

- Our Sustainable Waste Strategy
- The Newcastle Transport Strategy
- On Our Bikes Cycling Plan

On Our Bikes Cycling Plan
Developing a safe and connected cycling network in our city which focuses on improving safety and comfort, connecting and improving the cycling network, supporting people to ride, and facilitating active transport.

The Newcastle Transport Strategy
CN will contribute to our city becoming a connected city with diverse transport options. The strategy supports active transport (walking and cycling) and public transport infrastructure and initiatives.

delivering NEWCASTLE 2040

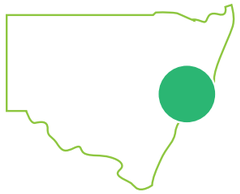
The NES also supports ***Delivering Newcastle 2040***, CN's action plan for achieving the ***Newcastle 2040*** community vision and priorities.

- Delivery Program
- Operational Plan

resourcing NEWCASTLE 2040

- Long-Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Development Strategic Plan
- Asset Management Strategic Plans

Reporting to our community: Performance Reports + Annual Report + State of our City Report



Delivered at the regional level

The NES supports the ***Hunter Regional Plan 2041*** and ***Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036,*** two key regional planning documents that outline the vision, goals and actions needed to achieve greater prosperity for all people who live, work and study in the Hunter Region.





The NES also supports the following regional strategies and plans:

Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032

Greater Hunter Regional Water Strategy

Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan

Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027



Delivered at the state level

The *NSW Local Government Act 1993* details the guiding principles for council decision-making, specifying that:

- Councils should consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations
- Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The NES supports the NSW Government's:

- ***Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030***, to fast-track emissions reduction over the next decade and prepare NSW to take further action in the decades to follow.
- ***Electric Vehicle Strategy,*** to drive uptake and reduce barriers for electric vehicle (EV) purchases, to increase EV sales to 52% by 2030–31 and to help NSW achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- ***Climate Change Adaptation Strategy,*** which provides a framework that will strengthen and expand action to adapt to climate change now and over the long term.
- ***Biodiversity Conservation Program,*** which outlines strategies for assisting threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

Through the NES, CN will continue to deliver its coastal management program (CMP) in accordance with the NSW Coastal Management Manual, which provides technical information and guidance to assist councils in addressing the requirements of the *NSW Coastal Management Act 2016* and a risk management process for councils to follow when preparing a CMP.

CN will also continue to deliver its flood risk management program in accordance with the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy and Floodplain Development Manual, which guides local government in managing flood risk in their communities.



Delivered at the national level

Ecologically sustainable development is economic growth that supports preservation of the environment and natural resources, now and forever. ESD is enshrined in the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* with the principles:

- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation
- The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations
- The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making
- Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted

The NES supports the Federal Government's:

National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy

National Waste Policy Action Plan

Strategy for Nature 2019–2030

Creating Places for People: An Urban Design Protocol for Australian Cities



Delivered at the global level

CN recognises there is a global climate emergency and that we require a rapid transition away from fossil fuel-based industries towards a low carbon economy, if we are to meet the global **Paris Agreement** commitment to "hold the increase in the global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change".

CN is a long-standing member of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). CN has pledged support for **The Malmo Commitment**, focusing on strategies towards a climate neutral future, resilient and healthy communities, equitable and inclusive communities and sustainable finance and innovation.

CN is a member of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**, an international alliance of cities with a shared long-term vision of promoting voluntary action to combat climate change and the transition to low-emission and resilient societies. The Global Covenant now includes over 10,000 cities from 120 countries, representing over 970 million people and 12.4% of the total global population, and is the largest global network of councils leading action on climate change. CN has also taken the **Cities Race to Zero** and **Cities Race to Resilience** pledges.

CN is a pioneer city of the ICLEI Australia chapter of **Cities With Nature**, which is a shared global platform that encourages cities to incorporate nature-based solutions into urban planning and development. CN is one of seven founder councils of the **Cities With Nature Academy.**

CN is a founding member of **CIFAL Newcastle** which is a United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). CIFAL's purpose is to build the capacity of cities and communities with a focus on integrating Sustainable Development Goals and implementing disaster risk reduction and public health strategies.

The Hunter Estuary wetlands are listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar convention. Migratory birds from these wetlands are protected by three international agreements: **JAMBA, CAMBA,** and **ROKAMBA**. In 2024, CN will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the **Kushiro Sister Wetland Agreement**, which aims to raise public awareness of the importance of the sister wetlands of the Hunter Estuary and Kushiro and share knowledge and research between countries.

Our global commitment

In September 2015, 193 countries committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals provide a global roadmap for all countries to work towards a better world for current and future generations.

CN immediately declared our support and intention to deliver the SDGs and began proactively implementing action and engagement. CN is committed to contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and has been working towards increasing and improving our contribution to this shared global vision.

The SDGs are significant and will take time to achieve. However, it is important to recognise the steps CN is taking to progress these goals. While CN recognises the importance of all 17 SDGs, the NES most closely aligns with nine of the 17 SDGs.

City of Newcastle

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

How SDG is addressed by NES



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

A healthy environment is the foundation of good health and wellbeing. The NES supports the management and enhancement of natural and open spaces for recreation and amenity. It also aims to reduce pollution and emissions, and build a resilient city to reduce environmental health effects.



Goal 6. Achieve availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The NES supports our ongoing journey towards a water-sensitive city, with increased water retention, infiltration and recycling.



Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Clean energy is the key element to how we will create a net zero emissions city. The NES outlines how we will transition to green energy in CN operations and across the city.



Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The NES addresses the shift in our region towards clean energy and zero waste, including reduced use of fossil fuel energy and single-use plastics. The NES promotes collaboration with business, industry and our community.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The NES supports the development and retrofit of our city's infrastructure to be more energy, water and waste efficient. The NES will prepare us for the effects of climate change and support a climate-resilient city.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

CN acknowledges the climate emergency and seeks to transition to a climate-resilient city.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The NES addresses pollution that ends up in our waterways, including plastics, sediment and other pollutants. This will help protect the marine environment.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The NES promotes the increased use of nature-based solutions to protect and enhance the ecosystems and biodiversity within our city. The NES values regeneration and protection of our natural spaces, as well as the integration of our natural assets into accounting and reporting systems.

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Sustainability and the regeneration of our environment requires collaborative partnerships with government, industry, business and the community.

Challenges and opportunities

Our people are changing

Our population is growing and changing, putting increasing demand on environmental resources, assets and services. We are also changing the way we value and interact with our natural and open areas, with more people working from home and increasing their time spent in our urban green areas. A healthy environment supports a healthy community. Our physical and mental wellbeing depends on the quality of our air, water, food systems and interactions with nature.

Population The population of Newcastle is expected to grow from 169,317 in 2021 [1] to 201,113 by 2041 [2], causing increased demand for environmental resources.

Housing More than 15,000 new dwellings will be needed between 2021 and 2041 [3]. The western corridor of the Newcastle LGA is expected to have up to 1,902 new dwellings accommodating over 3,000 new people over the next 20 years, largely on 'greenfield' (undeveloped, often bush) land [4]. Urban renewal corridors in inner city areas will see increased dwelling densities.

1 profile.id 2023
2 forecast.id, 2023

3 forecast.id
4 forecast.id

The decade of action

The United Nations recognises that we are putting extreme pressure on our global environment and are currently facing a triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution. Our climate is changing, with 21.5 million people displaced by climate change related disasters each year[5]. Nature is declining at rates unprecedented in human history, with one million species of plants and animals currently facing extinction [6]. Each year more than seven million people die prematurely from pollution. Our unsustainable production and resource consumption is contributing to all three crises[7].

In response to these crises, the United Nations has declared this decade 'The Decade of Action' for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals[8]. We have to act now to ensure we leave a positive legacy for future generations[9]. Transformative change is required at a local to a global level to respond to the climate emergency and we need to reframe our relationship with nature to ensure a sustainable future[10]. There is an opportunity for CN to provide regional leadership in responding to the crises at the local government level.

5 UNFCC 2022
6 UN 2019, UNEP 2023
7 UNEP 2020

8 UN 2023
9 UNEP 2020
10 UN 2019, Pereira, LM, Davies, KK, den Belder, E, et al. 2020

The climate crisis

The climate emergency has become the key social and economic challenge of the 21st century. We are beginning to see the impacts of a changing climate on our everyday lives. The effects of climate change will be experienced in Newcastle through the increasing frequency, severity and duration of weather events, impacting our community, as well as public and private assets, and natural areas. There are also indirect consequences of climate change to our health, wellbeing and economy.

Changing climate

Increasing temperatures: By 2030 maximum temperatures in the Hunter are projected to rise by 0.7°C and continue to rise by 2°C by 2070[1].

Extreme heat: The Hunter is projected to experience an average of 5 more days above 35°C per year by 2030 and 14 more days above 35°C per year by 2070[2].

Rainfall: By 2070 annual rainfall is projected to increase across most of the Hunter. Increases are seen across the region during summer and autumn. There are also increases across most of the region during spring[3].

Sea levels: Sea level rise of between 0.21m and 1.06m is projected for the central NSW coast, which includes the Newcastle LGA, by 2100. A total of 50,774 properties could be exposed to tidal inundation across NSW if sea levels rise by 1m [4].

At risk assets: By the year 2100, under a high emissions climate scenario, nearly 100,000 properties in the LGA (almost 20% of properties) will be at risk from the effects of climate change. Almost 9,000 properties in the LGA will be at 'high risk' [5].

Severe fire weather: By 2039, severe fire weather is projected to increase across the Hunter in summer and spring[6].

1 AdaptNSW
2 AdaptNSW
3 AdaptNSW

4 OEH 2018
5 Climate Council, 2022
6 AdaptNSW

Transforming our industries and economy

Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot will require rapid, far-reaching and in some cases unprecedented transitions in energy, land, urban, building and transport infrastructure, and industrial systems[7]. The lion's share of emissions cuts needs to occur this decade if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Newcastle, as the worlds' largest coal port, is uniquely positioned to harness the opportunities associated with a rapid transition away from fossil fuel-based industries and towards a low carbon economy, and become an international leader in renewable energy and associated industries. However, this transition will require significant capital investment and an adaptation of skills, infrastructure and services.

Job transition Approximately 1,200 people in Newcastle and 14,260 people in the region are employed directly in the mining sector[8], and many thousands more are indirectly reliant on mining for income.

New clean energy jobs A national net zero emissions target can result in 195,000 jobs in the coming 50 years, especially in regional areas[9].

7 IPCC 2018
8 REMPLAN 2023

9 Business Council of Australia, 2021

The nature crisis

As a growing metropolitan city, we are placing increasing pressure on our natural environment, including the clearing of vegetation, which leads to habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss. We have also introduced pest and weed species that compete with our native species, and our environment is now facing increasing threats from climate change.

Aging tree population: In Newcastle, our urban forest is aging, with 69% of our total street and park tree population projected to be lost by 2045.

Hard surfaces: 32% of the Newcastle LGA is hard (non-pervious) surface, including pavements, roads and roofs.

Threatened vegetation communities and species: Nine endangered ecological communities and 100 threatened plant and animal species have been recorded in the Newcastle LGA[1].

Harnessing nature-based solutions

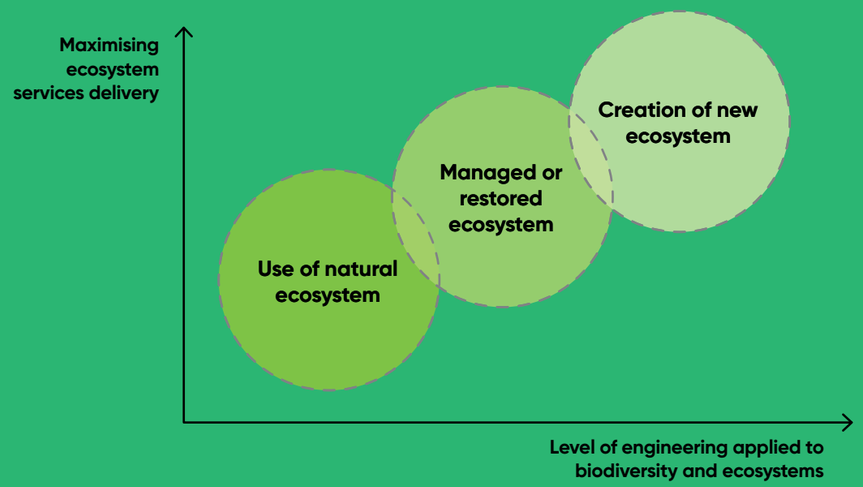
Put simply, nature-based solutions are actions that address a societal challenge whilst providing a net gain for biodiversity. Nature-based solutions range from the conservation of existing core areas of vegetation to the creation of new habitat through the installation of green roofs and walls. We can use nature-based solutions to respond to the triple planetary crisis and protect and enhance nature. A key opportunity exists for CN to provide leadership in the demonstration and implementation of nature-based solutions.

Creek renaturalisation: Over the last decade, CN has rehabilitated 3,162m of urban creek line within the Ironbark Creek catchment, using natural design principles.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD): CN currently has 105 WSUD devices, including infiltration pits, raingardens, sediment basins and infiltration tanks.

A typology of nature-based solutions, showing the three main categories of solutions based on natural, restored and new ecosystems, is presented below:

Typology of nature-based solutions[2]



1 NSW Bionet

2 IUCN 2016.

Unsustainable production and resource use

Ongoing unsustainable production and resource use has contributed to the triple planetary crisis[3]. Without a shift in the way we consume, use and manage resources, future generations will struggle to meet their needs. The unsustainable production and use of resources also leads to increased waste and pollution.

Waste: Summerhill Waste Management Centre collected 64,255 tonnes of 'waste' in 2022-2023.

Waste to resource: The domestic recycling diversion rate was 40% in 2022-2023.

Driving a circular economy

A circular economy responds to the challenge of meeting our current resource needs without compromising the needs of future generations. It is based on three principles: designing out waste and pollution; keeping products and materials in use (ideally at their highest value); and regenerating natural systems.

Summerhill Waste Management Centre: provides opportunities for developing advanced resource recovery processes, as well as a regional resource recovery hub for attracting circular economy innovation partners.



Photo by Olivia Groves - winner of NES Photo Competition Open Category

3 UNEP 2020

Our engagement

How we engaged

We've sought out our community's vision for the environment of Newcastle. The NES is built on feedback from our community, our local environmental experts and CN staff.

We received:

4,500

pieces of feedback

Approximately 4,500 pieces of feedback were gathered from community surveys and other engagement activities.

We heard from:

200

experts

Approximately 200 environmental practitioners from the private sector, neighbouring local councils, state government bodies, and non-government organisations, and educators and researchers, gave us their feedback.

150

staff

Approximately 150 staff and subject matter experts across CN gave us their feedback.

What we heard

The environment is highly valued and there is strong support for CN to grow and improve our environmental works and programs. By topic, highly rated priorities included:

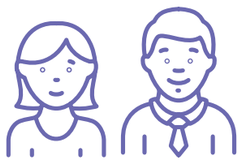
- **Reducing waste**
- **Protecting our natural areas**
- **Taking strong action on climate change**
- **Valuing our open green spaces for environmental quality and recreational amenity**

Priorities differed by age:



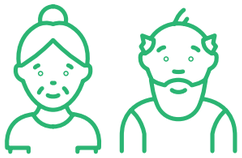
Younger people

value taking strong action on climate change, to reach 100% renewable energy and net zero emissions.



Mid-aged people

value more trees, plants and green spaces, and using water wisely.



Older people

value protecting our natural areas and coastlines, using technology to reduce waste and preparing for future natural disasters from climate change.

Public exhibition of the draft NES

CN placed the draft NES on public exhibition from 27 July to 24 August 2023

Engagement activities

The community were able to participate in a number of ways:

Completing our online survey

132

survey responses

Written submission via online form or email

7

written submissions

Visiting us at one of our community pop-ups

200+

people attended

Entering our photo competition

49

entries

Communication and promotion

3,102

Have Your Say webpage visits

115,000

people reached via organic and paid Faceboook posts

2,500

people

e-Newsletter distributed to over

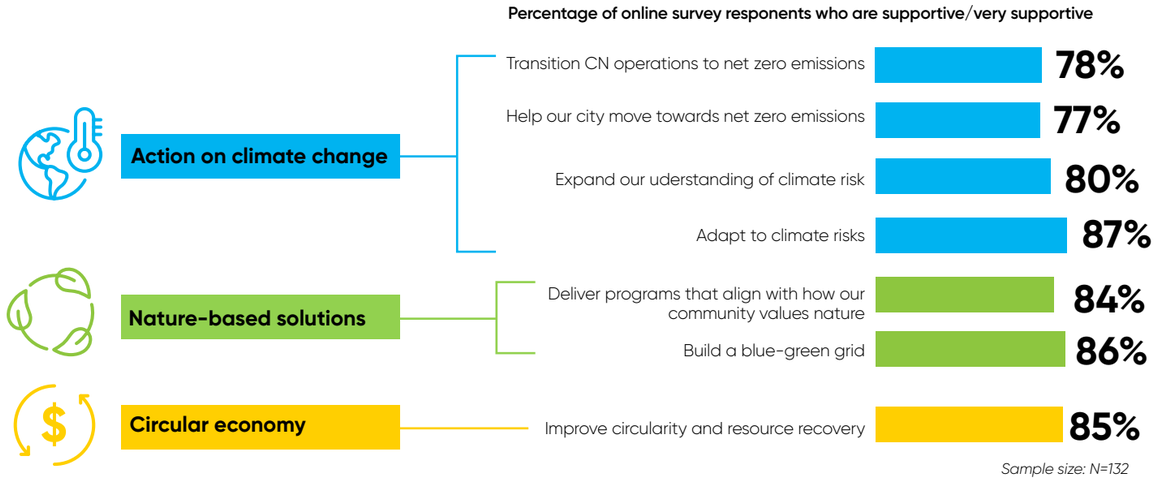
152

stakeholders

Direct email to

Media release

Support for strategic priorities and deliverables



Decades of progress

CN has been committed to protecting and improving our environment for decades. In 1997, we hosted the international conference 'Pathways to Sustainability' and *The Newcastle Declaration* was signed, which was a commitment from local governments around the world to sustainable development. The Declaration was presented to the United Nations at the Rio+5 Conference in New York and last year CN commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Declaration.

CN has celebrated many achievements over recent decades, which have supported the delivery of progressive environmental outcomes for our city.

Many of our environmental achievements and outcomes wouldn't have been possible without the support of our community.

CN has engaged and empowered tens of thousands of passionate school children, volunteers and residents who have helped to plant trees and other native plants; become citizen scientists and provided valuable data; assisted in restoring our natural areas; created backyard habitats; and transitioned to water and energy efficient and waste conscious households.



Tree planting day

Our environmental achievements

1997

CN hosted the international conference 'Pathways to Sustainability' and the **Newcastle Declaration was signed** which was a commitment from local governments around the world to sustainable development. The Newcastle Declaration was presented to the United Nations at the Rio+5 Conference in New York.

1998

First Newcastle Airshed Management Action Plan was developed to improve the air quality of our city.

2000

CN **introduced yellow recycling bin** to kerbside waste service

2002

CN developed the **ClimateCam delivery framework** which provided a whole-of-organisation approach to continuous improvement in sustainability, focussing on reducing carbon emissions and water usage. A ClimateCam suite of programs for households, schools and businesses was successfully delivered for over a decade.

2003

The **Newcastle Environment Management Plan (NEMP) was prepared** in response to Pathways to Sustainability and *The Newcastle Declaration*. The NEMP catalysed CN's environmental achievements and established an Environment Levy for the decade that followed.

2004

A **Sustainable Urban Water Cycle Policy for Newcastle was developed,** with CN seen as a championing council in urban water cycle management and the implementation of Water-Sensitive Urban Design.

2005

CN awarded the **Statewide Mutual Risk Management Excellence Award** for contaminated land policy development and management focusing on preventing risks to health and the environment.

2007

CN developed the first local government, purpose built **urban tree management system** in NSW, which was considered a critical milestone in public tree management.

CN adopted the **Urban Forest Policy** to achieve an expanded and sustainable canopy cover throughout the LGA.

CN launched the **world first ClimateCam billboard.** The billboard provided hourly updates of the city's electricity usage and monthly carbon pollution estimates.

2007/08

CN was one of the first councils in NSW to adopt a **natural asset management system** alongside our built assets.

2008/09

Ironbark Creek catchment rehabilitation program begins – the staged program has rehabilitated creek lines from the headwaters down through the upper and lower reaches of Ironbark Creek. The program has renaturalised the creek and created resilience to a range of flow conditions, reduced erosion and sedimentation, improved local biodiversity corridors and habitat, fostered community stewardship and improved aesthetics. The program has won six state and national awards for ecological engineering and community engagement.

2011

CN first **trials electric vehicles and installs Electric Vehicle infrastructure**, to assess the potential benefits as an alternative to petrol-fuelled cars, such as reduced emissions, improved air quality and reduced street noise.

2012

Three Waste Bin program introduced by CN which led to significant increases in domestic waste being diverted from landfill.

2014

Blackbutt Reserve wins the **ecotourism award** at the Hunter Central Coast Awards for Excellence in Tourism.

2020

CN becomes first council in NSW, and one of the first across the country, to **move to 100% renewable electricity supply** for all CN operations.

Stockton Coastal Management Program certified – the first in NSW. The CMP includes actions to help manage, maintain, and preserve the coast between the northern breakwater of the Hunter River and Meredith Street.

CN joined the **Pioneer City as part of the ICLEI CitiesWithNature** initiative.

CN's Lord Mayor chairs the **first Oceania Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Committee.**

2021

CN awarded the national **Banksia Sustainability Award** for participation in the Sustainable Development Goals City Challenge.

CN joined the **United Nations Cities Race to Zero and Cities Race to Resilience** initiatives.

2022

CN, in partnership with Ausgrid and EVX, delivered **Australia's first power pole mounted EV charger** at Dixon Park Beach.

2023

CN selected as a founding member council of the **ICLEI CitiesWithNature Academy.**

Our environmental outcomes



We improved our understanding of shoreline recession and coastal inundation using the latest climate science with the completion of the ***Stockton Bight Sand Movement Study*** **in 2020** and ***Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Processes Review Report*** **in 2022.**

We prepared long-term strategies for the management of our open coast with the preparation of the ***Newcastle Coastal Zone Management Plan*** **in 2018** and the first certified ***Coastal Management Program*** in NSW for Stockton Beach in 2020.



Between 2012 and 2020, we worked with the Port of Newcastle to place **244,000m³ of sand dredged from Newcastle Harbour along Stockton Beach.**

We successfully advocated over a number of years for the NSW government to commit to the delivery of a **mass sand nourishment program at Stockton Beach**. This will be NSW's first mass nourishment campaign. Investigative works into multiple sand sources have commenced to ensure the nourishment program is flexible and resilient into the long term.

We have also delivered **significant interim coastal protection works at Stockton** to manage immediate risks ahead of mass sand nourishment.



In 2023, Newcastle airport (part owned by CN) was the **second airport in Australia to reach level 4 in the Airport Carbon Accreditation Program.**



Between 2019 and 2023, we supported citizen science by **installing five community CoastSnap monitoring points** to capture our changing coastline.



In 2023, we partnered with neighbouring councils to develop the **Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study.**



Over the last 15 years, we expanded the **flash flood alert system** to cover the majority of the Newcastle LGA.



In 2020, we completed the **Tyrrell Street bridge upgrade and in 2019/20 we** removed a building over Cottage Creek at Hunter Street bridge to **improve flows during large floods.**



In 2017, we adopted the **Strategic Position for the Management of Low-Lying Areas of Newcastle** and have commenced **sea and groundwater level monitoring.**



In 2023, we prepared the ***Throsby, Styx and Cottage Creek Flood Study*** in line with the ***Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines*** **2019.**



Since 2012, we have installed **13 rooftop and carpark solar PV systems** totalling **685kW** and generating approximately one gigawatt hour of renewable energy each year. Four battery systems have also been installed between 2015 and 2023.



In 2019, we constructed a **5MW solar farm** on a closed landfill site at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre. We are one of only two local councils in Australia to build and operate a solar farm.



From 2013 to 2015, we delivered the Smart Buildings Smart Workforce program, where seven major CN sites were upgraded with air conditioning, lighting and thermal performance improvements. The program resulted in reduced electricity use of **1.45 GWh** and savings over $245,000 each year.



We completed **energy efficiency upgrades** to the Newcastle Museum, which won a Cities Power Partnership national award in 2018.



Over the past decade we have collaborated with the Hunter Business Chamber and Hunter TAFE to deliver the award-winning Energy Hunter program to **over 350 businesses across the region,** providing real-time electricity monitoring, energy audits, workshops and assistance in developing energy efficiency projects. The program helped businesses **reduce electricity use by 5.6GWh and save over $1.1M each year.**



Since 2018, we have replaced 5,000 lights on residential roads, **reducing our electricity consumption by 1.38 GWh each year,** which represents **10%** of our total electricity consumption.



Over the last fifteen years we have **rehabilitated 3,162m of creek lines within the Ironbark Creek catchment** using natural design principles, with over $8 million invested to date.



Over the last decade we have regenerated **2,210 hectares** of our bushland.

In the last decade we have planted **over 8,520** new street and park trees across the Newcastle LGA and invest $1.5 million annually in this program.



We have planted over 1.96 million native plants in the last decade as part of our bushland and coastal rehabilitation projects.



In 2013, we adopted an innovative **WSUD Above Wetland and Stream Erosion Index** in our Development Control Plan.



We have **18 active Landcare groups,** comprising over 150 volunteers, who dedicated over 4,500 hours to natural areas restoration activities in 2021/22.

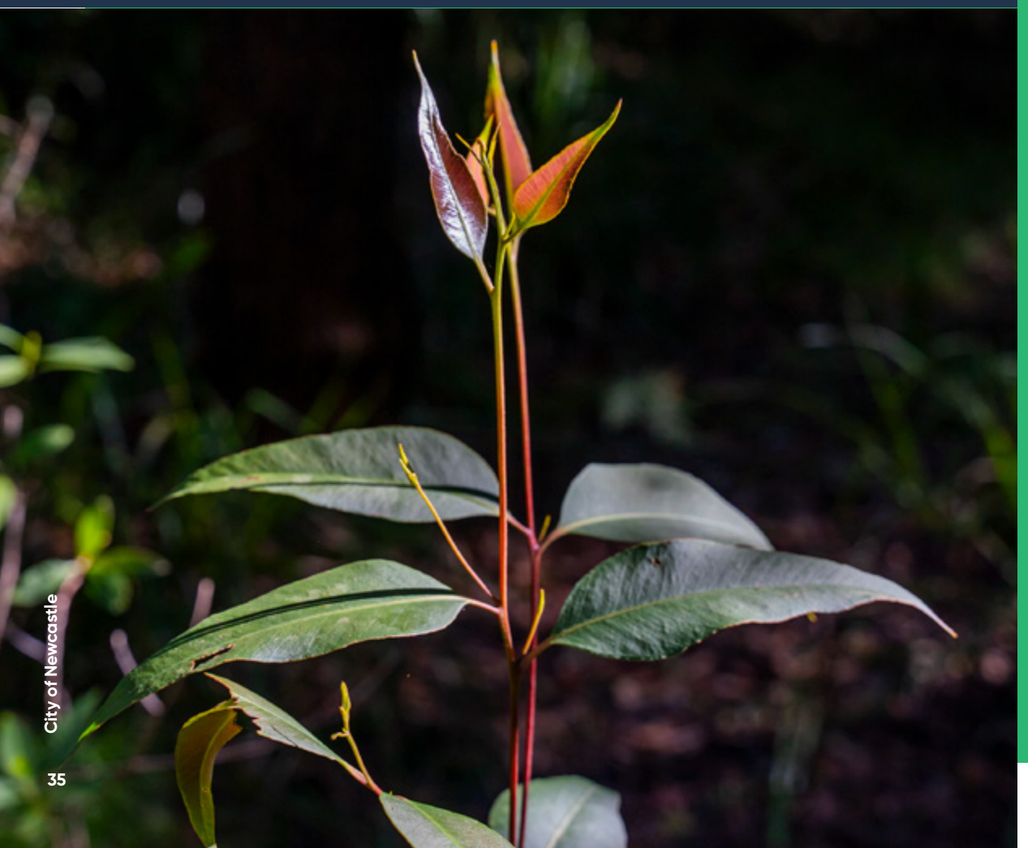
Around **8,000 people** have participated in our summer coastal events program over the past 10 years.



We currently have over **1,300 Natural Connections** newsletter recipients.

Continuing on our sustainability pathway

Each year, CN delivers a large and diverse portfolio of works and programs to protect and enhance our local environment and to enhance the sustainability of our city. In conjunction with the new strategic priorities and deliverables contained in the NES, it is imperative that we continue to deliver and improve our current portfolio of works and programs - to capitalise on our outcomes to date; to continue our role as environmental leaders; and to achieve our vision of becoming a sustainable Newcastle.



CN continues its commitment to delivering:

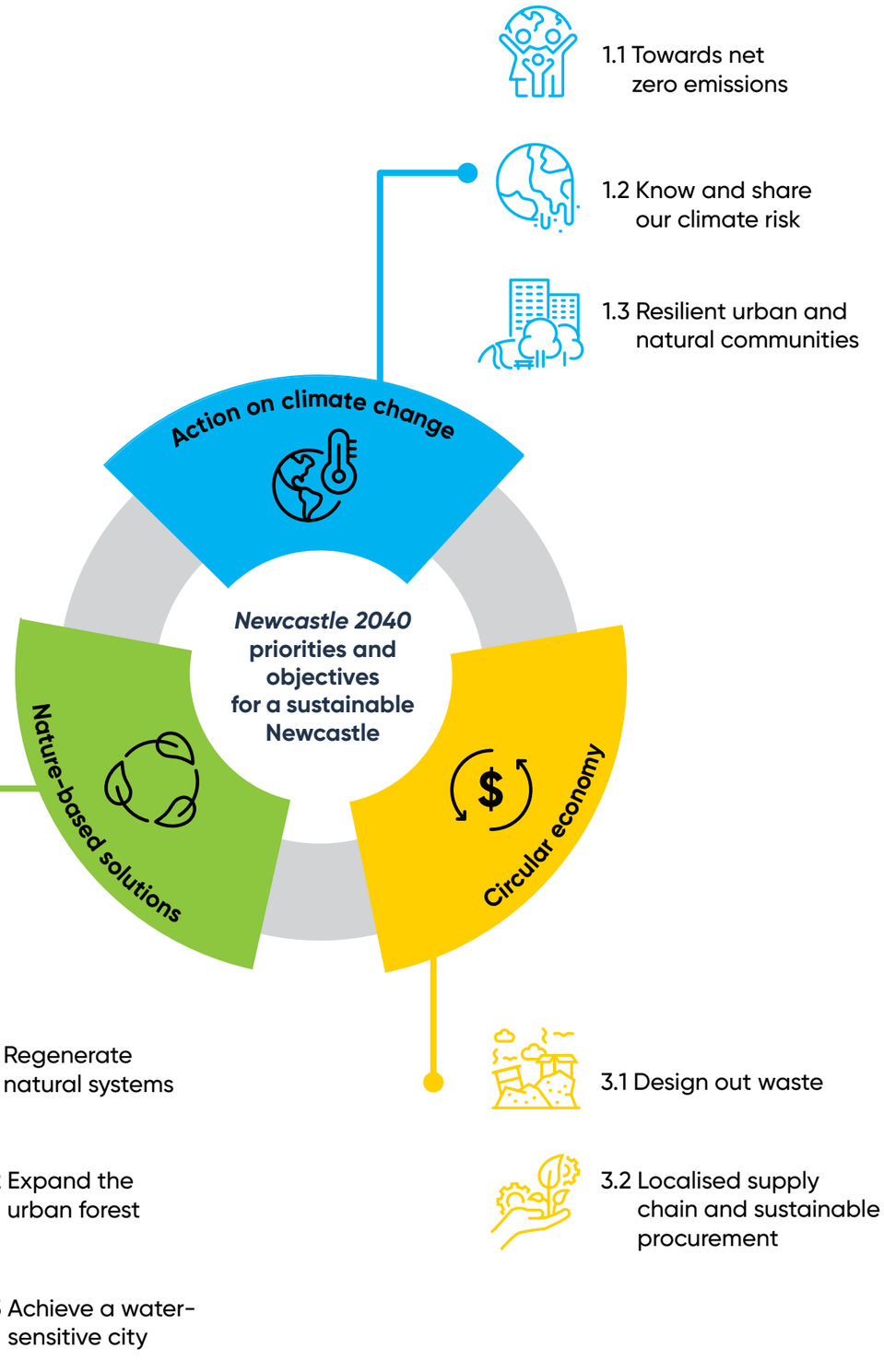
- Solar and battery installations on CN assets and facilities.
- Energy and water efficiency improvements in CN assets and facilities.
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- A natural assets renewal program, to improve the health and condition of our bushland, waterways, coast and estuaries.
- A street and park tree replacement program and other 'greening our city' initiatives, including street and community gardens.
- Tree assessment, maintenance and life extension programs.
- Blackbutt Reserve management.
- The Blackbutt Reserve, Living Streets and Natural Connections environmental education programs.
- A community urban forest program.
- Coastal, flood risk and bushfire management programs.
- Strengthened local land use planning, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to electric vehicles, facilitate active transport, protect and enhance biodiversity, expand the urban forest and drive a circular economy.
- Landcare, Dunecare and Coastcare volunteer programs.
- Strengthened Water-Sensitive Urban Design in the delivery of our capital works programs.
- A management response to the 'Strategic position paper for the management of low-lying areas of Newcastle.'
- Regulatory functions and programs to reduce air, noise, water and land pollution, including illegal dumping and encroachment.
- An invasive species program.

Our STRATEGY



Vision for a sustainable Newcastle

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



The NES provides a roadmap for achieving the sustainable theme of *Newcastle 2040*, our Community Strategic Plan (CSP), over the next 10 years.

The NES aligns with the three priority areas identified in our CSP, namely action on climate change, nature-based solutions and circular economy, and the eight objectives that fall under these three priority areas.

The NES includes seven strategic priorities that demonstrate our key focus areas over the next 10 years. The NES is supported by a Four-year Delivery Plan that identifies 15 key deliverables for achieving our strategic priorities (Appendix 1).

The NES will be delivered in conjunction with CN's *Our Sustainable Waste Strategy, Newcastle Transport Strategy* and *On our Bikes Cycling Plan* and is currently supported by the *Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-2025.* Four additional action plans will support the delivery of the NES, outlined in the Four-year Delivery Plan.

A series of indicators and targets have been developed to measure the success of the NES (Appendix 2).



Photo by Hennessy Reynolds - winner of NES Photo Competition Primary Category

NEWCASTLE 2040
it's our future
Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Our 20-year vision
for a sustainable Newcastle



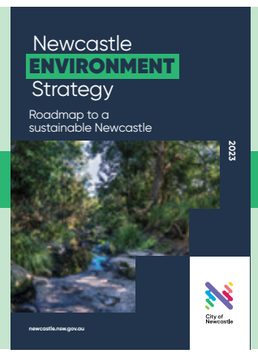
Priorities
Our community focus areas

Action on climate change · **Nature-based solutions** · **Circular economy**

Objectives
What we want to **accomplish** and the outcomes CN wants to achieve for a sustainable Newcastle

Newcastle
ENVIRONMENT
Strategy 2023

Our 10-year roadmap
to a sustainable Newcastle



Strategic priorities
Our 7 key focus areas for achieving a sustainable Newcastle over the next 10 years

Four-year Delivery Plan
15 key deliverables for achieving the strategic priorities

Indicators and targets
Track our progress towards a sustainable Newcastle

delivering
NEWCASTLE 2040

Delivery Program · **Operational Plan**

Our commitments

Some things are non-negotiable. They go above and beyond objectives, strategic priorities and deliverables and are central to everything we do. These are our commitments. They underpin the NES and inform the actions we take, the choices we make, the behaviours we demonstrate and the interactions we have. Our commitments will ensure that CN progresses as a local government environmental leader.

Through the delivery of the NES, we are committed to:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture

CN recognises Aboriginal peoples as the first people of Australia and the Traditional Custodians of the land. Aboriginal people have lived here for over 60,000 years and are recognised as the oldest continuous culture in the world. We understand and appreciate that Aboriginal people have diverse, unique languages and spiritual beliefs and an enduring reciprocal relationship with the land and we seek lessons from this long period of stewardship.

CN commits to developing a genuine understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to Country and we embrace moving forward together and building a relationship based on mutual respect that acknowledges, values and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their spirits, their spiritual beliefs and their culture.

CN commits to working in partnership with our traditional custodians to integrate and foster indigenous knowledge and stewardship and cultural sensitivity into the decisions we make, the land we care for and manage and the projects and programs we deliver and in supporting the retention and protection of cultural items and areas.

Working together

CN recognises that community engagement and action is critical to the successful delivery of the NES. CN commits to delivering programs, initiatives and incentives that build community knowledge and empower the community to act. CN commits to enabling local Landcare volunteers.

A regenerative future

CN recognises the intrinsic value of our natural environment, the benefits of nature to our society, and how nature is intertwined with our culture and wellbeing. CN commits to the global challenge of meeting the needs of all whilst simultaneously regenerating our planet. In applying a regenerative approach, CN commits to protecting biodiversity corridors and areas of high environmental value from development, rehabilitating and restoring our environment, and designing a city that can coevolve with nature.

CN commits to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, including the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity, the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity, and improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms. CN commits to the prevention of pollution.

CN commits to applying the Nature Futures Framework in planning for and delivering a positive future for our city. The framework recognises the diversity of values that people have for nature, including Nature for Nature, Nature as Culture and Nature for Society.

Adaptive management

CN commits to applying an adaptive management approach. We will use systematic decision-making processes and will continuously improve our management practices by learning from the outcomes of our practices. CN commits to complying with all relevant environmental legislation.

Social justice principles

CN commits to making fair and equitable decisions to support a cohesive society and ensure that vulnerable communities are not left behind.

The four principles of social justice are:

- **Equity**
  Resources are allocated according to need with the aim of achieving more equal outcomes, particularly for those with greater needs or barriers to access.
- **Access**
  People have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life.
- **Participation**
  People can fully participate in community life and genuinely influence decisions that affect their lives.
- **Rights**
  Human rights are universal – everyone has the right to be treated with respect, equality and dignity. Human rights are the basic freedoms and protections that people are entitled to, including economic, social, cultural and political rights.

CN commits to the implementation of social justice principles with the aim of decreasing or eliminating inequity, promoting inclusiveness of diversity, and establishing environments that are supportive of all people.

Innovation

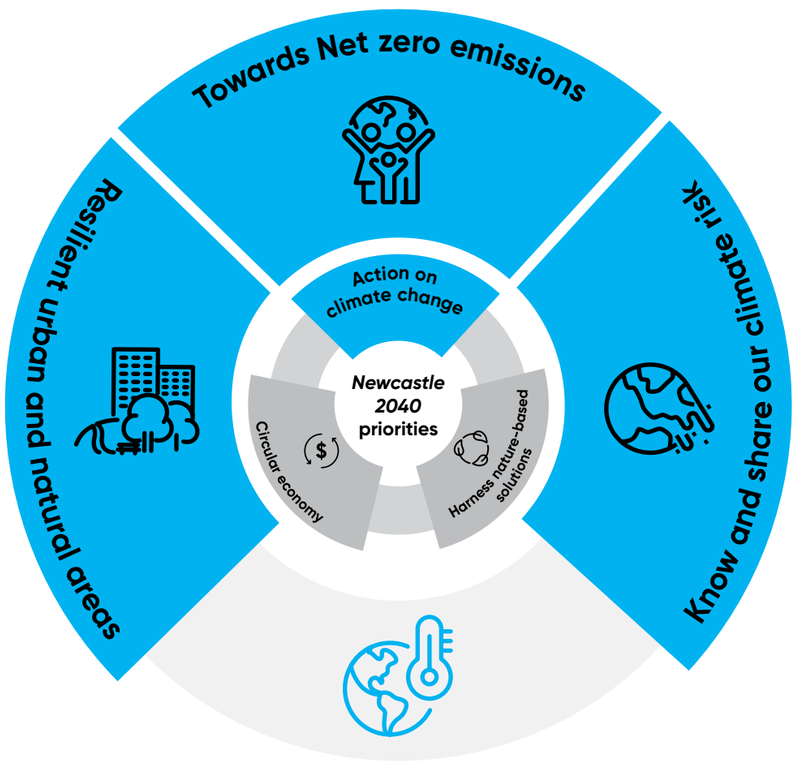
CN commits to seeking out best and next practice and embracing evidence-based, data-driven innovation. CN commits to embracing creativity and innovation in our organisation and in our community. CN commits to applying innovation to improve our community's experience and to enhance the sustainability, amenity and liveability of our city. CN commits to capitalising on our industrial history by using our skills, infrastructure and culture to build our future. CN will support skills development, training, research and engagement to drive and manage change.

Sharing knowledge

CN commits to identifying targets for the successful implementation of the NES and regularly sharing our progress against these targets. CN commits to sharing and promoting our environmental outcomes and achievements.

Action on climate change

***Newcastle 2040* priority 1**



We respond to the climate emergency by committing to net zero emissions and preparing for risks from increasing temperatures, storms, coastal erosion, flooding and bushfires. Decisions we make build resilient communities, infrastructure and natural areas.

Why action on climate change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in temperature and weather patterns caused by increasing levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Global surface temperature was 1.09°C higher over the last decade (2011-2020) than the 1850-1900 average, with larger increases over land (1.59°C)[1]. Almost all of that increase can be attributed to humans. In 2019, atmospheric CO_2 concentrations were higher than at any time in at least 2 million years[2].

This has coincided with an increasing trend in the magnitude, intensity and frequency of climate and weather extremes, from heatwaves and droughts to floods and storms, in every region across the globe, with extensive economic, environmental and social costs for local communities[3].

Climate projections indicate the world faces large scale collapse and loss of entire ecosystems; severe impacts to human health, from stronger heatwaves, lower air quality, and extreme loss of food and water; an increased extent of extreme weather and climate events, such as flooding, drought, severe storms and wildfire; increased damage to critical infrastructure; and severe economic losses due to aggregated and compounding impacts [4].

The seriousness of the threats posed by climate change has led to the adoption of the Paris Agreement, which is a legally binding international treaty on climate change committing signatories to "holding the increase in the global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change".

The effects of climate change are already being experienced in Newcastle through more climate 'shocks'- single events like heatwaves, bushfires, floods and coastal erosion; as well as 'stresses'- incremental and increasing pressures on our assets, community and economy.

Action on climate change brings opportunity. We can transition our economy to a world-leading renewable energy supplier and make proactive decisions that prepare us for the changes ahead.

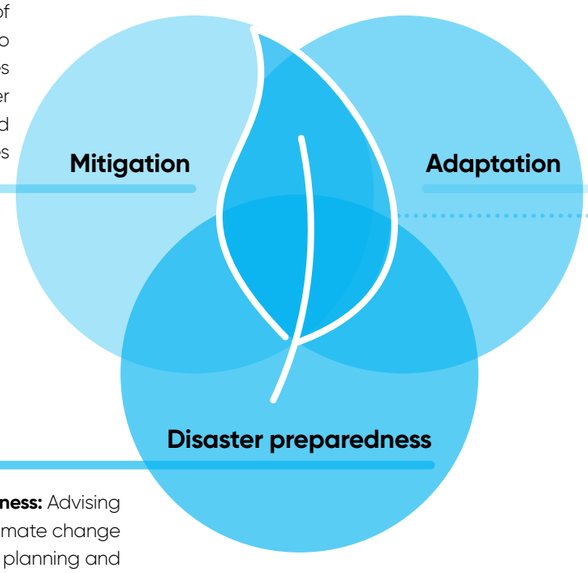
1 Climate Council (2021)
2 Climate Council (2021)
3 Climate Council (2021)
4 IPCC (2018)

Effects of climate change on our city

	Shocks (short-term effects)	Stresses (longer-term effects)
Assets and services	Damage to property and infrastructure from extreme weather events.	Ongoing increases in temperature affecting assets and services. More frequent and higher inundation from tides.
Ecosystems	Ecosystems can die off during a fire or extreme heat event. Changes to the water cycle can also effect vegetation.	Loss of vegetation from heat, groundwater level, salinity or drought. Wildlife and vegetation often can't adapt, which increases invasive species.
Community	Risk to life from extreme weather events and short-term displacement.	Mental and physical health effects. Permanent displacement, decreased social cohesion, and increasing vector-borne disease. Effects are more often experienced by those more vulnerable.
Economy	Repair after an extreme weather event is expensive and it can cost more to 'build back better'.	The ongoing and increasing cost of maintenance to effected assets, increasing cost of insurance against disasters, and transitioning away from a coal economy.

Acting on climate change

Mitigation: Preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Examples include using solar rather than fossil fuels for power and energy efficiency measures

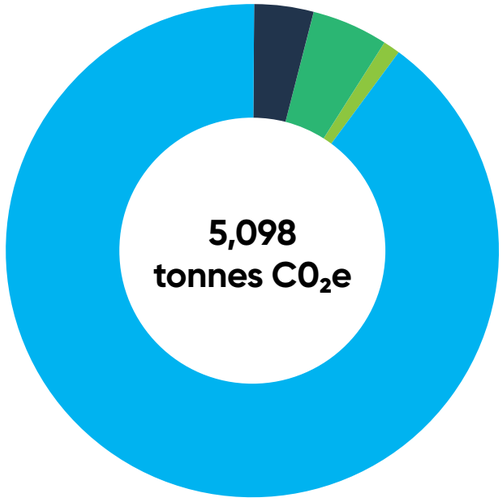


Adaptation: Actions to prevent or minimise the adverse effects of climate change. Examples include coastal protection or shading to reduce heat

Disaster preparedness: Advising on the effects of climate change to better inform our planning and emergency response to extreme weather events. Examples include developing and improving flood warning systems

The best actions are those that positively affect all areas, for example, increasing the urban forest absorbs carbon from the atmosphere, reduces the heat island effect and can reduce the impacts of flooding through water infiltration.

CN has championed renewable energy and action on climate change for over 20 years and has adopted the *Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-2025*, which commits CN to achieving net zero emissions from our operations by 2030 (from transport fuels, fossil-based gas and LPG, water and wastewater and office paper), and sets a goal for a net zero Newcastle by 2040.

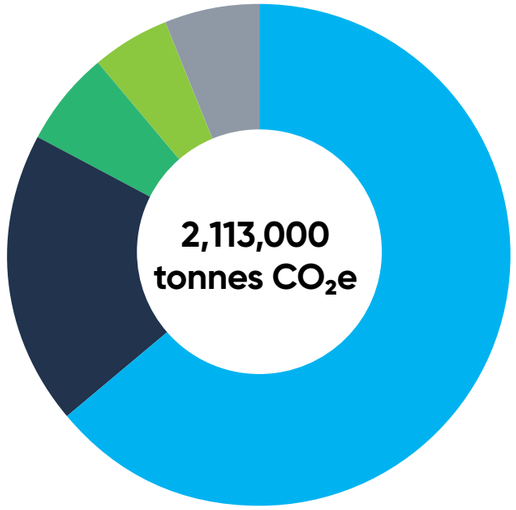


City of Newcastle emissions profile 2020 (excluding landfill emissions at Summerhill Waste Management Centre)[1]

- Transport fuels 90%
- Fossil-based gas and LPG 4%
- Water and wastewater 5%
- Office paper 1%

The strategic priorities and deliverables in the NES align with the *Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25*. With electricity removed as CN's main emission source, through the supply of 100% renewable electricity, the use of fossil-based liquid fuels, such as diesel and unleaded petrol, in CN cars, trucks, plant and equipment now account for over 90% of CN's remaining operational emissions. Through the NES, we need to ensure that we maintain a 100% renewable electricity supply, through energy efficiency, upgrading existing legacy streetlights, increasing onsite solar PV and battery storage and a 100% renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement, whilst focusing on reducing our remaining emissions through the electrification of CN's fleet and operational vehicles, plant and equipment.

1 CN 2021



Emissions profile for Newcastle LGA 2020/21[1]

- Electricity 64%
- Transport 19%
- Gas 6%
- Waste 5%
- Other (such as emissions from agriculture) 6%

CN supports the transformation of our region to a low carbon economy through renewable energy and will continue to advocate for new renewable energy industries. CN supports the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone and the declaration of an area in the Pacific Ocean off the Hunter, NSW as suitable for future offshore wind development, where environmental impacts can be appropriately managed. CN has an important role to play in demonstrating leadership, sharing knowledge, enabling action and encouraging innovation and new low carbon industries. City-wide electricity reduction through energy efficiency initiatives and switching to renewable energy in homes, businesses and industry can reduce emissions by two-thirds in the Newcastle LGA and lead to significant energy cost savings. Through grid decarbonisation, an accelerated uptake of solar and batteries and transitioning our buildings and transport to electric and low emissions alternatives, a net zero Newcastle is in reach.

1 Snapshot 2023

Action on climate change

Newcastle 2040 priority 1 - our community vision

Newcastle 2040 objectives

What we want to accomplish and the outcomes CN wants to achieve for a sustainable Newcastle.

1. Towards net zero emissions

Achieve net zero emissions by increasing energy and waste efficiency and reducing emissions from buildings, transport, infrastructure, and supply chains. Encourage clean technology and future energy initiatives and industries.

2. Know and share our climate risk

Undertake holistic, evidence-based assessment and monitoring of climate risks to enable best-practice risk and investment planning as we prepare for extreme weather events and support community and business to do likewise.

3. Resilient urban and natural areas

Create resilient communities, economies and natural areas that prepare for and adapt to climate risks. Prioritise social equity and ensure vulnerable communities are not left behind.

NES strategic priorities

Our key focus areas for achieving a sustainable Newcastle over the next 10 years.

Supported by Four-year Delivery Plan (Appendix 1)

- Transition CN operations to net zero emissions through the electrification or use of low emissions alternatives for our vehicles, plant and equipment, and reducing operational emissions at Summerhill Waste Management Centre.
- Support the transition of the Newcastle LGA to net zero emissions through an accelerated uptake of onsite solar and batteries; electric or zero emissions transport and buildings; community renewable energy and battery storage projects; and the transformation of business and industry.
- Expand our understanding of local climate risks on our built and natural environment and our community and integrate evidence-based climate risk management into organisational decision making, investment planning and service delivery.
- Apply adaptive management to urban planning and development, infrastructure design and natural area management in response to increased climate risks from flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, storms, heatwaves, heat stress, drought, and bush and grass fires.

NES indicators and targets

Measuring our success and tracking our progress towards a sustainable Newcastle.

Appendix 2

Net zero emissions from CN operations by 2030.	Improvement in CN climate risk and resilience evaluation framework indicators.
100% ↓ in city-wide GHG emissions from electricity by 2030.	EV car sales ↑ to 52% of total car sales by 2030-31.
↑ number of people using CN's flood alert system.	↑ solar PV uptake in Newcastle LGA.
↑ number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives.	No one street and park tree species represent more than 10% of the tree population (biannual).

Strategic links

Our Sustainable Waste Strategy
Newcastle Transport Strategy
On Our Bikes Cycling Plan
Newcastle Climate Action Plan
Climate Risk and Resilience Action Plan (supports delivery of the NES)



Closure of Newcastle's BHP, 1997

We work together

Governments at all levels, business, industry and the community have important, complementary and differentiated roles in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. However, local governments are often at the front line in meeting the climate crisis, being both directly effected by the change and able to make long-term strategic decisions to lessen the effects for our community. We continue to partner with government, business, industry and our community to act on climate change.

We learn from past transitions

In 1997 Newcastle's then largest employer, the BHP steelworks, announced it was closing its doors, and 2,500 jobs were lost within two years. Through this transition, we grew and changed as a city. We will embrace these lessons to give us confidence to transition into our future of renewable energy.

Local stories

Solar panels above EV charging station at No. 2 Sportsground



CN E-Transit Hub at No. 2 Sportsground

CN provides a solar-powered EV charging hub and renewable electricity supply at No.2 Sportsground.

Known as an 'E-Transit Hub', the charging station was the first to roll out across the city and includes a 44kW solar car park cover, three EV chargers and more than 120kWh of battery storage, which is enough to power an average Newcastle home for nearly nine days.

The E-transit Hub will act as a testbed for similar facilities around the city.

Shade structures and increased vegetation and landscaping in Beresfield

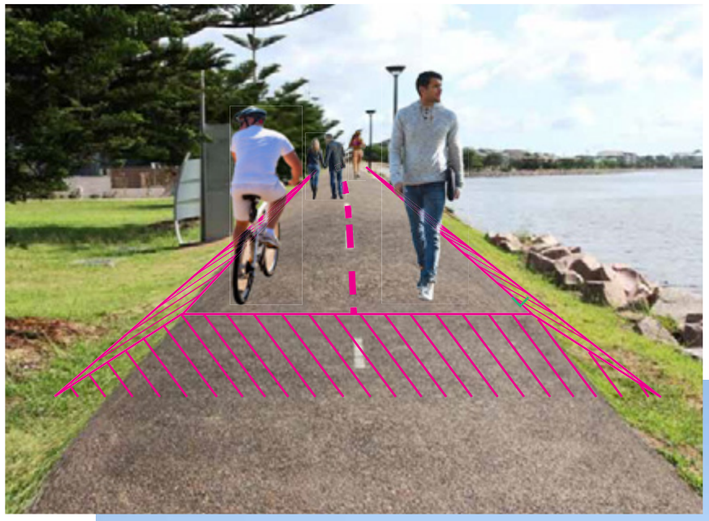


Building cool spaces to beat the heat

The suburb of Beresfield experiences extreme heat. It is located in the west of the Newcastle LGA, away from the cooling influence of the coast, and experiences additional heat from the built environment (the urban heat island effect). This heat will intensify with climate change.

Beresfield Local Centre was one of the first centres to be renewed in 2018/19 as part of CN's local centres program. In collaboration with the University of Newcastle's School of Architecture and Built Environment, we incorporated elements to cool the site, including more trees, shrubs and other vegetation, as well as natural stone and light-reflective materials.

Measurements before and after the Beresfield local centre upgrade have found reduced temperatures up to 10°C in parts of the precinct.



Throsby cycleway with potential levee



A high tide in Throsby Creek

Sharing the risk of flood inundation and sea level rise

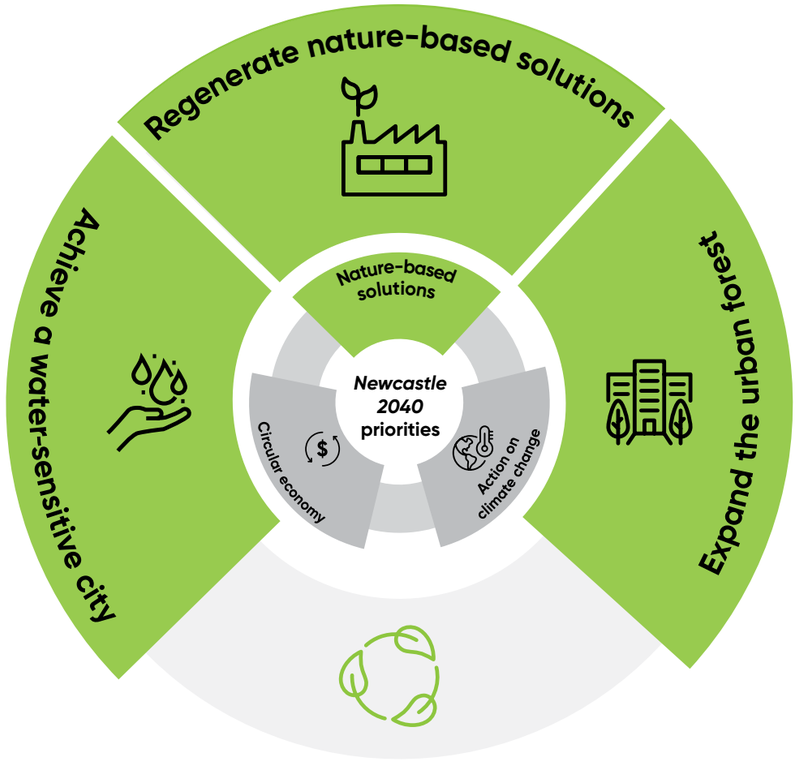
CN has undertaken detailed investigations to determine impacts from flood inundation, incorporating increases in sea levels and high tides, across low-lying land within the Newcastle LGA. Investigations included assessing a range of management options that could mitigate the predicted impacts of climate change. When comparing the costs and benefits of the options, feasible measures were identified to protect the low-lying suburbs from the predicted impacts of up to 0.8 metres of sea level rise. When sea level rise nears 0.8 metres, the existing measures will be reviewed and CN's strategic position will be updated.

The Strategic Position for the Management of Low-Lying Areas of Newcastle outlines practical and timely measures that can be initiated to reduce the impacts of flooding from sea level rise. The timing for the implementation of measures is based on when we meet sea level benchmark 'triggers'.

The paper helps guide future decisions of CN, in particular those related to planning policy and the maintenance and renewal of public infrastructure, including funding.

Nature-based solutions

***Newcastle 2040* priority 2**



We manage and enhance our blue, green and natural 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, integrated management that is adaptable to current and future risks. We regenerate our natural systems and work towards zero pollution through collaboration with our community and industry partners.

Why nature-based solutions?

Nature-based solutions play a pivotal role in addressing the following global challenges:

Climate change

Nature-based solutions can both mitigate our carbon emissions and improve our resilience to climate change. Nature-based solutions can protect existing vegetation to avoid the carbon emissions that result from clearing. Vegetation is enhanced by nature-based solutions to increase the capture and storage of carbon. Nature-based solutions can improve our resilience to climate change by providing increased shading and cooling, minimising erosion, and attenuating flooding.

Nature loss

Our city is not immune to the nature crisis. Newcastle has suffered from the clearing of vegetation and the introduction of invasive species and is now facing increasing threats from climate change. However, we still have many natural values worth protecting, including a diverse and rich array of vegetation communities and threatened species, like the Squirrel Glider and Green and Golden Bell Frog. Nature-based soutions can protect, rehabilitate, restore and connect our natural areas.

Pollution

Newcastle has a legacy of soil contamination from our industrial past and continues to be effected by air and water pollution, as well as illegal dumping and litter. Nature-based solutions, like phytoremediation, being the use of plants and associated soil microbes to reduce the concentrations or toxic effects of contaminants in the environment, can be used to treat historic contamination. Nature-based solutions can also improve air and water quality by absorbing and filtering pollutants.



Photo by Tasman Mitchell -
winner of NES Photo Competition Secondary Category



Harnessing nature-based solutions

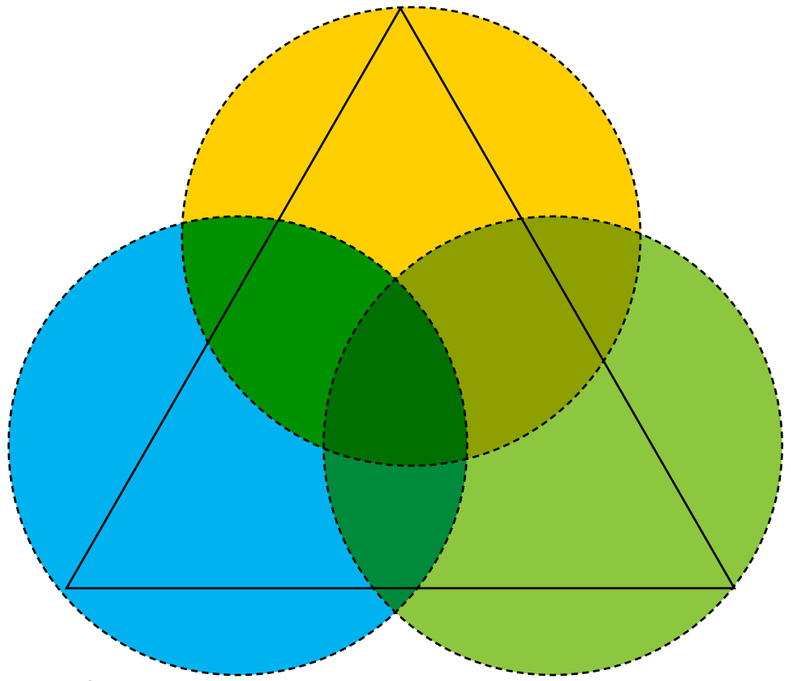
We are in the United Nations Decade of Action, where globally we can work together to transform our world. As our city continues to grow and become more urbanised, we want to act local, but think global, by doing our part in responding to the nature crisis with a suite of nature-based solutions. We will lead transformative change by utilising the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Nature Futures Framework (NFF) to build a positive future with nature and guide our works over the coming decade.

We recognise that people value nature for different reasons and will use the NFF to consider all values in the planning and delivery of works and programs. Valuing nature more and intertwining it into our city, and mainstreaming the use of nature-based solutions means we will do our part in addressing the triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

Nature Futures Framework[1]

Nature for nature

- Intrinsic value of nature.
- Space allocated for nature.



Nature as culture

- Living in harmony.
- People one with nature.

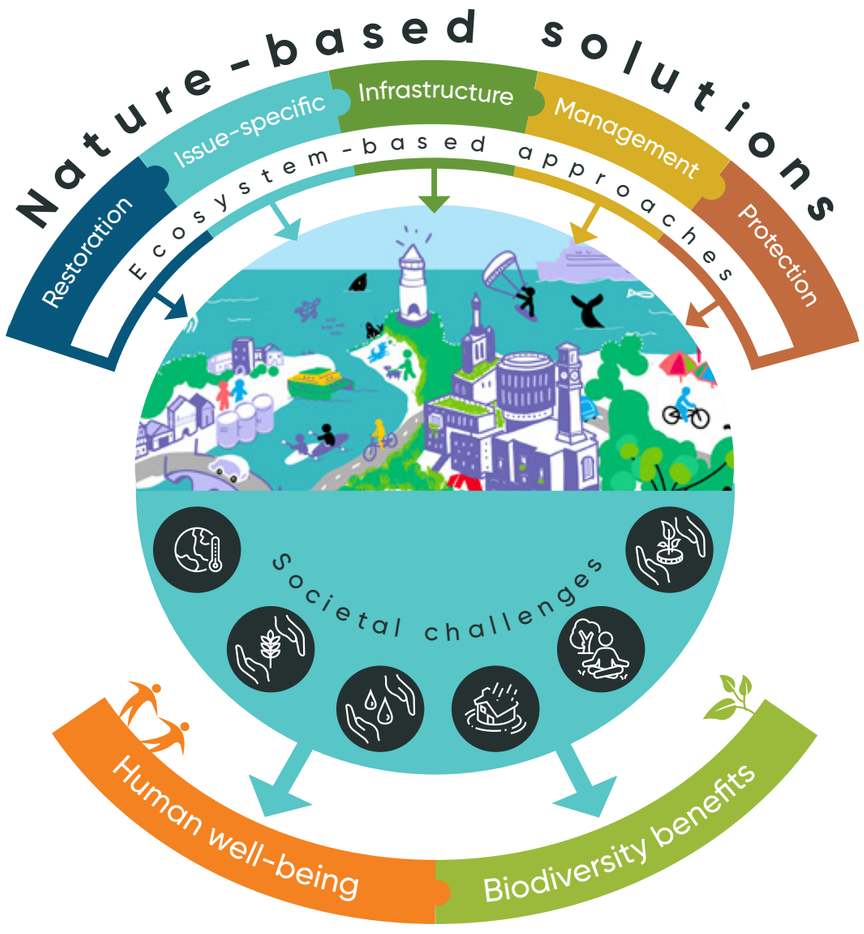
Nature for society

- Nature's benefits to people.
- Ecosystem services.

1 CSIRO 2022

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature[1]. To be classed as a nature-based solution, the action must address one or more societal challenges (for example, climate change), result in a net gain for biodiversity, and benefit human well-being[2]. We can use nature-based solutions to bring nature, and the multiple benefits it can deliver, into our city[3].

We will protect and restore our urban forest to reduce our emissions, minimise urban heat and enhance local biodiversity. We will broaden our implementation of Water-Sensitive Urban Design to improve our waterways, reduce pollution and contribute to a water-sensitive city. We will protect and expand our blue and green grid to improve biodiversity connections and enhance liveability. We will be regional leaders in demonstrating and implementing nature-based solutions.



Figures sourced from ADAPT: Nature-based solutions in the Western Balkans

1 IUCN 2020
2 IUCN 2020
3 UNEP 2021

Benefits and examples of nature-based solutions

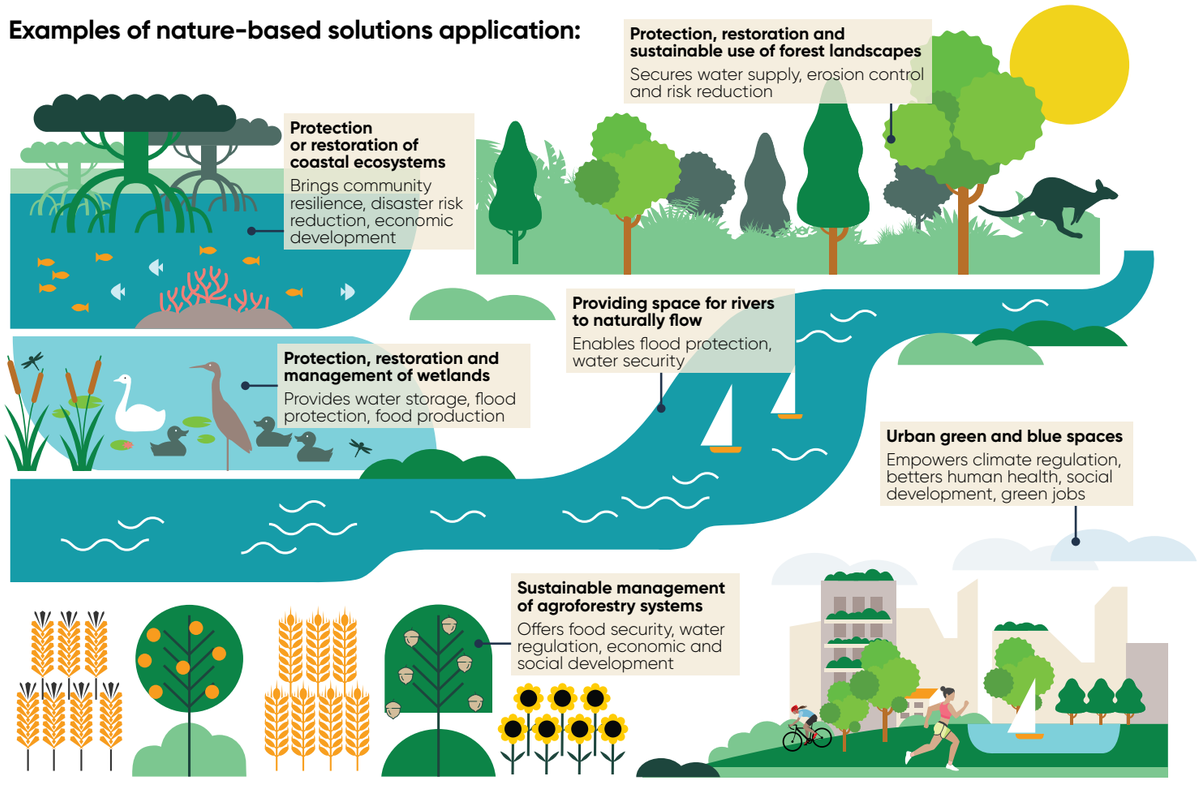
Nature-based solutions have prime potential to help address global challenges such as:

- climate change
- Economic and social development
- human health
- food and water security
- disaster risk reduction
- ecosystem degradation
- biodiversity loss

Nature-based solutions can provide long-term environmental, societal and economic benefits:

- adaptation to climate change
- green jobs
- health benefits
- community resilience
- healthy and accessible food
- clean air and water
- disaster risk reduction
- ecosystem integrity
- biodiversity net gain

Examples of nature-based solutions application:



Adaptation from IUCN 2023





What is a water-sensitive city?

A water-sensitive city can be described as a city that is resilient, liveable, productive and sustainable.

A water-sensitive city:

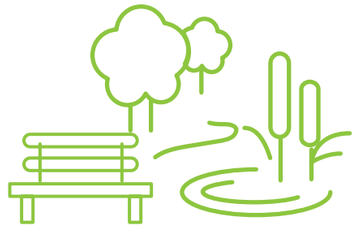
- provides the water security essential for economic prosperity and climate resilience, through the efficient use of a diverse range of available water resources;
- enhances and protects the health of waterways, wetlands and the coast;
- mitigates flood risk and damage; and
- creates public spaces that enhance liveability by collecting, cleaning, and recycling water.

CN and Hunter Water both play a role in managing the water resources within our city. Hunter Water provides drinking and wastewater services, as well as maintaining approximately 80km of concrete lined creeks within the Newcastle LGA. CN maintains and manages 80km of ephemeral streams and creeks in the upper reaches of our catchments, as well as approximately 500km of minor stormwater pit and pipe networks conveying stormwater runoff to Hunter Water concrete lined creeks. CN is responsible for flood planning and management of public spaces within the Newcastle LGA.



What is an urban forest?

Our urban forest is made up of all the trees, shrubs and vegetation in our city, including in our parks, bushland reserves, school yards, businesses, public streets, and backyards. Our urban forest also includes the soil and water that supports our vegetation. Our urban forest provides us with many benefits, including cooling and shading, cleaning our air and water, providing habitat for wildlife, absorbing carbon, and beautifying our city.



What is the blue green grid?

The blue green grid is the creation of a network of 'blue' and 'green' links that connects our town centres, schools, public transport hubs and residential areas and supports improved accessibility, recreation, biodiversity and liveability. The grid also protects and connects existing bushland areas and naturalises and improves our waterway health.

Blue features
Canals, creeks, rivers, wetlands, rain gardens, bioswales, stormwater channeks, harbour foreshores.

Green features
Parks, trees, playgrounds, playing fields and golf courses, bushland, private gardens, street verges, green walls, green roofs.

Nature-based solutions

Newcastle 2040 priority 2 - our community vision

Newcastle 2040 objectives

What we want to accomplish and the outcomes CN wants to achieve for a sustainable Newcastle.

1. Regenerate natural systems

Strengthen our natural environments, including our waterways and beaches, to support healthy, biodiverse systems; minimise pollution; and maintain recreational amenity as well as ecological and community value.

2. Expand the urban forest

Manage and care for Newcastle's urban forest and maximise urban greening, resulting in a healthy, green and biodiverse city that provides economic, ecological and social benefits.

3. Achieve a water-sensitive city

Integrate the water cycle in planning, design and construction to create liveable urban spaces. Capture water at the source, mitigate flood impacts through design, and create public spaces that collect, clean and recycle water.

NES strategic priorities

Our key focus areas for achieving a sustainable Newcastle over the next 10 years

Supported by Four-year Delivery Plan (Appendix 1)

Apply the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Nature Futures Framework (Nature for Nature, Nature for Society and Nature for Culture) to guide projects and initiatives that respond to the climate change, nature loss and pollution crises.

Build a network of high quality blue and green spaces that connects town centres, public transport hubs, schools and residential areas (a blue green grid) for enhanced liveability and biodiversity outcomes.

NES indicators and targets

Measuring our success and tracking our progress towards a sustainable Newcastle.

Appendix 2

20% of CN bushland areas in excellent condition by 2033.	40% tree canopy cover in the Newcastle LGA by 2045.
Two strategic biodiversity corridor gaps protected or enhanced annually at a landscape scale.	30% road reserve, and 30% open space, canopy cover by 2045.
Annual length of watercourses rehabilitated.	↓ three-year average trend in potable water use in CN operations.
↑ satisfaction with our blue, green and wild spaces.	↑ overall Water-Sensitive Cities Index Score.
	↑ number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives.

Strategic links

Urban Forest Action Plan (supports delivery of the NES)

Water-Sensitive City Action Plan (supports delivery of the NES)

Blue Green Grid Action Plan (supports delivery of the NES)

Local stories



Restoring Ironbark Creek

Ironbark Creek catchment rehabilitation

Ironbark Creek forms part of the largest catchment in our city, covering over 12,000 hectares. The catchment is home to internationally important (Ramsar) wetlands at the Hunter Wetlands Centre and provides an important fish and prawn nursery at Hexham Swamp. The Creek also provides a biodiversity corridor between the Ramsar wetlands at the Hunter Wetlands Centre and the Ramsar wetlands at Kooragang.

CN is committed to improving the health of Ironbark Creek as it supports our important wetlands and fish nurseries and provides a significant blue green corridor for our city. In 2011, CN started the award-winning Ironbark Creek Catchment Rehabilitation Project, and during this time we have rehabilitated over 3,100m of creek lines from Rankin Park to the Wallsend floodplain. The project is ongoing and is currently valued at over $8.3 million.

The project uses nature-based solutions to re-naturalise creeks in the catchment. Natural channel design principles are used to mimic a natural creek, including the installation of rock to create pool and riffle sequences, and revegetation of riparian areas with native species. The works reduce erosion, enhance biodiversity, and improve amenity and flood predictability.

Re-naturalising creeks in the catchment improves the quality and quantity of water that flows downstream into our wetlands and fish nurseries. The project is supported by our dedicated 'Natural Connections' community education program, which promotes community stewardship of local creeks.

Local stories



Improved drainage, vegetation and guttering in Carrington

Water-sensitive urban design in Carrington

The suburb of Carrington is low-lying and at risk of flooding. During its local centre upgrade, CN installed a range of innovative measures, including oversized raingardens with curved low-flow channels to reduce sediment movement to stormwater pits; permeable footpaths and gutters; infiltration pits; and elevated street tree structures to create large soil volumes for tree roots above the water table.

The reduction and disconnection of impervious areas is an example of how water-sensitive city design can improve water quality by returning the system to a more natural, pre-developed environment, as well as improve safety and amenity, and decrease urban heat impacts.



CN tree planting site in Islington (above) and Jesmond (right)



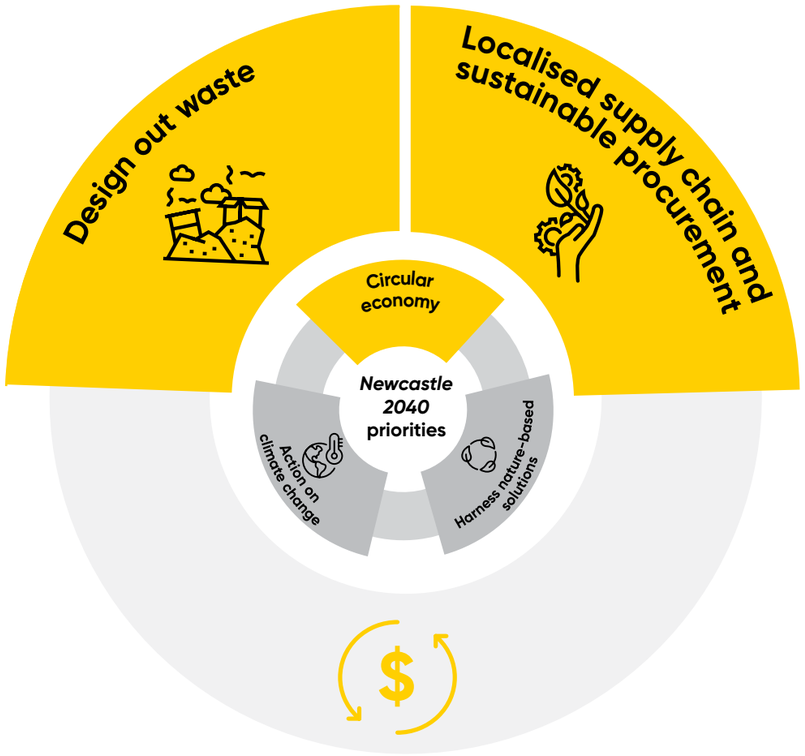
Expanding our urban forest

CN works to expand our urban forest by planting around 1,200 street and park trees annually through our Living Streets program. We prioritise areas most in need, in conjunction with road and footpath repairs and construction.

CN also partners with other agencies, the private sector and the community to increase our plantings. For example, CN supported a program by The Greater Bank to plant 20,000 seedlings at five sites across Newcastle in 2021.

Circular economy

***Newcastle 2040* priority 3**



Through our transition to a circular economy, we design out waste, creating new opportunities and technologies in our local economy, promoting renewable products and sustainable infrastructure, and rethinking our use of resources as a circular flow.

If we work smart, it is possible to do more with less.

Why a circular economy?

Our waste problem

Australia's per capita use of natural resources is among the highest rate in the world, with about 35 tonnes extracted on average for each resident every year (three times higher than the global average). Once materials have been used, they often end up being disposed of, and in 2018 the Newcastle LGA exported an estimated 4,500 tonnes of waste overseas. However, countries are changing their policies on the acceptance of waste, and we need to consider how we better manage our own.

In terms of production, Australia's shift away from local manufacturing and a growth in international goods transportation has resulted in more international, complex and fragile supply chains. The COVID-19 pandemic showed how a reliance on international supply chains can lead to production disruptions and shortages. Patterns of long-distance shipping of products have also been premised on carbon-fuel transport, which is environmentally unsustainable and exposed to energy market volatility.

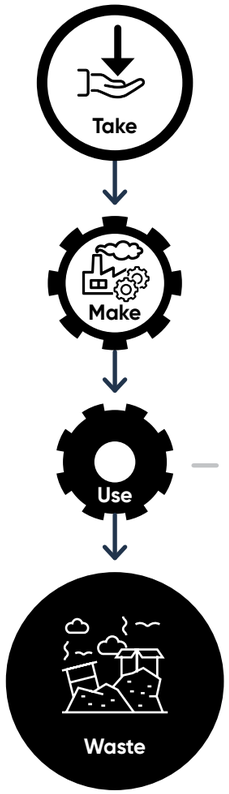


CN employees at Summerhill Waste Management Centre

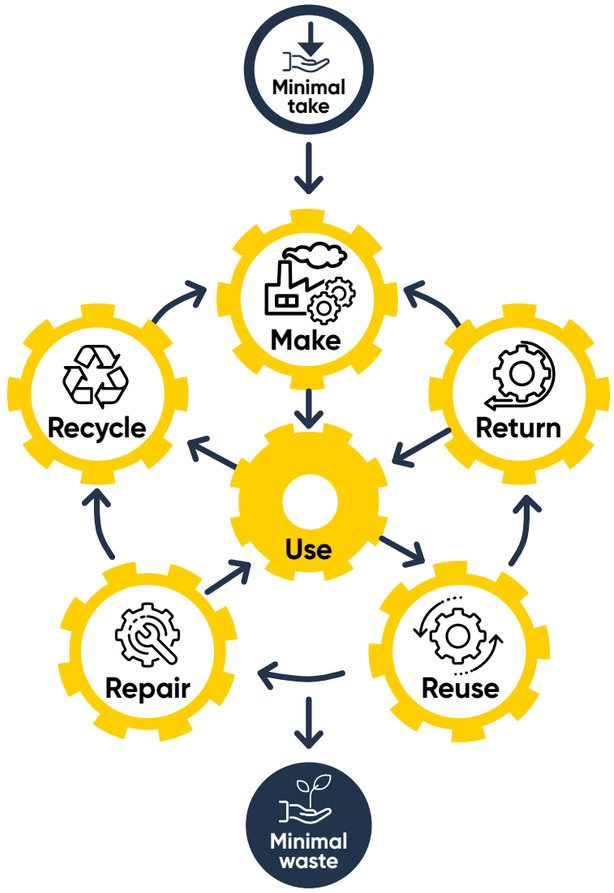
Driving a circular economy

The circular economy is an economic and social framework that strives to design out waste and pollution, keep materials in circulation at their highest value, and minimise the extraction of non-renewable resources. A circular economy approach will provide Newcastle with new employment and economic opportunities, while also protecting biodiversity, reducing non-renewable resource demand and addressing climate change. A circular economy approach also provides opportunities for CN to reduce its scope 3 emissions.

Linear economy



Circular economy





Adopting a circular economy framework provides the potential for significant jobs creation and economic growth in Newcastle. CN can leverage traditional areas of industry expertise and competitive advantages, such as well-developed local technology and manufacturing and export infrastructure. We can harness first-mover advantages by establishing circular industries and enterprises early, by catalysing industry clustering (for example, related to renewable energy industrial hubs) and attracting government funding.

CN manages the Summerhill Waste Management Centre (SWMC), one of NSW's largest resource recovery facilities. This provides the city with tangible influence over economy-wide waste management practices and affords new commercial opportunities. There is the opportunity to establish circular economy precincts, with co-location sites providing economies of scale and tangible supply chain benefits. More broadly, technological advancements like renewable energy and new methods for repurposing resources are transforming what is meant by economic development. It is now technically feasible to decouple economic growth and prosperity from increased resource use.

Circular economy

***Newcastle 2040* priority 3 - our community vision**

Newcastle 2040 objectives

What we want to accomplish and the outcomes CN wants to achieve for a sustainable Newcastle.

1. Design out waste

Create sustainable material cycles through the city's economy. Establish resource recovery industries and circular economy precincts. Increase recycling and productive reuse of organics.

2. Localised supply chain and sustainable procurement

Foster resilience and sustainability through procurement, resource-sharing and construction activities that preference local suppliers and supply chains.

NES strategic priorities

Our key focus area for achieving a sustainable Newcastle over the next 10 years.

Supported by Four-year Delivery Plan (Appendix 1)

Improve circularity and resource recovery in CN's operations and supply chain, and support and advocate for industry, business and the community to transition to a circular economy.

NES indicators and targets

Measuring our success and tracking our progress towards a sustainable Newcastle.

Appendix 2

Improvement in CN sustainable procurement evaluation framework indicators.

↑ number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives.

Strategic links

Our Sustainable Waste Strategy

Newcastle Climate Action Plan

Local stories



Repair cafes at CN libraries

CN Libraries

CN's libraries are champions of a circular economy, with a long tradition of offering items like books, seeds or toys to borrow, as well as access to resources like computers, printers and a media room. Our libraries continue to drive a circular economy by hosting repair cafes, that teach people new skills to fix broken or damaged items instead of throwing them away.

Repair cafes held at Lambton Library have supported the repair of clothing, small hand tools, bikes, furniture and toys. There have also been swap markets to freely exchange quality goods within the community.



Fencing along the Newcastle Bathers way coastal walk, made from recycled wood and plastic materials

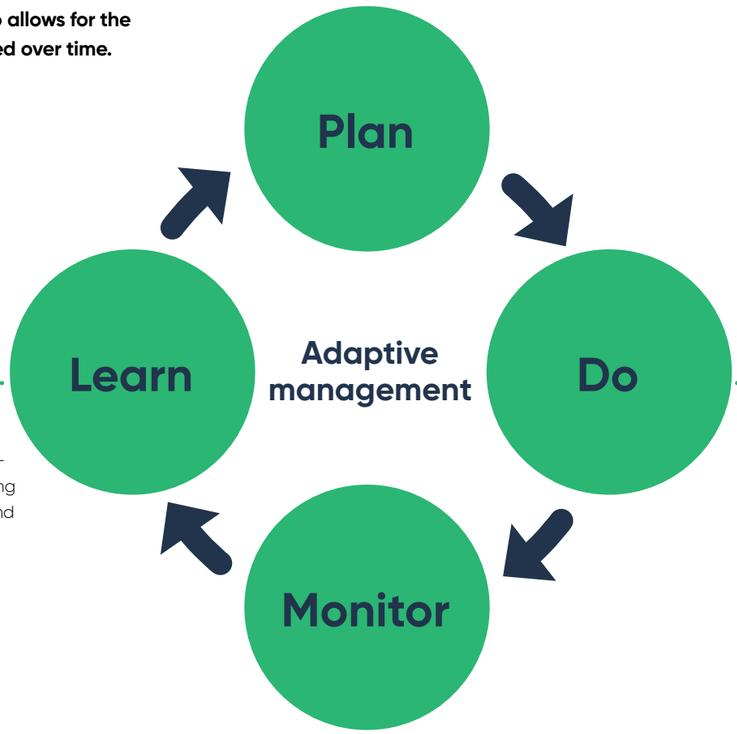
Sustainable fencing across CN

Much of the fences that border our coasts and sports fields are made from a sustainable compositive that comes from household, commercial or industrial waste. Integrating recycled and reclaimed plastics and wood creates fences that are strong and resistant to pests and corrosion, while being good for the environment by turning waste into a resource.

Monitoring, reporting and improving

An evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of the NES is an important accountability mechanism for CN and the community. It also allows for the NES to be improved over time.

Newcastle Environment Strategy (supporting *Newcastle 2040*)



Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the NES informs evidence-based decision-making for annual budgets and delivery programs.

The NES Four-year Delivery Plan (2023/24 – 2026/27) is included as Appendix 1

The NES contains indicators and targets to monitor our progress. They allow for transparency and reporting on our performance.



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Four-year Delivery Plan

Appendix 2 – NES indicators and targets

Appendix 1

Four-year Delivery Plan

Our role



Deliver (Control)

CN delivers a wide range of programs and services including community education, asset management, strategic and statutory planning or on ground works.



Partner (Influence)

There are areas in which CN has partial or shared responsibility or influence. CN builds strategic partnerships with federal and state government agencies, the private sector, and a range of other stakeholders whose work will contribute to delivering our long-term priorities.



Advocate (Concern)

A wide range of issues important to the community sit outside CN's control. CN gives a voice to the needs and aspirations of the community by advocating for changes in policy and action at relevant levels of government and industry.

Action on climate change

Key

Develop **Deliver**

Newcastle 2040 priority	*Newcastle 2040* objective	NES strategic priority	NES key deliverable (4-year delivery plan)	Our role	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
2.1 Action on Climate Change We respond to the climate emergency by committing to net zero emissions and preparing for risks from increasing temperatures, storms, coastal erosion, flooding and bushfires. Decisions we make build resilient communities, infrastructure and natural areas.	**1.1 Towards Net Zero Emissions** Achieve net zero emissions by increasing energy and waste efficiency and reducing emissions from buildings, transport, infrastructure and supply chains. Encourage clean technology and future energy initiatives and industries.	Transition CN operations to net zero emissions through the electrification or use of low emissions alternatives for our vehicles, plant and equipment, and reducing operational emissions at Summerhill Waste Management Centre.	Implement an electrification and low emissions alternative roll-out of CN's vehicles, plant and equipment through the development and delivery of a Vehicle, Plant and Equipment Transition Plan.	**Deliver**				
		Support the transition of the Newcastle LGA to net zero emissions through an accelerated uptake of onsite solar and batteries; electric or zero emissions transport and buildings; community renewable energy and battery storage projects; and the transformation of business and industry.	Provide suitable charging solutions for electric vehicle owners and encourage and incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles and low emissions transport through the delivery of a city-wide Electric Vehicle and Low Emissions Transport Plan.	**Deliver Partner Advocate**				
			Deliver community and business engagement programs and initiatives focusing on renewable energy and battery storage access and uptake, energy efficiency, electrification, and community renewable energy and battery storage projects.	**Deliver Partner**				
	1.2 Know and share our climate risk Undertake holistic, evidence-based assessment and monitoring of climate risks to enable best-practice risk and investment planning as we prepare for extreme weather events and support community and business to do likewise.	Expand our understanding of local climate risks on our built and natural environment and our community and integrate evidence-based climate risk management into organisational decision making, investment planning and service delivery.	Develop and implement a framework to measure, monitor and report on local climate risks for CN and the community.	**Deliver**				
			Expand initiatives to communicate the local physical, social and economic risks from climate change, as well as the complementary roles and responsibilities in living with these risks.	**Deliver Partner**				
	1.3 Resilient urban and natural areas Create resilient communities, economies and natural areas that prepare for and adapt to climate risks. Prioritise social equity and ensure vulnerable communities are not left behind.	Apply adaptive management to urban planning and development, infrastructure design and natural area management in response to increased climate risks from flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, storms, heatwaves, heat stress, drought, and bush and grass fires.	Develop and deliver a Climate Risk and Resilience Action Plan that prioritises initiatives to build more resilient communities, and urban and natural areas.	**Deliver Partner**				

Nature-based solutions

Key

Develop | Deliver

Newcastle 2040 priority	*Newcastle 2040* objective	NES strategic priority	NES key deliverable (4-year delivery plan)	Our role	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
2.2 Harnessing Nature-based Solutions We manage and enhance our blue, green and natural 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, integrated management that is adaptable to current and future risks. We regenerate our natural systems and work towards zero pollution through collaboration with our community and industry partners.	**2.1 Regenerate natural systems** Strengthen our natural environments, including our waterways and beaches, to support healthy, biodiverse systems; minimise pollution; and maintain recreational amenity as well as ecological and community value.	Apply the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Nature Futures Framework (Nature for Nature, Nature for Society and Nature for Culture) to guide projects and initiatives that respond to the climate change, nature loss and pollution crises. Build a network of high quality blue and green spaces that connects town centres, public transport hubs, schools and residential areas (a blue green grid) for enhanced liveability and biodiversity outcomes.	Expand the natural assets renewal program to improve the health and condition of our natural assets and biodiversity connectivity, including soil rehabilitation and carbon sequestration initiatives.	**Deliver** **Partner**				
			Deliver a targeted community engagement and incentive program to enhance connections with nature, expand our urban forest, and create connected canopy cover and vegetation for our iconic, threatened and pollinator species, including the Squirrel Glider.	**Deliver** **Partner**				
			Partner with our local traditional custodians to develop and implement cross-cultural ways of working for integrating indigenous knowledge and stewardship into how we care for and manage our land and respond to the climate emergency, for a regenerative future.	**Deliver** **Partner**				
	2.2 Expand the urban forest Manage and care for Newcastle's urban forest and maximise urban greening, resulting in a healthy, green and biodiverse city that provides economic, ecological and social benefits.		Develop and deliver an Urban Forest Action Plan to increase our urban forest, including greening on private and public land, and create a cool, resilient, pollinator friendly city.	**Deliver** **Partner** **Advocate**				
	2.3 Achieve a water-sensitive city Integrate the water cycle in planning, design and construction to create liveable urban spaces. Capture water at the source, mitigate flood impacts through design, and create public spaces that collect, clean and recycle water.		Develop and deliver a Blue Green Grid Action Plan that maps our town centres, schools, public transport hubs and residential areas connected by 'blue' and 'green' links and prioritises initiatives to build and connect these blue and green links over time.	**Deliver** **Partner**				
			Develop and deliver a Water-Sensitive City Action Plan that prioritises stormwater harvesting and reuse, wastewater reuse, stormwater run off improvements, channel naturalisation, and that enhances and protects the health of waterways and wetlands and the catchments and coastlines that surround them.	**Deliver** **Partner**				

Circular economy

Key

Develop | Deliver

Newcastle 2040 priority	*Newcastle 2040* objective	NES strategic priority	NES key deliverable (4-year delivery plan)	Our role	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
2.3 Circular Economy Through our transition to a circular economy, we design out waste, creating new opportunities and technologies in our local economy, promoting renewable products and sustainable infrastructure, and rethinking our use of resources as a circular flow	**3.1 Design out waste** Create sustainable material cycles through the city's economy. Establish resource recovery industries and circular economy precincts. Increase recycling and productive reuse of organics.	Improve circularity and resource recovery in CN's operations and supply chain, and support and advocate for industry, business and the community to transition to a circular economy.	Increase the utilisation of recovered materials and sustainable product alternatives in CN operations and construction works, including green concrete and other low emissions building materials; recycled glass, recycled aggregate; and recycled plastics.	**Deliver** **Partner**				
			Develop and implement a framework to measure, monitor and report on CN's procurement impact.	**Deliver**				
	3.2 Localised supply chain and sustainable procurement Foster resilience and sustainability through procurement, resource-sharing and construction activities that preference local suppliers and supply chains.		Implement a local and sustainable procurement program based on the largest impact abatement potential, including reducing extraction of non renewable materials, mitigating scope 3 carbon emissions and minimising waste streams in CN's supply chain.	**Deliver** **Partner** **Advocate**				

Appendix 2

NES indicators and targets

CSP objective	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source	CN role
All	Number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives	Increasing number of actions (annual)	Baseline number of actions (2023/24)	CN data	**Deliver**
Net zero emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions from CN operations	Net zero emissions by 2030 (from transport fuels, fossil-based gas and LPG, water and wastewater and office paper)	5,098 tonnes CO_2e (Newcastle Climate Action Plan emissions profile 2020)	CN data	**Deliver**
	City-wide greenhouse gas emissions from electricity	100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity by 2030[1]	1,372,000 tonnes CO_2e in 2021 (64% of total emissions) (2021)	Snapshot Climate Australian Emissions Profiles - Newcastle municipal (LGA) emissions data	**Partner** **Advocate**
	Electric vehicle (EV) car sales in Newcastle LGA	Increased to 52% of car sales by 2030–31[2]	491 electric vehicles (0.3%) of all registered cars in the Newcastle LGA (31 March 2023)	ABS data	**Partner** **Advocate**
	Solar PV uptake in Newcastle LGA	Increasing trend (%) (annual)	24.1% dwellings in Newcastle LGA (2021)	Australian PV Institute data	**Partner** **Advocate**
Know and share our climate risk	Number of people signed on to CN's flood alert system	Increasing number of people (annual)	7,578 registrations across eight catchments (2021/22)	CN data	**Deliver**
Resilient urban and natural areas	Street and park tree species	No one street and park tree species represent more than 10% of the tree population (biannual)	One species over 10% in 2022 (*Lophostermon conferus* 11.4%)	CN TAMS data	**Deliver**
	Indicators in CN climate risk and resilience evaluation framework	Improvement in indicators (biannual)	CN climate risk and resilience evaluation framework (2023/24)	CN data	**Deliver** **Partner** **Advocate**

CSP objective	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source	CN role
Regenerate natural systems	Condition of bushland areas managed by CN	20% of 91 bushland areas managed by CN have 'excellent' condition rating[3] by 2033	16% of 91 bushland areas managed by CN have 'excellent' rating (2022)	CN data (CN Bushland Service Asset Plan 2022) Condition of bushland areas determined by functionality (species diversity, weed % and canopy cover) and viability (connectivity, parcel geometry and soil)	**Deliver**
	Biodiversity corridor connections in Newcastle LGA	Two strategic biodiversity corridor gaps protected or enhanced at a landscape scale (annual)	Number of strategic biodiversity corridor gaps at landscape scale in Newcastle LGA (23/24 mapping)	CN Lidar data (2021), Hunter Regional Plan 2041, CN asset registers and urban forest Lidar canopy analysis	**Deliver** **Partner**
	Length of watercourses rehabilitated annually (metres)	Annual length (metres)	350 metres of watercourses rehabilitated (2022/23)	CN data	**Deliver**
	Satisfaction with our blue, green and wild spaces	Increasing trend (satisfied or very satisfied) (biannual)	63% satisfaction with parks and recreation areas; 60% satisfaction with beaches and beach facilities; 58% satisfaction with city's wetlands and estuaries; 51% satisfaction with city's bushland and waterways (2022)	CN satisfaction survey	**Deliver**
Expand the urban forest	Newcastle LGA tree canopy cover	40% tree canopy cover in Newcastle LGA by 2045	27.96% tree canopy cover in Newcastle LGA, excluding waterbodies (2021)	CN GIS data	**Deliver** **Partner** **Advocate**
	Road reserve and open space canopy cover under CN care and control	30% road reserve canopy cover by 2045 30% open space canopy cover by 2045	21.73% road reserve canopy cover (2021), and 25.04% open space canopy cover (2021) (excluding water bodies, natural areas and sports ground fields)	CN GIS data	**Deliver**
Achieve a Water-Sensitive City	Potable water use in CN operations	Decreasing trend (three-year average)	339,800 kL/year (three-year average 2019–2021)	Hunter Water data	**Deliver**
	Water-Sensitive Cities Index Score	Increasing overall Index Score (urban water management performance against 34 indicators) (biannual)	Benchmark score (2023/24)	Water-Sensitive Cities Index - CRC for Water-Sensitive Cities benchmarking tool	**Deliver** **Partner** **Advocate**

CSP objective	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source	CN role
Design out waste **Sustainable procurement and localised supply chain**	Indicators in CN sustainable procurement evaluation framework	Improvement in indicators (biannual)	CN procurement evaluation framework (2023/24)	CN data	**Deliver** **Partner** **Advocate**

Endnotes

1 The IPCC (2018) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C indicates that 1.5°C pathways with no overshoot (that are deemed to provide a one-in-two to two-in-three chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C with no overshoot) include a rapid decline in the carbon intensity of electricity, and an increase in electrification of energy end use, with a reduction in the carbon intensity of electricity of about 90% between 2020 and 2030

2 Aligns with NSW Government's Electric Vehicle Strategy

3 See table to the right

Condition rating	Description
Excellent	Bushland community structure in place with high resilience and viability connectivity ranking - bush regeneration and proactive response to vandalism as main tool for management to ensure parcel remains in this category
Very good	Main elements of bushland community structure in place, with capacity to regain structure over time if weed incursions are managed and viability connectivity ranking is positive - bush regeneration and some proactive canopy/vandalism response as main tool for management to ensure parcel can remains in this category/progress to green.
Good	Main elements of bushland community structure may be degraded over some of the parcel, with capacity to regain structure over time needing active management interventions. Weed incursions, edge effects need to be managed - bush regeneration and proactive canopy/ understory planting may be needed as main tool for management, with proactive vandalism response to ensure parcel can progress to blue/green.
Poor	Main elements of bushland community structure may be missing, with capacity to regain structure over time needing active management interventions. Weed incursions, edge effects need to be addressed for viability to be improved - active bush regeneration and restoration needed with proactive canopy/understory planting may be needed as main tool for management, with proactive vandalism response to ensure parcel can progress to blue/green.
Very poor	Main elements of bushland community structure need replacing using active restoration management tools. Capacity to regain functionality will need prolonged Landcare efforts. Weed incursions, infrastructure and or local vandalism, misuse, and edge effects need to be addressed for viability to be improved - active bushland restoration needed with proactive canopy/ understory planting as main tool for management, with proactive vandalism response to ensure parcel can progress to orange/ or higher resilience and viability. Soil amelioration usually required.

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Public Exhibition Report

Newcastle Environment Strategy

Our 10-year roadmap towards a sustainable Newcastle

City of Newcastle

Overview

Our environment sustains our community, economy, health and wellbeing. It's at the heart of all that we do. With your input, we developed the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy – our 10-year roadmap for achieving our vision of a sustainable Newcastle.

The Strategy outlines how we will go above and beyond our current portfolio of works and programs to continue to lead action on climate change, build a positive future with nature and use our resources sustainably.

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the public exhibition was to seek feedback from the community on the seven strategic priorities and 15 key deliverables within the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy and understand whether we're on the right path towards achieving a sustainable Newcastle.

Engagement activities

City of Newcastle (CN) placed the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy on public exhibition from **27 July to 24 August 2023.**

The community were able to participate in a number of ways:

- Completing our online survey
- Providing a written submission via online form or email
- Visiting us at one of our community pop-ups
- Entering our photo competition

Number of people who participated

132 survey responses

7 written submissions (via online form or email)

200+ people who attended one of our pop-up sessions

49 photo competition entries

Communication & promotion

3,102 Have Your Say webpage visits

nearly 115,000 people reached via organic and paid Facebook posts

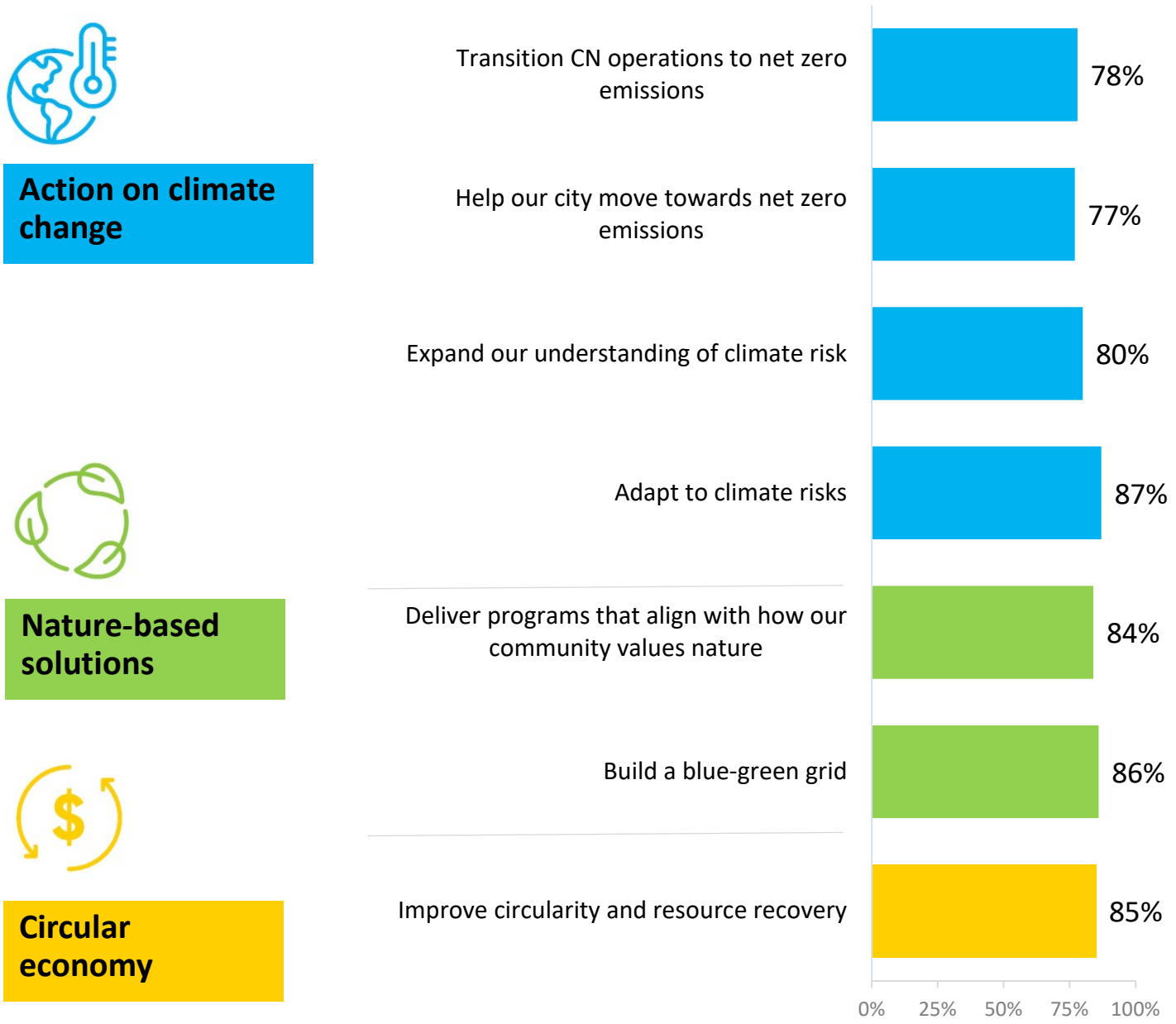
e-Newsletter distributed to more than 2,500 people

Direct email to 152 stakeholders

Media release

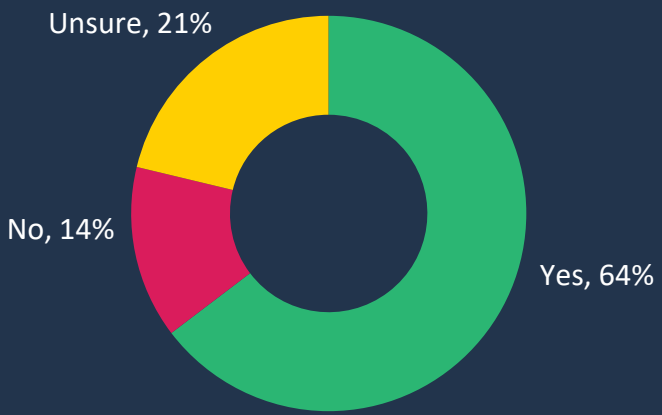
Support for strategic priorities and deliverables

Percentage of online survey respondents who are supportive/very supportive



Sample size: N=132

Overall, do you feel that these priorities will help us achieve a sustainable Newcastle?



Sample size: N=132

Feedback on priorities

Action on Climate Change

Transition CN operations to net zero emissions

78% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to transition CN operations towards net zero emissions. Comments supporting this priority mentioned that action should happen as soon as possible. The main suggestions for increased focus included negative emissions, reducing consumption and using more sustainable forms of transport.

Comments: N=41

Main reasons for support	Mentions
General support e.g very supportive, couldn't happen soon enough	12

Main suggestions/improvements	Mentions
There needs to be more/improved measures to combat climate change aside from net zero emissions	10
Ensure renewable energy/technology is used	5

Main concerns	Mentions
Concerns about cost	5
Other infrastructure and services should be addressed first	5
Not supportive of the transition to net zero emissions/not CN's responsibility	3

Action on Climate Change

Help our city move towards net zero emissions

77% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to help our city move towards net zero emissions. Comments supporting this priority reiterated that action is needed to reduce the impacts of climate change and that everyone should contribute. The main suggestions were that there should be improved support/incentives for renewable energy as well as more public and active transport infrastructure.

Comments: N=30

Main reasons for support	Mentions
General support e.g. very supportive, it is vital, everyone should contribute	9

Main suggestions/improvements	Mentions
Improved CN support/incentives for renewable energy	5
Promote and support more sustainable forms of transport e.g. cycleways/public transport	3
The proposed measures are not enough to reduce the impact of climate change	2

Main concerns	Mentions
Concerns about cost	4
No evidence to suggest proposed strategies will be effective in reducing emissions	2

Note: some respondents commented that the Newcastle 500 event is not in line with the strategy, however, this is considered out of scope of the Newcastle Environment Strategy.

Action on Climate Change

Know and share our climate risk

80% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to expand our understanding of the risks of climate change on our built environment, natural environment and our community. The main reason for supporting this priority was agreement that the community needs to be better informed about the risks of climate change. The main suggestion was that CN should be taking strong climate change action in addition to its role in educating the community about climate risk.

Comments: N=36

Main reasons for support	Mentions
The community needs to be better informed about the risks of climate change	7

Main suggestions/improvements	Mentions
CN needs to be doing more than educating, taking active steps towards combating climate change	14

Main concerns	Mentions
CN needs to address other issues first	5
Do not support this Strategy	4
Wind turbines/wind farms should not be supported	4
Concerns about costs	2

Action on Climate Change

Response to climate risks

87% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to improve our planning and development of built areas, and management of natural areas in response to increased climate risks. The main suggestions were about increasing green spaces/trees across the Newcastle local government area and adopting a more sustainable approach to urban planning/development. Other responses commented that immediate action is needed.

Comments: N=48

Main reasons for support	Mentions
General support for improving planning and development to reduce impacts of climate change	2

Main suggestions/improvements	**Mentions**
Keep/increase green spaces/more trees in the LGA	15
Improve urban planning/development e.g. less high rises, selection of building materials, development controls	10
CN needs to take immediate action across these measures	7
Flood mitigation strategies need to be improved	3

Main concerns	**Mentions**
Concerns about cost	2
Not supportive of CN's actions	2
Stop coal mining	2

Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions

84% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to deliver works and programs that align with our community's values of nature, and respond to the climate change, nature loss and pollution crises. The main reason for supporting this priority was delivering works and programs that align with our community's values of nature and protect our environment. Suggestions included retaining/increasing green spaces, working with traditional custodians to manage the land and being more proactive in developing programs.

Comments: N=35

Main reasons for support	Mentions
Supportive of works and programs that align with community values and protect the environment	6

Main suggestions/improvements	Mentions
Retain/increase green spaces	17
CN should work with traditional custodians to manage the land	3
CN needs to be more proactive in developing programs	2

Main concerns	Mentions
Programs/actions by CN are not needed/warranted	6

Nature-based solutions

Building a blue green grid for enhanced liveability

86% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to enhance the liveability of our city by building a blue and green grid. Comments in support of this priority reiterated the importance of blue and green spaces to protect the natural environment and support the wellbeing of our community. Collaboration with neighbouring Councils could help to ensure a unified approach. Suggestions included retaining/increasing trees and green spaces, addressing stormwater drainage/flood mitigation and more community awareness/education.

Comments: N=40

Main reasons for support	Mentions
Supportive of prioritising blue and green spaces e.g. canopy growth to provide shade, minimise heat islands and protected waterways, restoring natural heritage	6

Main suggestions/improvements	Mentions
Retain/increase green spaces and trees	8
Addressing stormwater drainage/flood mitigation is needed	6
More information/education is needed	4
More focus/infrastructure to support alternative travel methods	2

Main concerns	Mentions
CN needs to focus on other issues	7
Not supportive of this priority	6

Circular economy

Improve circularity and resource recovery

85% were supportive/very supportive of this priority to improve the circularity and resource recovery in our operations. The main reason for supporting this priority were general support for reusing, recycling and recovering materials. It was also suggested that CN should set an example in changing procurement practices and developing partnerships both across the Hunter region and with other levels of government.

Comments: N=41

Main reasons for support	Mentions
General support e.g. excellent aim, great idea, resource recovery is very important	5
CN should set an example and adopt these priorities	4

Main suggestions/improvements	Mentions
More initiatives to promote sustainability e.g. Curby, Return and Earn	12
Improve waste services e.g. frequent recycling pickup, landfill bins	11

Main concerns	Mentions
Not supportive of this Strategy	4
Not supportive of wind generators/wind farms	2
Concerned about costs	2

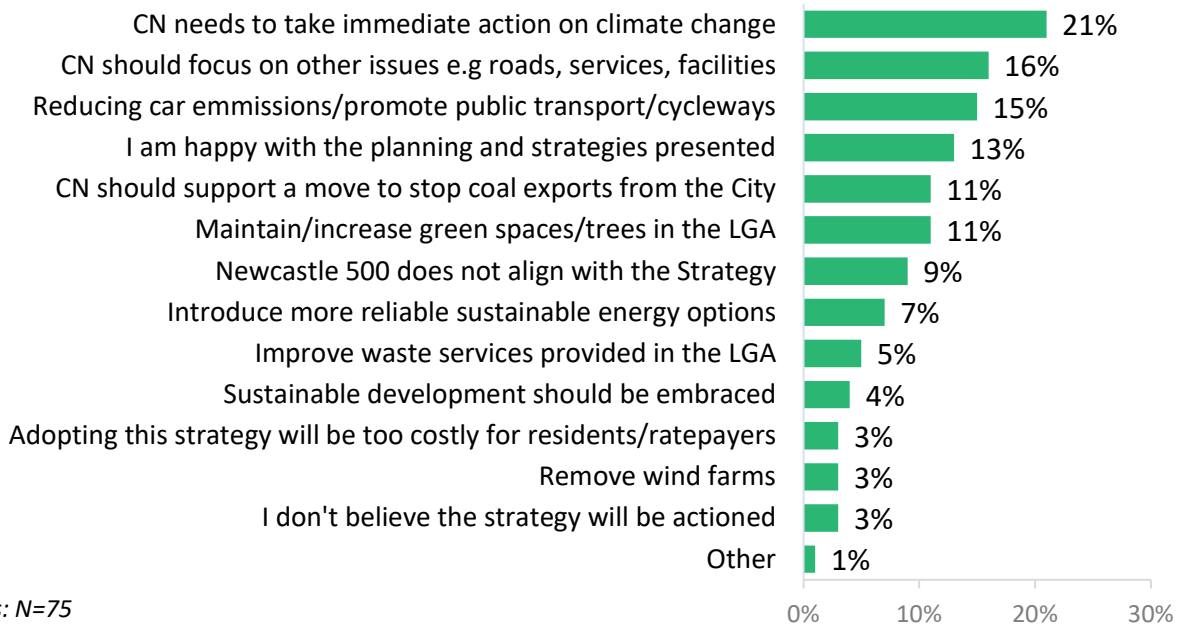


General survey comments

At the end of the survey respondents were asked if they had any additional feedback. This gave respondents the opportunity to reflect on what was most important to them.

The main themes that emerged were the need to take immediate action on climate change, improved public transport and active transport infrastructure, the need for renewable energy, increased green spaces/trees and sustainable development.

The main concerns were that CN should focus on delivering essential services and facilities rather than the Strategy, and the costs associated with the actions identified in the Strategy.



Comments: N=75

Other submissions

Written submissions were able to be provided via the online form on our Have Your Say webpage or via email. A total of 7 submissions were received – 6 via the online form and 1 via email.

The main themes that emerged were:

- Action on climate change – suggestion to improve climate risk awareness in the community and create resilient communities, economies and natural areas.
- Renewable energy sources – there was general support for clean and renewable energy sources. However, there was some debate about the environmental and human impacts of some technologies and managing energy supply.
- Sustainable development – managing the impact of an increasing population and urban sprawl.
- Nature-based solutions – support for protecting open spaces/green spaces and utilising native vegetation to support natural ecosystems.
- Support for public transport and cycling infrastructure – advocating for public transport infrastructure and building cycleways to encourage usage and reduce reliance on cars.
- Opportunities for community engagement – desire for ongoing discussions about the future of our city and neighbourhoods, community education and citizen science opportunities.

Community pop-ups

During the public exhibition period, two community pop-ups were held at:

- National Tree Planting Day event in Wallsend from 10am-2pm
- Newcastle Farmers Market, Broadmeadow from 7am-1pm



The main feedback that we heard was regarding:

- renewable energy sources e.g. moving away from coal and gas, providing incentives for the community
- waste services e.g. recycling, food organics, soft plastics, bins and recycling in public places
- open spaces, parks and playgrounds, urban greening and planting programs
- protecting natural ecosystems and wildlife, bees
- footpaths and cycleways, accessible spaces
- sustainable planning and development e.g. less high density, less hard/black surfaces, recycled building materials, drainage and flood management.



Summary

Across all the engagement activities, the key themes that we heard were:

- strong action on climate change is needed
- support for building a blue green grid and maintaining/increasing green spaces and trees across the city
- support for renewable energy
- support for more public transport and active transport (cycling) infrastructure
- support for improved sustainability outcomes in urban planning and development
- support for improved waste services and recycling initiatives

Next steps

Thanks for having your say on our roadmap towards a sustainable Newcastle! Your feedback will be used to inform the final Newcastle Environment Strategy presented to Council for adoption.

City of Newcastle

Appendix 1:

Promotional materials

Have Your Say webpage

City of Newcastle

Have your say | City of Newcastle | Home | Our Engagement Commitment | Projects | English | My profile



Newcastle Environment Strategy

Have your say on our 10-year roadmap for achieving our vision of a sustainable Newcastle. Feedback is open until 5pm 24 August 2023.

Home / Newcastle Environment Strategy

Our vision for a sustainable Newcastle

Our environment sustains our community, economy, health and wellbeing. It's at the heart of all that we do. With your input, we've developed the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy – our 10-year roadmap for achieving our vision of a sustainable Newcastle.

The draft Strategy outlines how we will go above and beyond our current portfolio of works and programs to continue to lead action on climate action, build a positive future with nature and use our resources sustainably.

Our vision for a sustainable Newcastle has been informed by 4,500 pieces of feedback, 200 environmental experts and 150 staff. We heard that reducing waste, protecting our natural areas, taking strong action on climate change and valuing our open green spaces for environmental quality and recreational amenity were key priorities.

What's in our Newcastle Environment Strategy?

Click on the icons in the image below to explore how we plan to achieve each of these objectives.



The strategic priorities and deliverables contained in the Newcastle Environment Strategy, will be delivered in addition to our current portfolio of works and programs in order to capitalise on our outcomes to date, to continue our role as environmental leaders, and to achieve our vision of becoming a sustainable Newcastle.

Find out more about our large and diverse current portfolio of works.

- How are we acting on climate change?
- How are we building a positive future with nature?
- How are we using our resources sustainably?

Have your say

We want to hear your feedback on whether we're on the right path towards a sustainable Newcastle. Tell us your thoughts and ideas about the environmental challenges and opportunities that we face over the next 10 years, and the priorities and actions that we've identified in the draft Strategy.

Feedback is open until 5pm 24 August 2023.

Ways to have your say:

Our environment through your lens

Participate in our photo competition and show us how you value our Newcastle environment

Submit your entry >

Complete our survey

Share your feedback and let us know if we're on the right path towards achieving a sustainable Newcastle

Complete our survey >

Provide a written submission

Use our form to provide detailed feedback including the option to upload attachments

Share your detailed feedback >

Document library

Draft Newcastle Environment Strategy
PDF (8.75 MB)

Newcastle Environment Strategy - 1 Page Summary
JPEG (1.23 MB)

Discussion Paper
PDF (1.34 MB)

Related strategies

Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan
PDF (10.90 MB)

Our Sustainable Waste Strategy
PDF (3.01 MB)

Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-2025
PDF (6.39 MB)

Newcastle Transport Strategy
PDF (6.26 MB)

On Our Bikes – Cycling Plan 2021-2030
PDF (5.95 MB)

Timeline

Development of the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy
January - December 2021
In 2021, we conducted a range of early engagement activities to seek feedback from the community about their priorities and vision for the Newcastle LGA.

Stakeholder engagement workshops
February - March 2022
In early 2022, we facilitated a series of workshops with key industry stakeholders across government agencies, local government, business, non-profit organisations, and community organisations to further develop our priorities, actions and initiatives within the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy.

Public Exhibition of the Draft Newcastle Environment Strategy
27 July - 24 August 2023
The draft Newcastle Environment Strategy is open for feedback from the community.

See less

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

Name Engagement team
Phone 02 4974 2000
Email engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 1:

Promotional materials

Photo Competition webpage

City of Newcastle

Newcastle Environment Strategy Photo Competition

Our environment through your lens. Share a photo that shows how you value our Newcastle Environment and you could win an eco adventure for you and a friend!

Home / Newcastle Environment Strategy / Newcastle Environment Strategy Photo Competition

Our Environment through your Lens

Calling all budding photographers with a love for Newcastle's environment

We want to see how *you* value the Newcastle environment. Submit a photo, and you could win an eco adventure for you and a friend!

The competition is open to anyone who lives, works or studies in the Newcastle local government area. There are three separate categories including an open category, and primary school and secondary school categories.

Only one photo per person can be entered into the competition.

Winning photos will feature in the final Newcastle Environment Strategy.

Prizes

One prize will be awarded for each category.

- **Open Category: Win a two night escape for 2 x adults at a nearby luxurious eco cottage** (or voucher towards a family stay) - valued at $780.
- **Primary School Category: Explore our breathtaking coastline with a 2.5 hour offshore adventure boat tour.** Voucher for 1 x adult and 1 x child (up to 12 years) - valued at $226.
- **Secondary School Category: Explore our breathtaking coastline with a 2.5 hour offshore adventure boat tour.** Voucher for 2 x adults (over 12 years) - valued at $252.

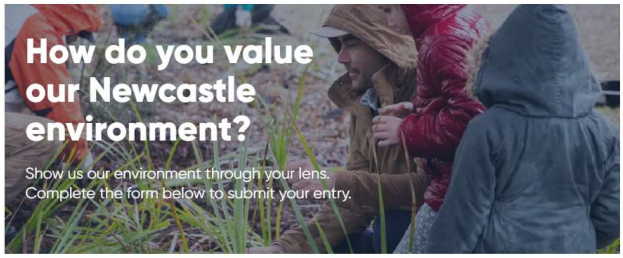
Submit your entry

Complete the form below to submit your entry. The competition is open from 27 July to 5pm 24 August 2023.

Read the Terms and Conditions.

Key Dates:

- **Competition closes**: 5pm Thursday 24 August 2023 AEST
- **Winners announced**: 5 October 2023



Document Library

Terms and Conditions
PDF (165.69 KB)

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why are we running this Competition?
- How do I enter the Competition?
- What format and size should the photo be?
- What is the judging criteria?
- What are the terms and conditions?
- Have questions?

Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

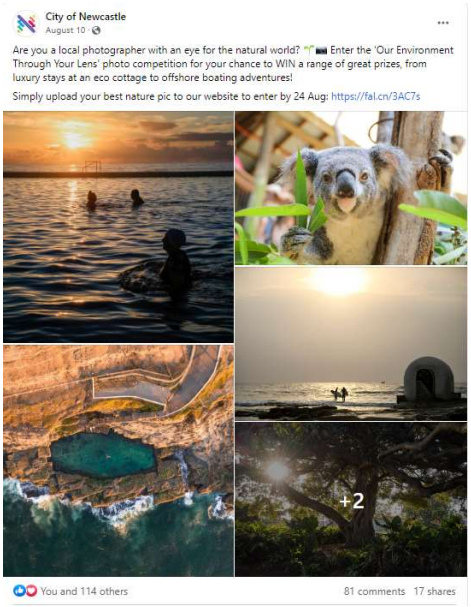
Name Engagement Team
Phone 02 4974 2000
Email engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 1:

Promotional materials

Social media posts

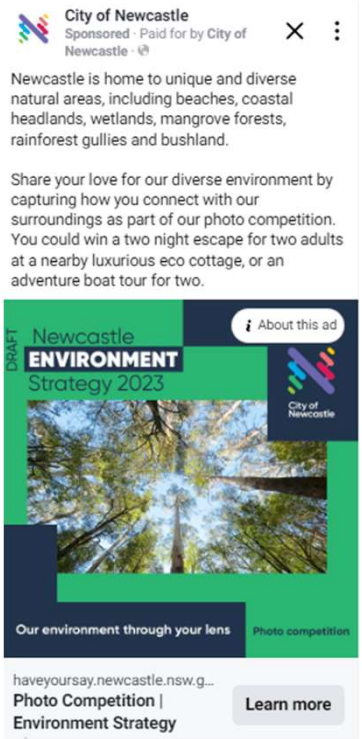












Appendix 1:

Promotional materials

Corflute signage/posters

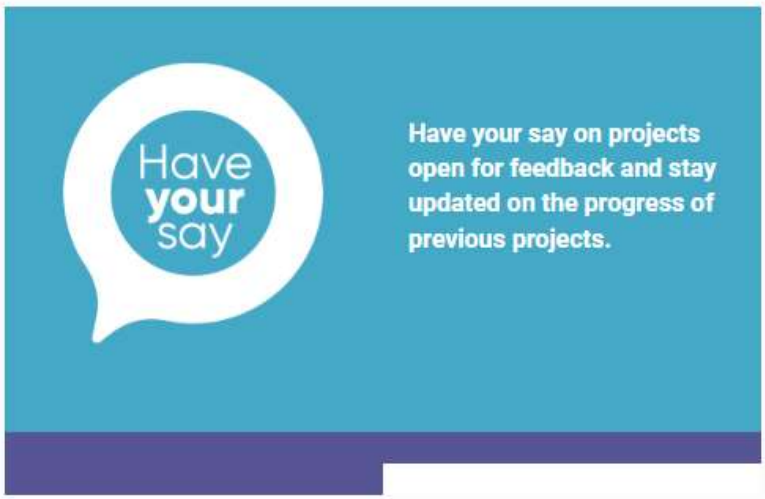


Appendix 1:

Promotional materials

e-Newsletter

City of Newcastle



Newcastle Environment Strategy

We've developed the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy which provides a 10-year roadmap towards achieving a sustainable Newcastle. The Strategy outlines how we will continue to lead action on climate change, build a positive future with nature, and use our resources sustainably.

We invite you to view the draft strategy and share your feedback via our website.

You can find out more by visiting our team at one of our information sessions:

- Community tree planting day – Sunday 30 July from 10am to 2pm at 24 Lewis Street, Wallsend.
- Newcastle Farmers Markets – Sunday 13 August from 7am to 1pm at Newcastle Showground, Broadmeadow.



Have your say until 5pm **24 August 2023.**

COMPLETE OUR SURVEY

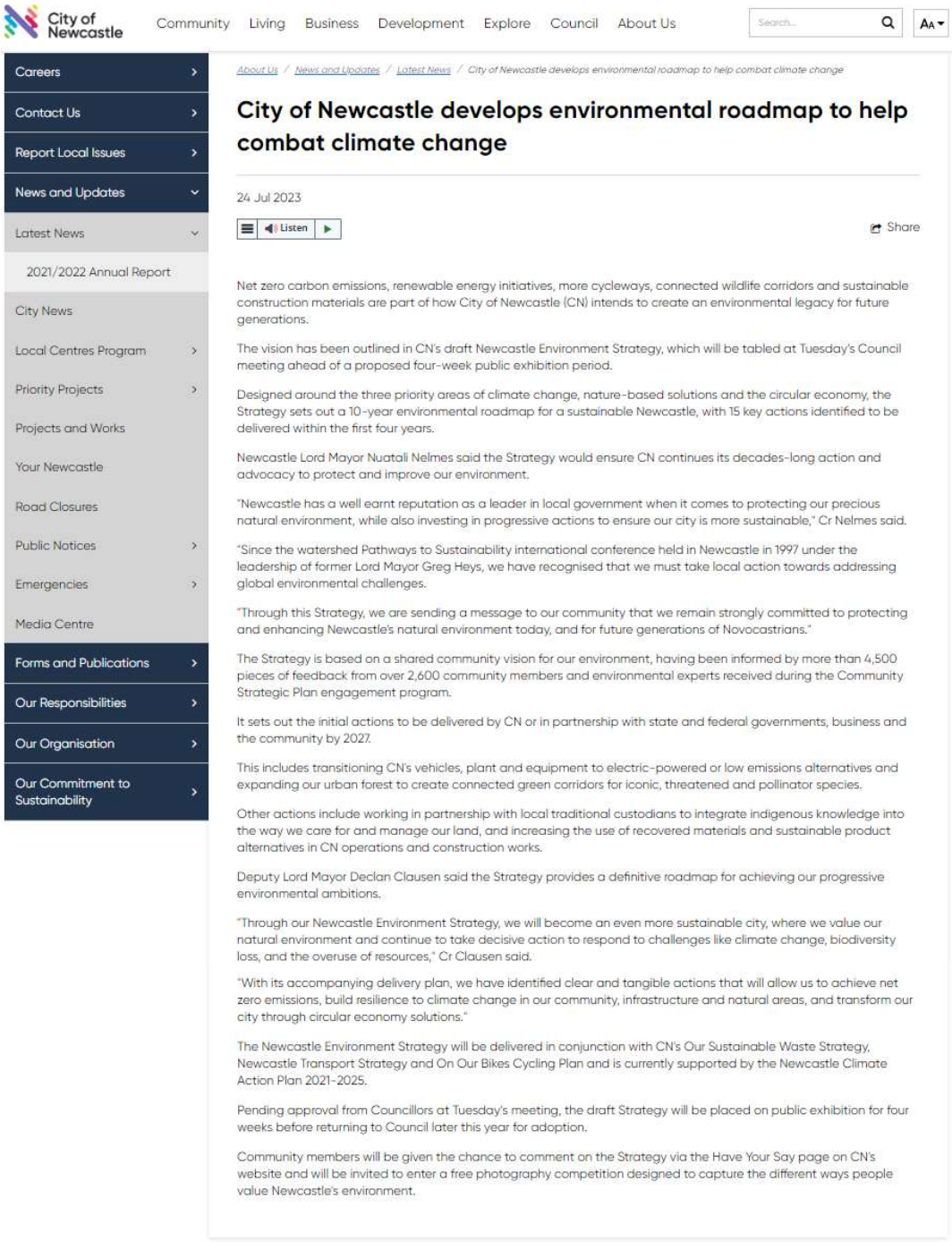
Another way to get involved is by entering our photo competition to show us how you value our Newcastle environment. More information, including the prizes on offer, are detailed on our website.

ENTER OUR PHOTO COMPETITION

Appendix 1:

Promotional materials

Media release



City of Newcastle Community Living Business Development Explore Council About Us

Careers
Contact Us
Report Local Issues
News and Updates
Latest News
2021/2022 Annual Report
City News
Local Centres Program
Priority Projects
Projects and Works
Your Newcastle
Road Closures
Public Notices
Emergencies
Media Centre
Forms and Publications
Our Responsibilities
Our Organisation
Our Commitment to Sustainability

About Us / News and Updates / Latest News / City of Newcastle develops environmental roadmap to help combat climate change

City of Newcastle develops environmental roadmap to help combat climate change

24 Jul 2023

Listen

Share

Net zero carbon emissions, renewable energy initiatives, more cycleways, connected wildlife corridors and sustainable construction materials are part of how City of Newcastle (CN) intends to create an environmental legacy for future generations.

The vision has been outlined in CN's draft Newcastle Environment Strategy, which will be tabled at Tuesday's Council meeting ahead of a proposed four-week public exhibition period.

Designed around the three priority areas of climate change, nature-based solutions and the circular economy, the Strategy sets out a 10-year environmental roadmap for a sustainable Newcastle, with 15 key actions identified to be delivered within the first four years.

Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the Strategy would ensure CN continues its decades-long action and advocacy to protect and improve our environment.

"Newcastle has a well earnt reputation as a leader in local government when it comes to protecting our precious natural environment, while also investing in progressive actions to ensure our city is more sustainable," Cr Nelmes said.

"Since the watershed Pathways to Sustainability international conference held in Newcastle in 1997 under the leadership of former Lord Mayor Greg Heys, we have recognised that we must take local action towards addressing global environmental challenges.

"Through this Strategy, we are sending a message to our community that we remain strongly committed to protecting and enhancing Newcastle's natural environment today, and for future generations of Novocastrians."

The Strategy is based on a shared community vision for our environment, having been informed by more than 4,500 pieces of feedback from over 2,600 community members and environmental experts received during the Community Strategic Plan engagement program.

It sets out the initial actions to be delivered by CN or in partnership with state and federal governments, business and the community by 2027.

This includes transitioning CN's vehicles, plant and equipment to electric-powered or low emissions alternatives and expanding our urban forest to create connected green corridors for iconic, threatened and pollinator species.

Other actions include working in partnership with local traditional custodians to integrate indigenous knowledge into the way we care for and manage our land, and increasing the use of recovered materials and sustainable product alternatives in CN operations and construction works.

Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen said the Strategy provides a definitive roadmap for achieving our progressive environmental ambitions.

"Through our Newcastle Environment Strategy, we will become an even more sustainable city, where we value our natural environment and continue to take decisive action to respond to challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and the overuse of resources," Cr Clausen said.

"With its accompanying delivery plan, we have identified clear and tangible actions that will allow us to achieve net zero emissions, build resilience to climate change in our community, infrastructure and natural areas, and transform our city through circular economy solutions."

The Newcastle Environment Strategy will be delivered in conjunction with CN's Our Sustainable Waste Strategy, Newcastle Transport Strategy and On Our Bikes Cycling Plan and is currently supported by the Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-2025.

Pending approval from Councillors at Tuesday's meeting, the draft Strategy will be placed on public exhibition for four weeks before returning to Council later this year for adoption.

Community members will be given the chance to comment on the Strategy via the Have Your Say page on CN's website and will be invited to enter a free photography competition designed to capture the different ways people value Newcastle's environment.

Appendix 2:

Online survey

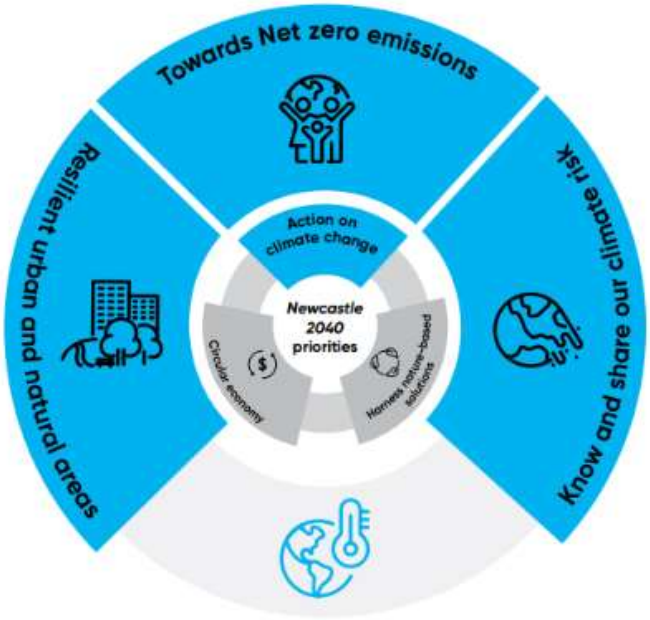
City of Newcastle

Newcastle Environment Strategy Survey

With your input, we've developed the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy which provides a 10-year roadmap for achieving our vision of a sustainable Newcastle. The Strategy outlines how we will go above and beyond our current portfolio of works and programs to continue to lead action on climate change, build a positive future with nature and use our resources sustainably. We want to hear your feedback on whether we're on the right path towards a sustainable Newcastle.

Action on Climate Change

We respond to the climate emergency by committing to net zero emissions and preparing for risks from increasing temperatures, storms, coastal erosion, flooding and bushfires. Decisions we make build resilient communities, infrastructure and natural areas.



Move City of Newcastle (CN) towards net zero emissions

Over the next 10 years we will focus on **moving our operations towards net zero emissions** through the use of electric or low emissions vehicles, machinery and equipment, and reducing our emissions from the Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

In the next four years we will develop and start delivering a plan to use electric or low emissions vehicles, machinery and equipment.

Appendix 2:

Online survey

City of Newcastle

How supportive are you of the priority to transition CN operations towards net zero emissions?
Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

Support our community to move towards net zero emissions

Over the next 10 years we will focus on **supporting our community to transition towards net zero emissions** by encouraging the use of solar power and batteries, electric or low emissions transport and buildings, community renewable energy and battery storage projects, and the associated transformation of business and industry.

In the next four years we will:

- Develop and start delivering a plan to provide electric vehicle charging solutions and incentives to switch to electric vehicles and zero-emissions transport.
- Deliver engagement programs and initiatives to improve energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy and battery storage.

How supportive are you of the priority to help our city move towards net zero emissions? Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

Appendix 2:

Online survey

City of Newcastle

Expand and share our climate risk knowledge

Over the next 10 years we will focus on **expanding our understanding of climate risk** on our built and natural environment and community, and integrating this into CN's decision making, investment planning and service delivery.

In the next four years we will:

- Develop and implement a framework to measure, monitor and report on CN's climate risk.
- Expand on our communication of what these risks mean for our community.

How supportive are you of the priority to expand our understanding of the risks of climate change on our built environment, natural environment and our community? Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

Adapt to Climate Risks

Over the next 10 years we will focus on **adapting the way we manage urban planning and development, infrastructure design and our natural areas** in response to increased climate risks from flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, storms, heatwaves, heat stress, drought, and bush and grass fires.

In the next four years we will:

- Develop and start delivering a plan that prioritises initiatives to build more resilient communities, and urban and natural areas.

How supportive are you of the priority to improve our planning and development of built areas, and management of natural areas in response to increased climate risks? Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

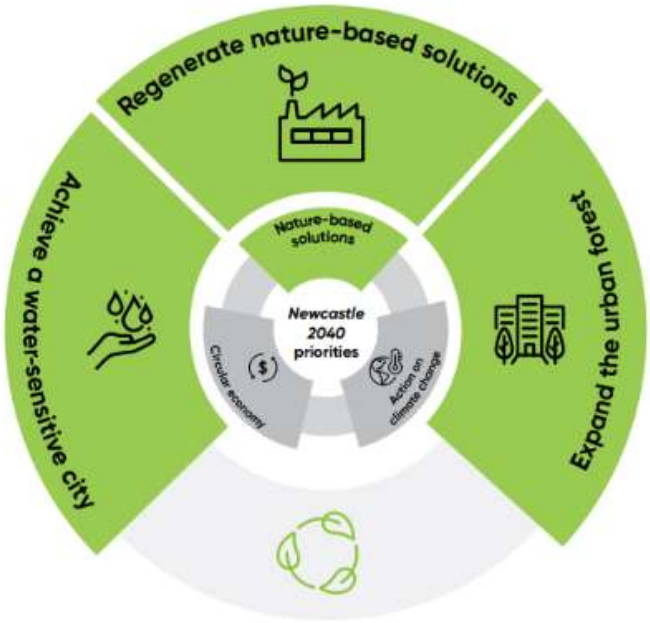
Appendix 2:

Online survey

City of Newcastle

Harnessing nature-based solutions

We manage and enhance our blue, green and natural 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, integrated management that is adaptable to current and future risks. We regenerate our natural systems and work towards zero pollution through collaboration with our community and industry partners.



Prioritise community values and respond to global environmental crises

Over the next 10 years we will focus on prioritising works and programs that **align with our community's values of nature**, and **respond to the global climate change, nature loss and pollution crises**.

In the next four years we will:

- Expand programs to improve the health, condition and connectivity of our natural environment, including soil rehabilitation and initiatives to capture and store carbon dioxide.
- Deliver plans and programs to reconnect our community with nature, connect our urban forest, and support iconic, threatened and pollinator species like the Squirrel Glider.
- Work with local traditional custodians to integrate their knowledge and stewardship into the way we care for manage our land.
- Develop and start delivering a plan for our urban forest to create a cool, green, resilient, pollinator-friendly city.

Appendix 2:

Online survey

City of Newcastle

How supportive are you of the priority to deliver works and programs that align with our community's values of nature, and respond to the climate change, nature loss and pollution crises? Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

Build a blue green grid

Over the next 10 years we will focus on improving the liveability of our city by **building a network of high-quality blue and green spaces** that connect our town centres, transport hubs, schools and homes. Blue and green spaces include creeks, rivers, wetlands, stormwater channels, parks, trees, playgrounds, bushland and other natural spaces.

In the next four years we will:

- Develop and start delivering a plan that maps our blue and green grid and prioritises initiatives to improve and connect the grid.
- Develop and start delivering a plan that proritises stormwater harvesting and reuse, and wastewater reuse, and improves stormwater runoff and the health of our creeks.

How supportive are you of the priority to enhance the liveability of our city by building a blue and green grid? Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

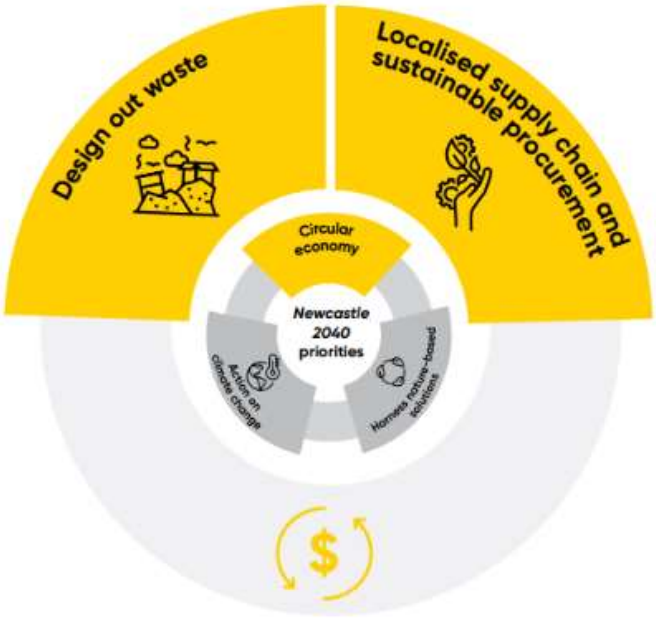
Appendix 2:

Online survey

City of Newcastle

Circular Economy

Through our transition to a circular economy, we design out waste, creating new opportunities and technologies in our local economy, promoting renewable products and sustainable infrastructure, and rethinking our use of resources as a circular flow.



Improve circularity and resource recovery in CN operations

Over the next 10 years we will focus on **improving circularity and resource recovery in our operations and supply chain**, and we will **support and advocate for the community, business and industry to move to a circular economy**.

In the next four years we will:

- Increase our use of recovered materials and sustainable product alternatives in our operations.
- Develop and implement a framework to measure, monitor and report on our procurement impact.
- Implement a local and sustainable procurement program that aims to minimise the extraction of non-renewable materials, indirect carbon emissions and waste streams in our supply chain.

How supportive are you of the priority to improve circularity and resource recovery in our operations? Required

- ○ Very supportive
- ○ Supportive
- ○ Somewhat supportive
- ○ Not very supportive
- ○ Not at all supportive
- ○ Don't know

Comments:

Appendix 2:

Online feedback form

City of Newcastle

Feedback Form - Newcastle Environment Strategy

With your input, we've developed the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy which provides a 10-year roadmap for achieving our vision of a sustainable Newcastle. The Strategy outlines how we will go above and beyond our current portfolio of works and programs to continue to lead action on climate change, build a positive future with nature and use our resources sustainably. We want to hear your feedback on whether we're on the right path towards a sustainable Newcastle.

First name: Required

Last name:

Email: Required

Suburb: Required

Please provide your comments or feedback on the draft Newcastle Environment Strategy: Required

If you have additional feedback to share, please upload files here:

Choose file...

Max files: **5** Allowed file types: **pdf,doc,docx,txt,xls,xlsx,rtf,png,gif,jpg,jpeg** Size limit: **10.00 MB**

Submit

Appendix 3:

Newcastle Environment Strategy (NES) - response to submissions

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
Strong support for more ambitious net zero targets and a transition away from fossil fuels, including bringing forward net zero timeframes, aiming for negative emissions, reducing energy consumption, supporting workers to transition away from polluting industries, and advocating for no new coal and gas. NES should identify that Newcastle is part of a Renewable Energy Zone.	Support is noted. Net zero emissions targets will continue to be reviewed over time in line with the best available science. NES wording revision in response to submissions.	New sentence added to the 'Acting on climate change' section (p.48): "CN supports the transformation of our region to a low carbon economy through renewable energy and will continue to advocate for new renewable energy industries. CN supports the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone and the declaration of an area in the Pacific Ocean off the Hunter, NSW as suitable for future offshore wind development, where environmental impacts can be appropriately managed."
Concern for the potential impacts, reliability, and recyclability of renewable energy assets, including solar PV, batteries and wind turbines.	CN will continue to prepare and review environmental assessments for renewable energy projects, in accordance with relevant state and federal legislation. CN accepts that the best available scientific information demonstrates that a diversity of renewable energy supplies can provide reliable power. The recyclability of renewable energy assets is addressed in CN's *Our Sustainable Waste Strategy.*	None required.
Concern that hosting the Newcastle 500 event is in direct conflict with C's net zero emission targets.	Noted. The decision to continue to host the Newcastle 500 event is outside the scope of the NES.	None required.
Support for assisting households (including people renting, living in apartments and social housing) and businesses to move to renewable energy, including electric vehicles and charging stations. Some concern around the cost of transitioning to renewable energy and the limitations of electric vehicles.	Support noted. Actions for assisting households and businesses to move to renewable energy is addressed through a deliverable in the NES. The wording of this deliverable will be strengthened to explicitly capture community and business. NES wording revision in response to submissions.	Deliverable (p.76) revised to (revision shown in bold): "Deliver **community and business** engagement programs and initiatives focusing on renewable energy and battery storage access and uptake, energy efficiency, electrification, and community renewable energy and battery storage projects."

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
		Sentence revised in the 'Acting on climate change' section (p.48) (revision shown in bold): "City-wide electricity reduction through energy efficiency initiatives and switching to renewable energy in homes, businesses and industry can reduce emissions by two-thirds in the Newcastle LGA **and lead to significant energy cost savings**."
Support for more public transport and sustainable transport options, including adequate cycling infrastructure to encourage active transport and reduce reliance on cars.	Support noted. Sustainable transport initiatives, including cycling infrastructure, is addressed in CN's *Newcastle Transport Strategy*, *On our Bikes Cycling Plan* and *Walking and Mobility Plan*.	None required.
Climate change is a natural event and Australia doesn't contribute much to total global emissions.	CN accepts the climate science which unequivocally demonstrates the anthropogenic influence on climate change. On a per-capita basis, Australia is one of the largest contributors to climate change and is one of the largest coal exporting countries in the world, which contributes to global emissions. All nations have a role to play in achieving net zero emissions.	None required.
Climate risks should already be known, and it is unclear what CN is proposing to do to expand our climate risk knowledge. Comment that we are facing a drastically different landscape within a decade and will face increasing complexity from the polycrisis. Strong support for minimising climate risks.	NES wording revision in response to submissions to explicitly communicate our focus on increasing our knowledge of local climate risks. .	Climate risk strategic priority (p.75) revised to (revision in bold): "Expand our understanding of **local** climate risk**s** on our built and natural environment and our community and integrate evidence-based climate risk management into organisational decision making, investment planning and service delivery." Climate risk framework deliverable (p.76) revised to (revision in bold): "Develop and implement a framework to measure, monitor and report on **local climate risks for CN and the community.**"
Support for assisting households to prepare and respond to natural disasters.	Support noted. Actions to support households will be included in the *Climate Risk and Resilience Action Plan*.	None required.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
Support for minimising/halting vegetation clearing for urban development and more sustainable development outcomes, including retaining green corridors, increasing urban densities and limiting dark coloured roofs.	The 'Continuing on our sustainability pathway' section (p.36) contains an action to strengthen local land use planning to achieve more sustainable development outcomes. NES wording revision in response to submissions.	New sentence added to 'A regenerative future" commitment (p.42): "CN commits to protecting biodiversity corridors and areas of high environmental value from development, rehabilitating and restoring our environment, and designing a city that can coevolve with nature."
Strong support for improving the urban forest, native tree planting, invasive species management, increasing greening on private and public land, increasing the provision of green spaces and community gardens. Strong support for urban greening to minimise impacts of climate change.	Support noted. NES revision to the *Urban Forest Action Plan* deliverable to better capture what the action plan will address.	Urban Forest Action Plan deliverable (p.78) revised to (revision in bold): "Develop and deliver an Urban Forest Action Plan to **increase our urban forest, including greening on private and public land,** and create a cool, resilient, pollinator friendly city."
Support for working with traditional custodians to care for and manage land.	Support noted. The NES contains an overarching commitment and a deliverable to partner with our local traditional custodians to develop and implement cross-cultural ways of working for integrating indigenous knowledge and stewardship into how we care for and manage our land.	None required.
Support for community education and engagement around the importance of urban greening and nature in our city and the benefits of sustainable practices. Support for environmental volunteering and citizen science. Learning opportunities should be accessible to our diversity of citizens, including people with a disability, without the internet or phones, and people who can't drive.	Support noted. Increased focus on the development and delivery of community engagement programs as two deliverables of the NES. NES revisions to strengthen the importance of community education and engagement, including the addition of a new commitment and indicator.	New commitment added to p.41: **Working together** CN recognises that community engagement and action is critical to the successful delivery of the NES. CN commits to delivering programs, initiatives and incentives that build community knowledge and empower the community to act. CN commits to enabling local Landcare volunteers. New indicator added to p.81: Number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives.
Strong support for implementing a blue green grid that naturalises creeks, protects and connects biodiversity corridors, re-wilds the city, and collaborates with neighbouring councils. Support for protecting regional biodiversity	Support noted. *Blue Green Grid Action Plan* will include actions for naturalising creeks, protecting and connecting biodiversity corridors and re-wilding the	Strategic priority on p.77 revised to (revision in bold): "Build a network of high-quality blue and green spaces that connects town centres, public transport hubs, schools and residential areas (a

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
corridors, including the Stockton to Watagans and Link Road corridors.	city. NES wording revision in response to submissions.	blue green grid) for enhanced liveability **and biodiversity outcomes**."
Support for an integrated water management approach, including minimising urban runoff impacts, protecting and rehabilitating wetlands, flood mitigation and water recycling.	Support noted. Water-Sensitive City Action Plan will include actions to minimise urban runoff impacts, protect and rehabilitate wetlands, mitigate floods, and recycle water. NES revision to the *Water-Sensitive City Action Plan* deliverable to better capture what the action plan will address.	Deliverable on p.78 revised to (revision in bold): "Develop and deliver a Water-Sensitive City Action Plan that prioritises stormwater harvesting and reuse, wastewater reuse, stormwater runoff improvements**,** channel naturalisation, and **that enhances and protects the health of waterways and wetlands and the catchments and coastlines that surround them**."
Strong support for minimising waste, organics and soft plastics (Curby) recycling, mending centres, and the use of incentives for recycling. Support for Newcastle to become a recycling hub and to advocate for, and support businesses, to implement sustainable waste solutions.	Support noted. CN's *Our Sustainable Waste Strategy* identifies deliverables for minimising waste, constructing an Organics Processing Facility and Materials Recovery Facility at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre, tackling soft plastics, promoting local repair and reuse initiatives, and engaging with the community and businesses on waste solutions.	None required.
Support for CN to show leadership in procurement practices, including prioritising indigenous and local suppliers.	Support noted. Leadership in procurement practices will be demonstrated through circular economy deliverables in NES (CN's procurement framework and sustainable procurement program). CN's procurement policy currently contains clauses to prioritise indigenous and local suppliers.	None required.
Support for managing pollution from industry and other sources, including noise, heavy metals and coal dust.	Noted. The 'Continuing on our sustainability pathway' section (p.36) contains an action to continue to deliver and improve on our regulatory functions and programs to reduce air, noise, water and land pollution.	None required.
Support for a regenerative approach to environmental management in our city, where the environment is rehabilitated and restored.	NES revisions to strengthen CN's commitment to a regenerative approach.	The 'Our Planet' commitment (p.42) revised to (revision in bold): **A regenerative future** CN recognises the intrinsic value of our natural environment, the benefits of nature to our

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
		society, and how nature is intertwined with our culture and wellbeing. **CN commits to the global challenge of meeting the needs of all whilst simultaneously regenerating our planet. In applying a regenerative approach, CN commits to protecting biodiversity corridors and areas of high environmental value from development, rehabilitating and restoring our environment, and designing a city that can coevolve with nature.** CN commits to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, including the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity, the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity, and improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms. CN commits to the prevention of pollution. CN commits to applying the Nature Futures Framework in planning for and delivering a positive future for our city. The framework recognises the diversity of values that people have for nature, including Nature for Nature, Nature as Culture and Nature for Society."
Concern around the affordability of actions in the NES, leading to increased rates and CN should focus on its role to deliver other infrastructure and services.	The NES is a costed strategy that will be delivered in conjunction with the many other assets and services that CN provides/delivers.	None required.
Questions around how the targets will be achieved and quantitative goals.	Noted. The NES contains a series of quantitative target and indicators to measure the success of the NES (see Appendix 2). Further indicators and targets will be included in the action plans that support the NES.	None required.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY / INTERNAL CN SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
The targets set by the NES are consistent with the Hunter Local Land Service's (LLS) key initiatives.	Noted.	None required.
The nature-based solutions actions would benefit from additional indicators and targets related to CN's vision for important wetland areas within the LGA and linkages to the estuary. For example, the strategy should reference the Hunter Estuary Alliance and development of the Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program. Could we include catchment management, wetland and watercourse resilience in the Water-Sensitive City Section.	Noted. The 'Continuing on our sustainability pathway' section (p.36) outlines that CN is committed to delivering "coastal, flood risk and bushfire management programs", which includes the *Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program* and associated Hunter Estuary Alliance (HEAL). The Water-Sensitive Cities Index Score (p.83) will contain indicators around wetland health within the LGA (baseline index score to be developed in 23/24). NES wording revision in response to submissions.	Deliverable on p.78 revised to (revision in bold): "Develop and deliver a Water-Sensitive City Action Plan that prioritises stormwater harvesting and reuse, wastewater reuse, stormwater runoff improvements**,** channel naturalisation, and **that enhances and protects the health of waterways and wetlands and the catchments and coastlines that surround them**."
The inclusion of indicators/ targets on community education and environmental stewardship, for example Landcare Groups and citizen science activities, may be beneficial. Could we include additional targets to address community engagement/social capital building?	NES revision to include indicator on community action that benefits the environment.	New indicator added to p.81: Number of community actions undertaken to benefit the environment as a result of participating in CN programs and initiatives.
Encouragement for CN to focus on local native species for new plantings in urban forest program.	Noted. *Urban Forest Action Plan* will consider actions that focus on local native species for new plantings.	None required.
Encouragement for CN to consider including actions around pest animal awareness and control, noting their significant impact on the local environment.	Noted. The 'Continuing on our sustainability pathway' (p.36) outlines our commitment to delivering an invasive species program.	None required.
Action on climate change – creating resilient communities, economies and natural areas. This action would benefit from more clarity about how CN will lead climate risk awareness in the local community.	Noted. How CN will lead climate risk awareness in the local community will be detailed in the *Climate Risk and Resilience Action Plan* that will support the NES.	None required.
The role of peri-urban landholders in supporting connectivity to bushland areas around Newcastle, as well as their role in protecting water quality, could also be included as a consideration in the strategy.	Noted. The *Water-Sensitive City Action Plan* and the community engagement and incentive program deliverable, to reconnect the community with nature and expand our urban forest, will consider the role of peri-urban landholders in supporting connectivity to bushland areas around Newcastle.	None required.
Revise riparian indicator to 'Length of watercourses rehabilitated annually (metres)'.	Indicator revised in response to submission.	Indicator on p.83 revised from "Length of riparian areas restored (metres)" to "Length of watercourses rehabilitated annually (metres)".

GOVERNMENT AGENCY / INTERNAL CN SUBMISSIONS		
Submission theme	**CN response**	**Revision to draft NES**
How will nature-based solutions and the Nature Futures Framework be used to prioritise works?	The Nature Futures Framework is a conceptual guide for delivering nature-based solutions. Wording in NES revised to make this clearer.	Strategic priority on p.78 revised to (revision in bold): "Apply the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Nature Futures Framework (Nature for Nature, Nature for Society and Nature for Culture) to **guide** projects and initiatives that respond to the climate change, nature loss and pollution crises."
The blue green grid currently comes across as anthropocentric.	NES revision to highlight the broader intent of the blue green grid, namely enhanced biodiversity outcomes in addition to liveability outcomes.	Sentence on the blue and green grid revised in the 'harnessing nature-based solutions' section (p.57): (revision in bold): "We will protect and expand our blue and green grid to **improve biodiversity connections and** enhance liveability." Strategic priority on p.77 revised to (revision in bold): "Build a network of high-quality blue and green spaces that connects town centres, public transport hubs, schools and residential areas (a blue green grid) for enhanced liveability **and biodiversity outcomes**."
Add commitments to prevent pollution and comply with all relevant legislation to meet requirements for an Environmental Management System.	NES revisions to commitments to include prevention of pollution and compliance with legislation.	Sentence added to 'A regenerative future' commitment (p.42): "CN commits to the prevention of pollution." Sentence added to Adaptive management commitment (p.42): "CN commits to complying with all relevant environmental legislation."
Language can be strengthened to further demonstrate the type of partnership and outcomes we want to achieve from working with our traditional custodians.	NES wording revision in response to submission.	Deliverable on p.78 revised to (revisions in bold): "Partner with our local traditional custodians to **develop and implement cross-cultural ways of working** for integrating indigenous knowledge and stewardship into how we care for and manage our land **and respond to the climate emergency, for a regenerative future.**"

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/2023 – EXHIBITION OF DRAFT NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS REVIEW REPORT

8.4	**Attachment A:**	Draft Biodiversity Conservation Agreement
8.4	**Attachment B:**	Map of Lot 122 DP and proximity to TfNSW M1 extension and proposed Lower Hunter Freight Corridor

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Conservation Agreement

Made under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW)

Conservation Agreement Number: CA0482

Property Name: Black Hill Wetland

Part A. Execution

Executed as a deed

Executed by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales
Signed sealed and delivered for and on behalf of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales by its duly authorised delegate in the presence of the witness named below:

I certify that an authorised officer of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales who is personally known to me or as to whose identity I am otherwise satisfied signed this dealing in my presence.

.....	.....
Signature of delegate of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales	Signature of witness
.....	.....
Date	Name of witness (please print)
.....	.....
Name and Title of delegate (please print)	Address of witness (please print)

Signed, sealed and delivered by the person named below in the presence of the witness named below:

Executed on behalf of Newcastle City Council *as a Deed by an authorised delegate under section* 378 *of the Local Government Act 1993 whose signature(s) appear(s) below pursuant to the authority specified. Certified correct for the purposes of the Real Property Act 1900 by the registered proprietor.*

I certify that I am an eligible witness and that an authorised delegate signed this dealing in my presence. [See note below]*

.....	.....
Signature of authorised delegate	Signature of witness
.....	.....
Name of authorised delegate (please print)	Name of witness (please print)
	.....
	Address of witness (please print)

**s117 RP Act requires that you must have known the signatory for more than 12 months or have sighted identifying documentation.*

Annexure A
Conservation Agreement of Lot 122 in DP 1235373 between the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales and Newcastle City Council

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Part B. Parties

The parties to this Deed are:

- The person or entity named in Item C (**Owner**)
- The Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act of 4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta, NSW (**NSW BCT**)

Note: This Deed, once Registered, is binding on successors in title and not just the owner named above.

Note: The NSW BCT may delegate any of its functions (other than the power of delegation) to a member or committee of the Board of the NSW BCT, any employee of the NSW BCT, or any person, or a person of a class, prescribed by the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation.

Note: Any reference in this Deed to the word “Item” is a reference to the relevant item in the Schedule of Terms at Part E of this Deed.

Part C. Preamble

A. The parties have agreed to enter into a Conservation Agreement under Part 5 Division 3 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act to protect and/or study the Biodiversity of the Conservation Area.

B. The Owner owns the Land, which includes the Conservation Area.

C. The Site Values Report records the condition of the Conservation Area as at the date of the Site Values Report.

D. The Owner has agreed to comply with certain restrictions in relation to the Conservation Area, in accordance with the Law and the terms and conditions set out in this Deed.

E. In executing this Deed, the parties have agreed to the schedule of terms set out in Part E and the conditions set out in Part F of this Deed.

Part D. Consents required under section 5.21 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act

This part is not applicable.

Part E. Schedule of Terms

Item A	**Agreement Date**	
Item B	**Term**	
(clause 2)	Commencement Date	The rights and obligations under this Deed commence on the Agreement Date
	End Date	Not applicable (the Deed continues in perpetuity)
Item C	**Owner**	
	Name of Owner at Agreement Date	Newcastle City Council
	Address for service of notices	PO Box 489 Newcastle, NSW 2300 Email: mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au
Item D	**Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales**	
	Name	The Biodiversity Conservation Trust of New South Wales (**NSW BCT**)
	Address for service of notices	Biodiversity Conservation Trust Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta New South Wales 2124 Email: info@bct.nsw.gov.au
Item E	**Details of Land and Conservation Area**	
	Land	Lot 122 DP 1235373 Known as Black Hill Wetland
	Conservation Area	The area outlined on the boundary map in the Management Plan, having an approximate area shown below
	Approximate area of Conservation Area	22.4 hectares
Item F	**Aboriginal Objects and Aboriginal Places known to be present on Conservation Area**	
(clause 4)	As of 21st September 2022 the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System register indicates that there are no known Aboriginal places in the Conservation Area but there are two known Aboriginal places within 50 metres of the boundary of the Conservation Area. Note: The above is based on the Owner's knowledge, and a search that the NSW BCT has conducted of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (**AHIMS**) to determine whether any Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places are recorded in that system as existing in, on, under or in relation to the Conservation Area. The fact that AHIMS does not have any recordings in relation to the Conservation Area does not mean that Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places do not exist in, on under or in relation to the Conservation Area (and if Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places are recorded, this does not mean that additional Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places do not also exist in, on, under or in relation to the Conservation Area)	
Item G	**Objective**	
	To maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats.	

Item H	**Offset obligation**	
	Is this Deed entered into to secure an offset obligation?	No
Item I	**Site Values Report**	
	The document titled “Site Values Report” to be completed by June 2024, a copy of which is set out in a document which is separate to this Deed which has been signed by the parties for identification purposes	
Item J	**Special conditions**	
(clause 1(b))	Not Applicable	

Part F. Conditions

1. Definitions and interpretation

(a) Defined terms used in this Deed are capitalised and the meaning of such terms is set out in the Dictionary at Attachment 1. Provisions relating to interpretation of this Deed are also set out in the Dictionary.

(b) The Special Conditions take precedence over any Standard Provisions, and the provisions in any Attachment, but only to the extent of any inconsistency.

2. Commencement and term

(a) This Deed:

(i) commences on the Agreement Date; and

(ii) applies:

(A) in perpetuity if there is no End Date stated in Item B; or

(B) until the End Date if one is stated in Item B,

and if registered by the Registrar-General, is binding on successors in title.

(b) The Owner acknowledges that:

(i) the Site Values Report describes the condition of the Conservation Area as at the date of the Site Values Report to the best of the knowledge of the Owner and the NSW BCT; and

(ii) if subsequent versions of the Site Values Report are signed by the Owner from time to time and the NSW BCT, then those subsequent versions describe the condition of the Conservation Area to the best of the knowledge of the Owner and the NSW BCT at the date they are signed.

3. Existing agreements

Where the Conservation Area is already the subject of an agreement that protects and regulates the use of the Area this Deed applies and takes precedence over any of the obligations in the previous agreement.

It is not a defence to a contravention of this Deed to say that a previous agreement has been complied with.

4. Aboriginal Objects and Aboriginal Places

The parties acknowledge that nothing in this Deed authorises (including, by way of a consent, permit, approval or authorisation of any kind for the purposes of Part 6 of the NPW Act) any person to harm, damage or desecrate an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place in, on or under the Conservation Area, including any objects or places described in Item F above.

5. Continued operation of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017*

In respect of those parts of the Conservation Area that are land to which the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017* applies the Deed does not operate as an authorisation of clearing under section 60O of the Local Land Services Act 2013.

Note: you will need to check if any parts of the conservation area are land to which the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017* applies. For that land the controls set out in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas 2017* apply. For areas of the Conservation Area that are covered by the SEPP the Clearing and earthwork envelopes are not be the distances set out in Part 4 of Attachment 2 - the processes and requirements set out in the SEPP must be followed.

6. Management Plan

The Owner must comply with the Management Plan.

7. Recommended management actions

The Owner may, but is not obliged to, carry out the recommended management actions set out in Attachment 3 if the Owner wishes to assist in the further conservation and enhancement of Biodiversity within the Conservation Area.

8. General restrictions on use of Conservation Area

The Owner must not, and must ensure that any Owner Associates do not, carry out any Prohibited Activities on the Conservation Area, unless agreed to by the NSW BCT in writing.

Note: Prohibited Activities are the Management Restrictions described in Part 2 of the Management Plan (Attachment 2). Also, see exceptions provided in clause 9 below.

9. Permitted Exceptions

Despite any other provision of this Deed, the Owner:

(a) may carry out, or cause or permit to be carried out, any Permitted Exception;

(b) in an emergency, or where there is an imminent risk of:

(i) serious personal injury; or

(ii) irreparable serious damage to property,

may do anything that is reasonably necessary to remove or reduce such risk; and

(c) is not required to do anything which would be inconsistent with any Identified Legal Requirement.

Note: Permitted Exceptions are described in clause 3 of Part 2 of the Management Plan (Attachment 2). Identified Legal Requirements are set out in the Dictionary (Attachment 1).

10. Owner notification

The Owner must notify the NSW BCT as soon as possible after becoming aware of any one or more of the following:

(a) any sudden or significant decline in the Biodiversity Values, or Biodiversity, on the Conservation Area,

(b) any threat to any of the Biodiversity Values, or Biodiversity, on the Conservation Area, or

(c) any breach of this Deed, or any document which is expressed to be ancillary to this Deed.

Note: This includes an obligation to notify of any matter that is caused by or arises from actions of the Owner, actions of third parties and natural actions (e.g. floods or drought).

11. Owner's obligations where the Land is used by third parties

(a) The Owner's obligations under this Deed continue when the Land is occupied or used by any third party at the invitation or with the authorisation of the Owner or an Owner's Associate.

(b) The Owner must ensure that:

(i) any Occupant and any Owner Associate entering or using the Land is aware of the Owner's obligations under this Deed;

(ii) any Occupancy Agreement relating to the Land specifically incorporates all relevant requirements of this Deed and requires that any Occupant will not:

(A) cause a breach of this Deed; or

(B) act in a way that is inconsistent with the Owner's obligations under this Deed.

12. Change of Owner or Occupant of Land

(a) The Owner must notify the NSW BCT in writing:

(i) if the Owner forms any intent to Sell, as soon as possible after such intent arises;

(ii) where part or all of the Land is listed for Sale, within 7 days after the date of such listing;

(iii) of any change of ownership of part or all of the Land, within 7 days after such change;

(iv) of any change of an Occupant of part or all of the Land, within 28 days after such change.

(b) A notice under clause 12(a)(iii) or 12(a)(iv) must include the name and address and other relevant contact details of the New Owner or Occupant.

(c) The Owner must provide a copy of this Deed to any New Owner before completion of the Sale.

Note: The circumstances in which the Land or the Conservation Area may be subdivided are restricted. For further detail see clause 2(k) of Part 2 of the Management Plan.

13. Owner to permit access for Research and Monitoring

(a) The Owner must do all reasonable things to allow any Authorised Entrant to safely and reasonably access the Conservation Area at any time to carry out Research or Monitoring, but only where the NSW BCT or the Authorised Entrant has given reasonable notice to both the Owner and any Notified Occupant of the Authorised Entrant's intention to enter the Conservation Area and the nature of the Research or Monitoring to be conducted.

(b) The requirements in clause 13(a) do not affect or limit the powers of Authorised Officers to enter premises in accordance with Part 12 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Note: Part 12 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act grants authorised officers rights to enter premises (not limited to Conservation Areas) for various reasons including determining whether there has been compliance with or a contravention of the Biodiversity Conservation Act, determining whether there has been compliance with a Conservation Agreement and for obtaining information or records for purposes connected with the administration of the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

14. Monitoring and Reporting

The Owner may provide information about the Conservation Area to the NSW BCT, in addition to that required under this Deed, to assist in the study of the conservation or enhancement of Biodiversity, including:

(a) the results of any monitoring, inspections or surveys carried out by the Owner with respect to the Conservation Area;

(b) records of actions undertaken in accordance with the Management Plan; and

(c) assessments of biodiversity outcomes for the Conservation Area.

Note: The Owner is not required to undertake the reporting and monitoring activities referred to in clause 14, but may choose to do so.

15. Owner's warranties as to ownership

The Owner warrants to the NSW BCT that, as at the Agreement Date:

(a) the Owner is the Owner of the Land and there is no other person who is Owner of the Land; and

(b) the Owner is not aware of any challenge to the Owner's ownership of the Land.

16. Owner to obtain all necessary consents and comply with all Laws

(a) The Owner warrants that:

(i) as at the Agreement Date, the Owner has obtained the written consent of all persons whose consent is required to the entry into this Deed and Registration; and

(ii) if any further consents are required on or after the Agreement Date, the Owner will promptly obtain the written consent of all such persons including where consent is required for the continuation, variation or termination of this Deed or any Registration of such dealings,

whether required by this Deed or by Law.

(b) The Owner must obtain all consents and approvals necessary for, and comply with all Laws in relation to, carrying out any Permitted Exceptions and any activity that the Owner carries out in accordance with Attachment 3.

17. Land Titles Registration

(a) The NSW BCT will:

(i) at its cost, Register this Deed, as soon as practicable after the Agreement Date, subject to the Owner's compliance with clauses 16 and 17(b) where applicable; and

(ii) prepare and register any Site Sketch Plan as part of this Deed.

(b) If the Owner requires that the Land or Conservation Area be described by reference to a separate deposited plan, then unless otherwise agreed, the Owner must pay the costs of such separate deposited plan including surveying costs and any additional costs associated with registration of such deposited plan.

(c) The Owner agrees to do all things reasonably required by the NSW BCT to facilitate Registration, including signing relevant dealing forms and any abstracts.

Note: The costs of preparing this Deed are addressed in clause 25.

18. Review of Deed and support by NSW BCT

(a) The NSW BCT will, after the end of every Review Period, conduct a review of this Deed (and in particular the Management Plan) and the Site Values Report to determine whether the NSW BCT considers that any variations to either the Deed or the Site Values Report are appropriate to improve the conservation of Biodiversity on the Conservation Area.

(b) If the outcome of any review conducted under clause 18(a) is that the NSW BCT does consider that variations to either the Deed or the Site Values Report may be appropriate, then it will notify the Owner of that outcome, and the proposed variations.

(c) Nothing in this clause 18 requires the NSW BCT or the Owner to agree to any variation to this Deed.

Note: All variations are governed by clause 21 of this Deed.

(d) The NSW BCT will arrange for the provision of technical advice and any other assistance to the Owner in accordance with the "Landholder Support Package" offered by the NSW BCT from time to time.

19. Indemnity and release

19.1 Release

The Owner agrees that the Protected Persons are not responsible for and releases each of the Protected Persons from any Claims arising from, in connection with, or as a consequence of:

(a) the Owner carrying out its obligations under this Deed or acting on financial, technical or other advice provided under or in connection with the Deed;

(b) a Protected Person exercising a right or carrying out an obligation under this Deed or the Law, including in relation to the variation or termination of this Deed;

(c) the provision by a Protected Person of financial advice, technical advice or other assistance under, or in connection with the implementation of this Deed or the failure to provide such advice or assistance,

except to the extent caused or contributed to by the negligence or default of the Protected Persons.

19.2 Indemnity

(a) The Owner indemnifies the Protected Persons against all Claims that the Protected Persons may sustain or incur arising from, in connection with, or as a consequence of the Owner's, Occupant's or the Owner's Associate's negligence or default under this Deed.

(b) Unless this Deed expressly provides otherwise:

(i) each indemnity in this Deed survives the expiry, termination or surrender of this Deed; and

(ii) a party may recover a payment under an indemnity in this Deed before it makes the payment in respect of which the indemnity is given.

20. Electronic Execution

(a) Each party consents to this document and any variations of this document being signed by electronic signature by the methods set out in this clause.

(b) This clause applies regardless of the type of legal entity of the parties. If this document or any subsequent variations are signed on behalf of a legal entity, the persons signing warrant that they have the authority to sign.

(c) For the purposes of this clause, the parties agree that the following methods validly identify the person signing and indicate that person's intention to sign this document and any variation of it:

(i) insertion of an image (including a scanned image) of the person's own unique signature on to the document;

(ii) insertion of the person's name on to the document; or

(iii) use of a stylus or touch finger on a touch screen to sign the document:

provided that in each of the above cases, words to the effect of '*Electronic signature of me, [NAME], affixed by me on [DATE/TIME]*' are also included on the document;

(iv) use of a reliable electronic signature and exchange platform (such as DocuSign or AdobeSign) to sign the document; or

(v) as otherwise agreed in writing (including via email) between the parties.

(d) The parties agree that the above methods are reliable as appropriate for the purpose of signing this document and that electronic signing of this document by or on behalf of a party indicates that party's intention to be bound.

21. Variation

(a) This Deed may only be varied in writing and in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Note: Examples of circumstances where a variation will generally be agreed include circumstances where land is to be added to the Conservation Area.

(b) Unless otherwise agreed, the Owner must pay the NSW BCT's costs, including legal costs, of preparing any variation to this Deed that is proposed by the Owner, and registering the variation.

Note: In some cases the NSW BCT may agree to pay some of the costs associated with a variation, for example where the variation will improve Biodiversity conservation.

22. Force majeure

(a) The Owner is:

(i) not required to comply with its obligations under this Deed; and

(ii) is not liable for any loss or liability suffered or incurred by the NSW BCT as a result of the Owner's inability to comply with its obligations,

to the extent that the Owner is prevented from complying, or its ability to comply is delayed, due to a Force Majeure Event. This applies for so long as the Force Majeure Event continues to prevent the Owner from complying.

(b) If the Owner's ability to comply with its obligations under this Deed is affected by a Force Majeure Event it must:

(i) promptly notify the NSW BCT as soon as it becomes aware that it is (or is likely to be) so affected, giving reasonable details of the Force Majeure Event and the obligations that will be affected;

(ii) take all reasonable steps to prevent, limit and minimise the effect of the Force Majeure Event on its obligations and comply again with its obligations as soon as reasonably possible; and

(iii) keep the NSW BCT informed of the expected duration of the effect of the Force Majeure Event and the steps it takes to comply with clause 22(b)(ii).

Note: See also clause 10 which requires the Owner to give the NSW BCT notice of certain events affecting the Conservation Area.

23. Dispute resolution

(a) If a party believes that a Dispute has arisen, then, subject to clause 23(c), that party may not commence court proceedings unless it has first given the other party a Dispute Notice and attempted to resolve the Dispute in accordance with this clause 23.

(b) If a Dispute Notice is given then the Owner and the NSW BCT must each appoint a representative to use all reasonable endeavours to:

(i) promptly (and in any event within 28 days after receiving the Dispute Notice meet (in person or using electronic or telecommunications technology)); and

(ii) at such meeting, act in good faith to attempt to resolve the Dispute described in the Dispute Notice.

(c) Nothing in this clause 23 prevents:

(i) any party from seeking urgent interlocutory relief in relation to a breach of this Deed; or

(ii) the NSW BCT or the Minister exercising the NSW BCT's or the Minister's rights under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Note: This clause is not intended to limit the rights of the NSW BCT to commence civil proceedings under Part 13, Division 2 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and does not apply where the Owner is in breach of its obligations under this Deed.

24. Disclosure of Deed and information

The Owner consents to the Disclosure Information being made publicly available as part of the register of private land conservation agreements maintained by DPE and acknowledges that that Disclosure Information may be made available to the public on the government website maintained in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

25. Costs

Each party must pay its own costs and disbursements in relation to:

(a) the preparation, negotiation and finalisation of this Deed.

(b) everything it must do under this Deed unless otherwise specified in this Deed.

Note: Costs associated with registration are addressed in clause 17 and costs associated with variations are addressed in clause 21.

26. Discretion and no fetter

(a) Except as otherwise set out in this Deed, and subject to any Law, the NSW BCT may give or withhold an approval or consent to be given under this Deed, and any such approval or consent may be subject to any conditions determined by the NSW BCT, in the NSW BCT's absolute and unfettered discretion. The NSW BCT is not obliged to give its reasons for withholding approval or consent, or giving approval or consent subject to conditions.

(b) Nothing in this Deed is to be construed as requiring the NSW BCT to do anything that would cause the NSW BCT to be in breach of any of its obligations at Law, and without limitation nothing in this Deed is to be construed as limiting or fettering in any way the exercise of any statutory discretion or duty.

27. Liability limited to NSW BCT only

The Owner acknowledges that neither the Crown in right of the State, nor the State's employees or agents, is in any way liable for the acts or omissions of the NSW BCT under this Deed.

28. Default and NSW BCT's rectification rights

28.1 Notice on default

If the Owner breaches any term of this Deed then the NSW BCT may give notice to the Owner:

(a) specifying the breach; and

(b) requiring that the breach be remedied within a reasonable time after the date of the notice.

28.2 NSW BCT may rectify

The NSW BCT may, but is not obliged to, do anything that the NSW BCT considers necessary to remedy any default by the Owner under this Deed (including having an Authorised Entrant, or any employee, agent or contractor of the NSW BCT, enter the Land to remedy the default), and whenever the NSW BCT elects to take any steps to remedy a default by the Owner all Costs incurred by the NSW BCT will be a liquidated debt and must be paid by the Owner to the NSW BCT on demand.

29. Termination

(a) This Deed may be terminated by written notice:

(i) immediately, by the NSW BCT, where the Owner has not complied with a notice given by the NSW BCT in accordance with clause 28.1(b); or

(ii) otherwise in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

(b) The Owner acknowledges that the Minister is entitled to direct the NSW BCT to terminate this Deed under sections 5.23(7) and 5.25(3) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Owner will not make a Claim against the NSW BCT if the Minister makes such a direction and acknowledges that no compensation is payable by the Minister or the NSW BCT to the Owner in respect of variation or termination of this Deed except where compensation is payable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act or at Law.

30. Notices

30.1 Giving notices

(a) A notice under this Deed is only given if it is in writing and is delivered, posted or emailed (as appropriate) to the Notice Address.

(b) A party may change their Notice Address by giving the other parties at least 5 Business Days written notice of the changed details.

30.2 Time notice is given

A notice is to be treated as given or made in accordance with the following rules:

(a) if it is delivered in person, when it is left at the relevant physical address of the recipient;

(b) if it is sent by post within Australia, on the earlier of the following:

(i) the date it is actually delivered;

(ii) the date confirmed to be the delivery date pursuant to the tracking service; and

(iii) where it is sent by:

(A) express post service, 2 Business Days after being posted; or

(B) any form of post, other than express post, 4 Business Days after being posted;

(c) if it is sent by email, as soon as it is sent provided that:

(i) the sender does not receive a message indicating that there has been an error in the transmission; and

(ii) the sender also sends the notice by way of an alternative method of service (but clauses 30.2(a) and 30.2(b) will not apply to the alternative method).

Note: See clause 12 in relation to the Owner's obligation to give notice to the NSW BCT on change of ownership.

Attachment 1: Dictionary and Interpretation

Part 1. Dictionary

In this Deed, unless a contrary intention appears, a capitalised word or words has the meaning given in the corresponding row in the table below.

Word/s	Meaning
Aboriginal Objects	The same meaning that "Aboriginal objects" has in the NPW Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was "any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains"*
Aboriginal Places	The same meaning that "Aboriginal places" has in the NPW Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was "any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under section 84" of the NPW Act*
Agreement Date	The date on which the last party executes the Deed, being the date set out in Item A
Attachment	A numbered attachment at the end of this Deed
Authorised Entrant	Any one or more of the following: – the NSW BCT – the Environment Agency Head – an officer of DPE or the NSW BCT – any person that the NSW BCT, the Environment Agency Head or an officer of DPE or the NSW BCT requests the Owner to allow onto the Land to carry out Research and/or Monitoring where the Owner has consented to such request (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed)
Authorised Officer	A person who is appointed as an authorised officer under Part 12 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date, the Environment Agency Head may appoint any person (including a class of persons) as an authorised officer*
Authority	Any federal, state or local government authority, body or department having jurisdiction in relation to the Land or this Deed and includes any governmental or semi-governmental or local governmental authority, administrative or judicial body or tribunal, department, commission, public authority, agency, minister, statutory corporation or instrumentality
Biodiversity	The meaning given to it in section 1.5 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was "the variety of living animal and plant life from all sources, and includes diversity within and between species and diversity of ecosystems"*

Word/s	Meaning
Biodiversity Conservation Act	The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)* and any regulations from time to time in force under that Act
Biodiversity Conservation Regulation	The *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (NSW)*
Biodiversity Values	The meaning given to it in section 1.5 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was:* *"- vegetation integrity—being the degree to which the composition, structure and function of vegetation at a particular site and the surrounding landscape has been altered from a near natural state,* *- habitat suitability—being the degree to which the habitat needs of threatened species are present at a particular site,* *- threatened species abundance—being the occurrence and abundance of threatened species or threatened ecological communities, or their habitat, at a particular site,* *- vegetation abundance—being the occurrence and abundance of vegetation at a particular site,* *- habitat connectivity—being the degree to which a particular site connects different areas of habitat of threatened species to facilitate the movement of those species across their range,* *- threatened species movement—being the degree to which a particular site contributes to the movement of threatened species to maintain their lifecycle,* *- flight path integrity—being the degree to which the flight paths of protected animals over a particular site are free from interference,* *- water sustainability—being the degree to which water quality, water bodies and hydrological processes sustain threatened species and threatened ecological communities at a particular site"*
Business Day	A day that is not: – a Saturday, Sunday, public holiday or bank holiday in Sydney, Australia; or – 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31 of December
Claim	Any claim, damage, demand, liability, Cost, loss, suit, proceeding (whether actual or potential), right of action and claim for compensation
Clearing and Earthworks Envelopes	The distances and other restrictions set out in Part 4 of the Management Plan
Conservation Area	The area described in Item E beside the words "Conservation Area"

Word/s	Meaning
Cost	Any cost, expense, charge, payment, outgoing, loss or other expenditure of any nature whether direct, indirect or consequential and whether accrued or paid and includes legal costs and expenses on whichever is the higher of a full indemnity basis or solicitor and own client basis
Deed	This deed and includes any attachments, annexures or schedules attached to this deed
Development	The meaning given to it in section 1.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was: "(a) the use of land, and (b) the subdivision of land, and (c) the erection of a building, and (d) the carrying out of a work, and (e) the demolition of a building or work, and (f) any other act, matter or thing referred to in section 26 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979 that is controlled by an environmental planning instrument, but does not include the demolition of a temporary structure"*
Dictionary	This Attachment titled "Dictionary and Interpretation" and includes any replacement or updated component of such Attachment from time to time
Disclosure Information	The information contained in this Deed, including a copy of the Deed and details of the location of the Land and the Management Plan
Dispute	A dispute, difference or claim in connection with this Deed (but excluding any dispute, difference or claim in connection with clause 28 or 29)
Dispute Notice	A notice setting out: – the nature, or subject matter, of the Dispute, including a summary of any efforts made to resolve other than in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Process; – the identity of any other person centrally involved in the Dispute; – the intent to invoke the Dispute Resolution Process; and – (if practicable) the outcomes which the notifying party wishes to achieve
Dispute Resolution Process	The process set out in clauses 23(a) and 23(b)
DPE	The Department of Planning and Environment
End Date	The date set out in Item B beside the words "End Date"
Environment Agency Head	The meaning given to it in section 1.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was "the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment"*

Word/s	Meaning
FloraBank Model Code of Practice	The model code of practice published by Florabank from time to time *Note: As at the Agreement Date, the model code of practice is available at http://www.florabank.org.au/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=807*
Force Majeure Event	An event that is beyond the reasonable control of the Owner, including any natural disaster, fire, flood, accident, war, riot, act of terrorism, biohazard or a serious epidemic, but only to the extent that such events were beyond the Owner's reasonable control. A force majeure event does not however include any obligation to pay money, a labour dispute or shortage of materials or labour
Identified Legal Requirements	Any one or more of the requirements listed below: – under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*: + an emergency order under section 44; + a control order under section 62; + a requirement to assist an authorised officer under section 103; or + a biosecurity direction under section 128; – a weed control notice issued under and prior to the repeal of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (NSW)*; – under the *Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)*: + a pest control order under section 130, + an eradication order under section 144, + a requirement for destruction of pests under section 152, or + a requirement to assist an authorised officer under section 179 – a direction under section 37A of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (NSW)* in relation to a state of emergency or a direction under section 22A of that Act, – under the *Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)*: + any notified steps under section 63, + a direction under section 45 for the prevention, control or suppression of any bush fire, + a bush fire hazard reduction notice under section 66, + an emergency fire fighting act within the meaning of that Act, + emergency bush fire hazard reduction work within the meaning of that Act, – otherwise as part of any managed bushfire hazard reduction work that is carried out in accordance with a current bushfire hazard reduction certificate that applies to the work or the provisions of any bushfire code applying to the land specified in the certificate

Word/s	Meaning
Infrastructure	The meaning given to "infrastructure" and "rural infrastructure" in Part 3 of Schedule 5A of the *Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)* *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning includes: a building, structure or work, fences, roads, tracks, irrigation channels or pipelines, stock or domestic water supply pipelines, soil conservation earthworks, cut lines for stock movement, bore drains, drains to water storages, telephone lines or cables, power lines or cables or areas for movement of large machinery, shearing, machinery, grain, hay or similar sheds, stock handling facilities, dams, ground tanks, windmills, bores, pumps, tanks or water points*
Item	A sequential item in the terms schedule at the end of this Deed
Land	The land described in Item E beside the word "Land"
Law	The common law, any requirement of any rule, statute, proclamation, regulation, ordinance or by-law, present or future, and whether state, federal or otherwise and the requirements of any Authority
Management Plan	The attachment titled "Management Plan" at Attachment 2 and includes any replacement or updated component of such Attachment from time to time
Management Zone	An area within the Conservation Area identified as a zone on any map included in the Management Plan or on any map included in Attachment 3
Minister	The Minister responsible for administering the Biodiversity Conservation Act
Monitoring	Observing and making records (in any form) of any one or more of the following: – the status of and changes to Biodiversity and Biodiversity Values – compliance by the Owner with this Deed and the Biodiversity Conservation Act
Native Plant	The meaning given to it in section 5 of the NPW Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was "native plant means any tree, shrub, fern, creeper, vine, palm or plant that is native to Australia, and includes the flower and any other part thereof"*
Native Vegetation	The meaning given to it in section 1.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meant any plants (including trees, saplings, shrubs, scrub, groundcover) native to New South Wales (ie established in New South Wales before European settlement)*
New Owner	Any transferee, assignee or novatee of part or all of the Owner's interest under this Deed, including by way of a sale of the Land, or any part of the Land

Word/s	Meaning
Note	Any indented or *italicised* text in this point 8 font and prefaced by the word "Note:"
Notice Address	The address set out in Item C or Item D beside the words "Address for service of notices" for the party to whom the notice is to be given
Notified Occupant	Any Occupant that the NSW BCT is aware of because the Owner has provided the notification required under clause 12(a)
NPW Act	The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* and any regulations from time to time in force under that Act
Occupancy Agreement	Any lease or licence or other agreement which permits entry to or occupancy of any part of the Land (including the Conservation Area)
Occupant	Any person who occupies any part of the Land pursuant to an Occupancy Agreement (but does not include an Owner)
Owner	The person described as "Owner" at Part B at the beginning of this Deed, any successor or assign under Part 2(a)(v) of this Dictionary and any person who is an "owner" within the meaning given to "owner" in section 1.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was:* *(a) every person who, either at law or in equity:* *(i) is entitled to the land for any estate of freehold in possession, or* *(ii) is a person to whom the Crown has lawfully contracted to sell the land under the Crown Lands Act 1989 or any other Act relating to the alienation of lands of the Crown, or* *(iii) is entitled to receive, or is in receipt of, or if the land were let to a tenant would be entitled to receive, the rents and profits in respect of the land, whether as beneficial owner, trustee, mortgagee in possession or otherwise, and* *(b) a person who leases land under the Crown Lands Act 1989, the Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989 or the Western Lands Act 1901, and* *(c) any other person who, under the regulations, is taken to be the owner of the land,* *but (unless the regulations otherwise provide) does not include a beneficiary of a trust relating to the land*
Owner Associate	Any representative, servant, contractor, consultant, agent, lessee, licensee or invitee of the Owner
Passive Commercial Activities	Commercial activities that are passive in nature, including ecotourism, environmental education and environmental market schemes (eg Biodiversity and Carbon trading)
Passive Recreational Activities	Recreational activities that are passive in nature, including nature based recreations such as birdwatching, bush walking, camping (including camp fires), mountain biking and rock climbing

Word/s	Meaning
Permitted Exception	An activity specified in clause 3 of Part 2 of the Management Plan provided it is carried out lawfully and in accordance with the requirements within that part, and only in the Management Zones for which the activity is permitted
Pest	Any member of the animal kingdom that has been: – specified as a pest in the Site Values Report; or – declared by a pest control order under the *Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)* to be a pest
Pest Control	The control of a Pest using methods recommended by the NSW BCT or other relevant NSW Government authority, which minimise damage to non-target native animals
Pesticide	The same meaning that it has in section 5 of the *Pesticides Act 1999 (NSW)*. *Note: The definition may change from time to time with changes in law but on the Agreement Date this meaning was that a Pesticide was:* *(a) an agricultural chemical product (within the meaning of the Agvet Code), or* *(b) a veterinary chemical product (within the meaning of the Agvet Code) that:* *(i) is represented as being suitable for, or is manufactured, supplied or used for, the external control of ectoparasites of animals, and* *(ii) is concentrated and requires dilution or mixing in water before use, and* *(iii) is not prescribed under the Stock Medicines Act 1989 as a low-risk veterinary chemical product* *Note: the definition of Pesticide includes herbicide*
Prohibited Activity	An activity specified as a Management Restriction in Part 2 of the Management Plan
Protected Animal	The same meaning that it has in section 1.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date this meaning was "an animal of a species listed or referred to in Schedule 5 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act" and "animal means any animal, whether vertebrate or invertebrate and in any stage of biological development, but does not include:* *(a) humans, or* *(b) fish within the meaning of the Fisheries Management Act 1994"*

Word/s	Meaning
Protected Person	Each and all of the following: – the NSW BCT – the Environment Agency Head – the employees or officers of the Department of Planning and Environment – the members and committees of the Board of the NSW BCT – the employees and officers of the NSW BCT – any other person acting under the delegation, direction or control of the NSW BCT, the Environment Agency Head or the NSW BCT for any purpose – the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales
Registration	Registration of this Deed, or the variation or termination of this Deed, in the Register kept under the *Real Property Act 1900 (NSW)* and includes, where the context allows, an application to register this Deed and "Register" has a corresponding meaning
Research	The investigation into and study of facts relating to Biodiversity and Biodiversity Values, and the conservation of Biodiversity and Biodiversity Values
Review Period	Each 5 year period commencing on the Agreement Date and each 5th anniversary of the Agreement Date
Seed Collection	The collection of native plant seed for the purposes of ecological restoration works
Sell	To sell, transfer, gift, assign or otherwise dispose of and "Sale" has a corresponding meaning
Site Sketch Plan	A plan in registrable form which is part of this Deed showing the boundaries of the Conservation Area, but not a deposited plan or subdivision plan which is separate to this Deed
Site Values Report	The document described in Item I
Special Conditions	The terms and conditions set out in Item J
Standard Provisions	Clauses 1 to 30 of this Deed, and this Dictionary
State	The State of New South Wales
Stock Grazing Monitoring Form	The form attached to this Deed at Part 5 of the Management Plan under the heading "Stock Grazing Monitoring Form"
Subdivide	To physically or legally (or both) split or separate the Land into portions or to make any application to an Authority for such a split or separation
Term	The period commencing on the Agreement Date and ending on the End Date
Threatened Ecological Communities	Vegetation communities that are: – known to occur within the Conservation Area and specified as a threatened ecological community in the Site Values Report; or – listed in Schedule 2 to the Biodiversity Conservation Act; or – listed in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conserv*ation Act *1999 (Cth)*

Word/s	Meaning
Threatened Species	The same meaning as in section 1.6 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act *Note: This definition may change from time to time with changes in Law, but on the Agreement Date a list of threatened species was available at https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2016/63/sch1*
Tracks and Infrastructure Map	The map of that name contained within the Management Plan
Vehicle	Motorised vehicles including motor bikes, quad bikes, farm machinery, cars, utes
Weed	A plant that has been: – specified as a weed in the Site Values Report; or – declared to be a noxious weed under and prior to the repeal of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (NSW)*
Weed Control	The control of a Weed using methods recommended by the NSW BCT or other relevant NSW Government authority, which minimise damage to non-target native plants

Part 2. General interpretation and other provisions

The following rules of interpretation and standard provisions apply when interpreting this Deed:

(a) In the interpretation of this Deed, the *Interpretation Act 1987 (NSW)* applies as if this Deed were an "instrument" for the purposes of that legislation as well as each of the following rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

(i) headings and Notes are inserted for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Deed;

(ii) any reference to an action, or carrying out an action, in this Deed includes a reference to doing anything or refraining from doing anything;

(iii) any body (including an institute, association or Authority) that ceases to exist or whose powers or functions are transferred, refers to the body that replaces it or substantially inherits its powers or functions;

(iv) nothing in this Deed is to be interpreted against a party solely on the ground that the party put forward this Deed or any part of it;

(v) a reference to any party to this Deed includes that party's successors and permitted assigns; and

(vi) a reference to the word 'include' or 'including' is to be construed without limitation and any examples included in this Deed to illustrate the effect of a provision are not to be construed to limit the extent of the matters that may be captured.

(b) If the Owner (including any Owner who becomes the "Owner" for the purposes of this Deed after the Agreement Date) comprises more than one person, each of them is liable individually under this Deed and each of them is also liable jointly with any one or more of the others who comprise the Owner.

(c) Where anything depends on the consent or approval of a party, then, unless this Deed says otherwise, that consent or approval may be given or withheld in the absolute discretion of that party, and, if given, may be given subject to conditions.

(d) If a clause or part of a clause can be read in a way that makes it illegal, unenforceable or invalid, but can also be read in a way that makes it legal, enforceable and valid, it must be read in the latter way. If any clause or part of a clause is illegal, unenforceable or invalid, that clause or part is to be treated as removed from this Deed, but the rest of this Deed is not affected.

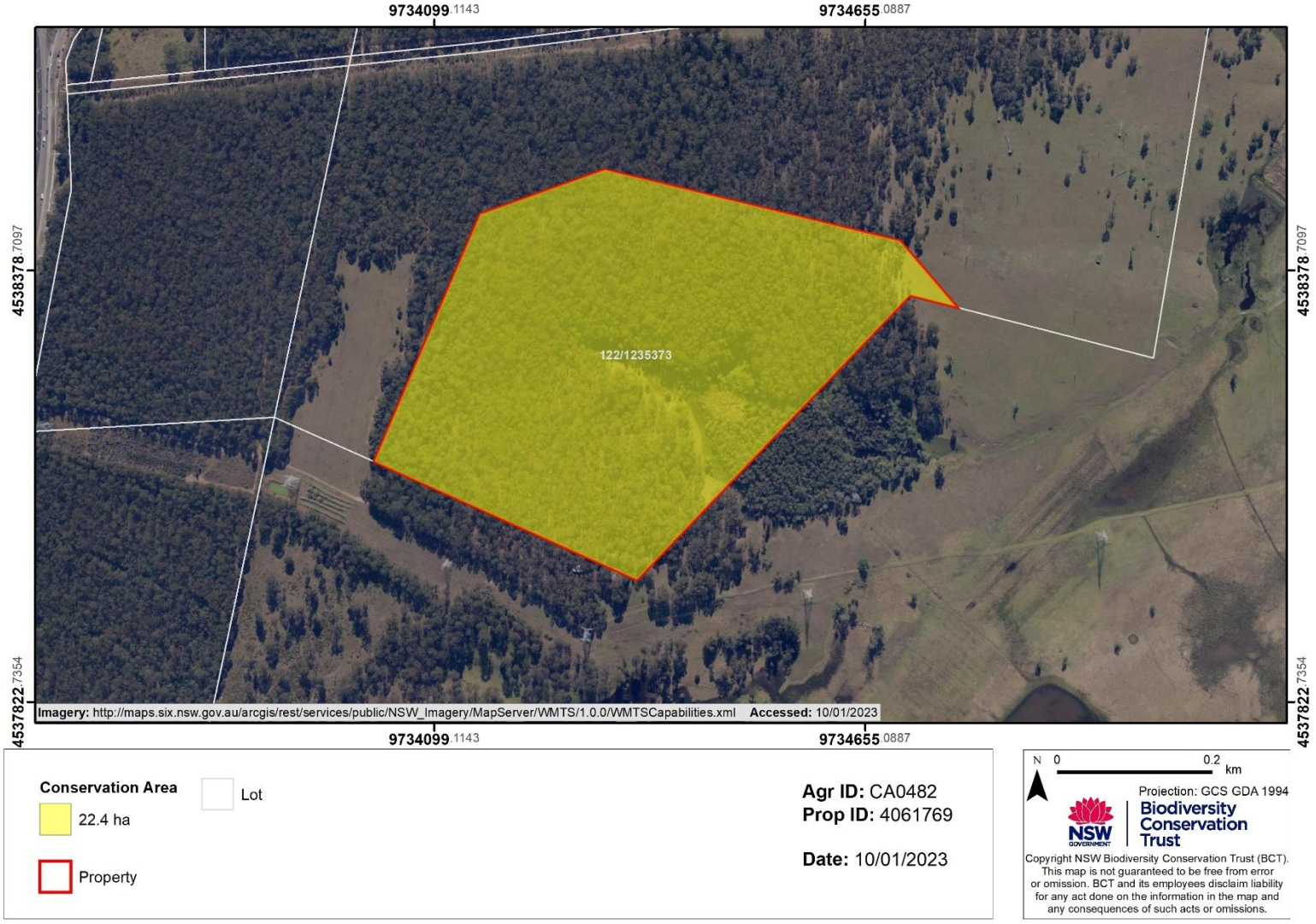
(e) This Deed comprises the whole of the agreement between the parties in respect of the subject matter of this Deed.

(f) The Owner acknowledges that, except as expressly stated in this Deed, the Owner has not relied on any representation, warranty or undertaking of any kind made by or on behalf of the NSW BCT in relation to the subject matter of this Deed.

(g) Each party must, at its own expense, promptly execute all documents and do, or use reasonable endeavours to cause a third party to do, all things that another party from time to time may reasonably request in order to give effect to, perfect or complete this Deed and all transactions contemplated by it.

Attachment 2: Management Plan

Part 1. Conservation Area boundary map



Part 2. Management of the Conservation Area Restrictions and Permissions

Owner Duties

1. The Owner agrees to manage the Conservation Area in accordance with this Management Plan and will not carry out or permit to be carried out any act or omission that may harm:
   (a) Biodiversity Values, or
   (b) Biodiversity, including any Protected Animals, Native Plants, Threatened Species, Threatened Ecological Communities, and their habitats,

   in, on, under or in relation to the Conservation Area, except to the extent that the act or omission is a Permitted Exception or is required to comply with an Identified Legal Requirement.

Management Restrictions

2. Without limiting the activities that are prohibited under clause 1 of this Part 2 of this Management Plan, the Owner must not do any one or more of the following:
   (a) clear Native Vegetation;
   (b) cultivate the land, sow crops or plant or promote growth of exotic plants;
   (c) graze livestock or permit livestock or non-native fauna to occupy the Conservation Area;
   (d) carry out, or allow to be carried out, any Development in, on, under or in relation to the Conservation Area;
   (e) construct any Infrastructure, including tracks or fences, beyond that shown on the Tracks and Infrastructure Map;
   (f) carry out earthworks, including soil disturbance or removal of rock, beyond that described in the Clearing and Earthworks Envelopes;
   (g) remove fallen timber, dead wood or other dead vegetation;
   (h) use fertilisers;
   (i) use herbicides;
   (j) use Vehicles off tracks and roads shown on the Tracks and Infrastructure Map; or
   (k) Subdivide:
      (i) the Conservation Area; or
      (ii) the Land, except where it has satisfied the NSW BCT that the Subdivision will not have any negative impact on the Biodiversity or Biodiversity Values in on or in relation to Conservation Area. The Owner must obtain the NSW BCT's written consent prior to taking any steps to Subdivide the Land,

   except, in the case of each activity set out above, to the extent that the activity is a Permitted Exception or is required to comply with an Identified Legal Requirement.

Permitted Exceptions (Management Permissions)

3. Despite the restrictions in clause 2 of Part 2 of the Management Plan, the Owner may conduct, or cause or permit any one or more of the following activities in the Conservation Area:
   (a) maintenance of Infrastructure shown on the Tracks and Infrastructure Map, and in accordance with Clearing and Earthworks Envelopes
   (b) collection of non-hollow fallen timber for the heating of the Owner's dwelling on the Land and for camp fires in the Conservation Area
   (c) grazing of domestic stock if permitted in accordance with Part 5 of this Management Plan
   (d) Weed Control and Pest Control, and use of Pesticides for Weed Control and Pest Control in accordance with the label and registered off label use
   (e) erosion control
   (f) use of Vehicles off tracks and roads shown on the Tracks and Infrastructure Map where undertaking:
      (i) mustering of stock that have entered the Conservation Area
      (ii) Weed Control
      (iii) erosion control works
      (iv) Pest Control

(v) maintaining Infrastructure shown on the Tracks and Infrastructure Map

(vi) any management actions that the Owner chooses to undertake under Attachment 3 in accordance with the standards specified in that Attachment 3

(g) any management actions the Owner chooses to undertake under Attachment 3 in accordance with the standards specified in that Attachment 3

(h) Seed Collection, where undertaken in accordance with the FloraBank Model Code of Practice

(i) use of horses and dogs (including off the tracks marked on the Tracks and Infrastructure Map) when used for mustering stock that have entered the Conservation Area or use of dogs for Passive Recreational Activities provided that they are under the control of the Owner or those authorised by the Owner

(j) Passive Recreational Activities

(k) Passive Commercial Activities

Note: The Owner is responsible for obtaining all necessary consents to carry out Permitted Exceptions, and to ensure that any Permitted Exceptions are conducted in accordance with all other relevant laws.

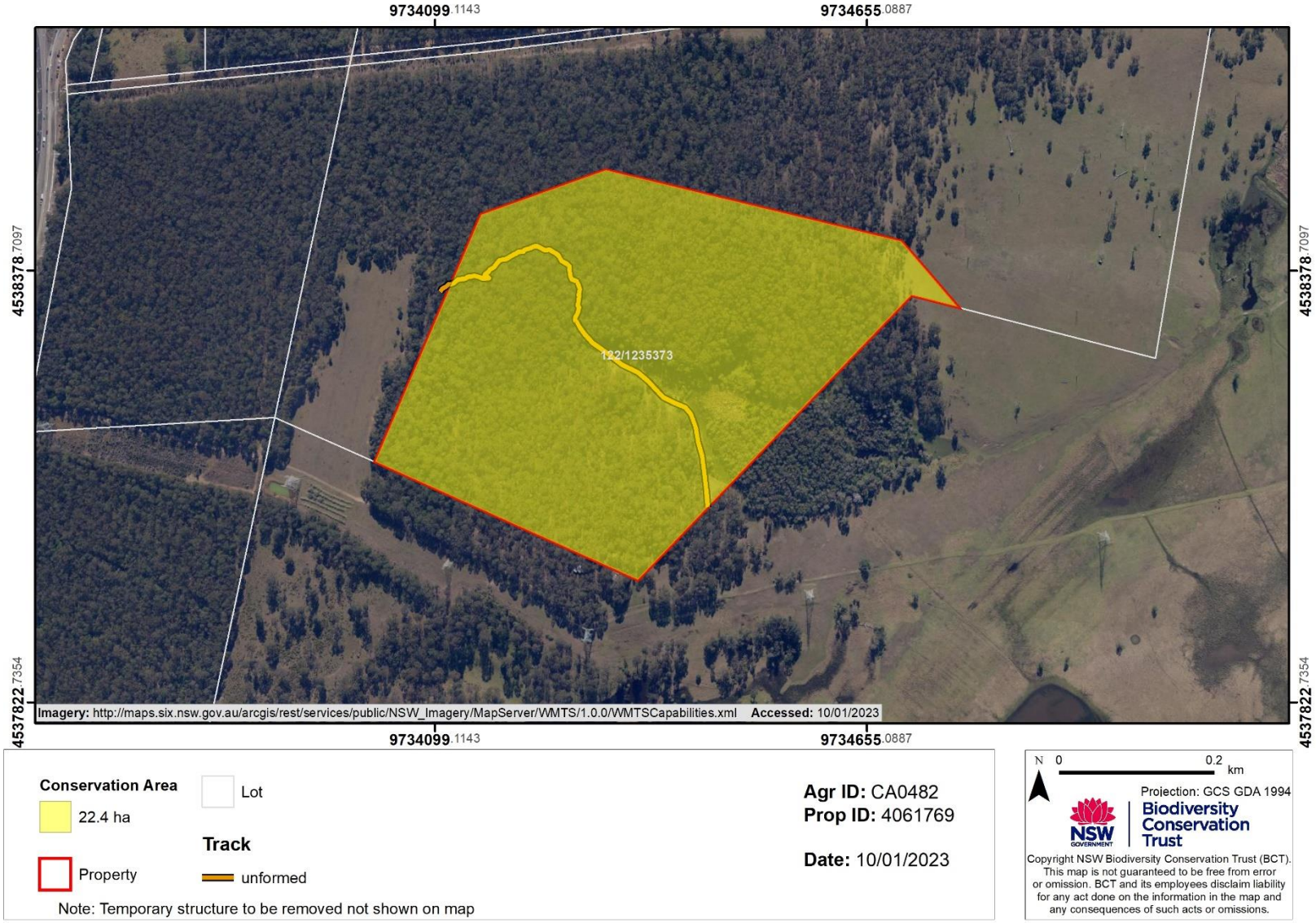
Part 3. Tracks and Infrastructure within the Conservation Area

The Infrastructure present in the Conservation Area at the Agreement Date is described in table below under the heading “Tracks and Infrastructure within the Conservation Area” and shown in the Tracks and Infrastructure Map below.

Tracks and Infrastructure within the Conservation Area

	Description
Buildings	Temporary structure currently in use to be removed.
Roads and tracks	There are no roads through the Conservation Area but a track follows the southern side of the wetlands and exits the Conservation Area to the west.
Fences	There are no fences inside the Conservation Area. Boundary fence to be erected to exclude stock in consultation with neighbour.
Dams/other water infrastructure	The main wetland covers the central part of the Conservation Area.
Bushfire hazard reduction works	None in Conservation Area
Stockyards	None in Conservation Area
Electricity transmission	None in Conservation Area

Track and Infrastructure Map



Part 4. Clearing and Earthworks Envelopes

Note: please refer to condition 5 Continued operation of State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017. For parts of the Conservation Area that are covered by the SEPP the relevant requirements to follow will be those of the SEPP not the permissions set out in the table.

Clearing and earthworks may only be undertaken in the Conservation Area:

(a) to the minimum extent necessary where required to maintain the Infrastructure specified in Part 3 of the Management Plan; and

(b) in any case, to the maximum distances set out in the table in this Part 4, being distances:

(i) of the total width for linear Infrastructure (such as tracks and fences); or

(ii) from the outer edge of the structure for point Infrastructure.

Infrastructure	**Maximum distance**	
Permanent boundary fence	6 m (either side of the fence)	
Permanent internal fence	6 m total width of clearing	
Temporary fence	3 m total width of clearing	
Road or track	6 m total width of clearing	
Pipeline	3 m total width of clearing	
Buildings other than habitable buildings. Includes Shearing, or machinery shed	20 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Irrigation channels or pipelines, stock or domestic water supply pipelines, soil conservation earthworks, cut lines for stock movement, bore drains, drains to water storages, telephone lines or cables, power lines or cables or areas for movement of large machinery, stock handling facilities, ground tanks	15 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Tank (other than a ground tank)	3 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Dam	15 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Stockyards	15 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Bore	10 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Pump	3 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Water point	3 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Windmill	10 m from the outer edge of the structure	
Electricity transmission Refer to Clause 24 Electricity transmission infrastructure, Schedule 5A Allowable activities clearing of native vegetation, *Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)*.	Nominal operating voltage of power line	Maximum clearing distance
	Not more than 11 kV	20 m
	Above 11 kV up to and including 33 kV	25 m
	Above 33 kV up to and including 66 kV	30 m
	Above 66 kV up to and including 132 kV	45 m
	Above 132 kV up to and including 330 kV	60 m
	Above 330 kV	70 m
Telecommunications infrastructure	No allowance for Coastal Zone or small holdings in any Zone	

Part 5. Grazing and Ground Cover Management

Not applicable, livestock are not permitted in the Conservation Area

Attachment 3: Management actions attachment

Part 1. Recommended Management Actions

Management Issue	Description	Management Zone or description of specific location	Priority and/or Timing	Recommended Minimum Standard / Guidelines
Weeds	Control weeds and other non-indigenous plants	All Conservation Area	Medium to Very High	As per NSW Weed Wise web-site, the NSW Weed Control Handbook, and LLS Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans
Pest animals	Control pest animals	All Conservation Area	Medium to Very High	As per NSW DPI Pest Animal web-site, and LLS Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plans
Domestic Stock Grazing Control	Erect boundary fencing to ensure livestock from neighbouring properties is excluded, in consultation with neighbouring landowners.	All Conservation Area	For the duration of the Agreement	Maintain fences as required to exclude stock access. New fencing should be at least 7 horizontal strands (plain/barb/ringlock), no top or bottom barb to avoid wildlife injury, maximum post spacing 5m.

x _____
NSW BCT delegate

x _____
Owner

INTENTIONAL BLANK PAGE

Lot 122 DP 1235373 Black Hill

City of Newcastle

M1 construction footprint

Proposed Lower Hunter Freight Corridor

CN Bushland Asset
DP1235373/122

Coastal Wetlands - SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

200m buffer line of LHFC

Coastal Wetlands - SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Created by CN - Date: 23/10/2023

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Property
SEPP Coastal Management -
SEPP Coastal Management -

0 0.07 0.15 0.3
Kilometres

Scale 1:6,715 at A3

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/2023 – EXHIBITION OF DRAFT NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS REVIEW REPORT

8.5	**Attachment A:**	Draft Newcastle City Centre HCAs Review Report
8.5	**Attachment B:**	Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs
8.5	**Attachment C:**	Designated low-rise residential area within Newcastle East HCA
8.5	**Attachment D:**	Proposed amendment to Newcastle City Centre HCA

DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Draft Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas Review Report

October 2023



City of Newcastle

newcastle.nsw.gov.au

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a review of two heritage conservation areas (HCAs) in the Newcastle Local Government Area. It defines current heritage significance of each area and provides desired future character statements. It assesses the appropriateness of boundaries, examines the planning context and controls, identifies items that contribute to or detract from the areas and documents what the community values about them. It also investigates a few potential new HCAs.

The review's methodology is based on NSW Heritage criteria as found in the heritage assessment guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council. These guidelines are accepted as the standard methodology for assessing heritage significance. The review considers the "Heritage Conservation Areas" best practice guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council. This included a literature review of previous studies and an analysis of new information based on fieldwork and community engagement feedback.

The report's recommendations incorporate an analysis of the feedback made during the community engagement held 17 April 2023 and 29 May 2023 by CN's Community Engagement team. That feedback is used as the baseline data to determine the social significance of each HCA.

The review finds HCA residents generally want to maintain the special character of these areas and existing HCA boundaries. The community identified several distinct character areas for protection and conservation, particularly in the Newcastle City Centre HCA. Updated statements of significance and desired future character in the Newcastle Development Control Plan (DCP) is an appropriate way to reinforce character along with revisions to the contributory buildings maps in the Heritage Technical Manual.

The review concludes City of Newcastle (CN) should develop a program to apply its findings and amend Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) and DCP. The draft recommendations include:

- Amendments to the Newcastle East, Newcastle City Centre, The Hill and Cooks Hill HCA boundaries for land located in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary.
- Replacement of the Newcastle City Centre HCA with the smaller Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street HCAs.
- Amendments to a low-rise residential precinct located in the Newcastle East HCA to delete height of building (HOB) and floorspace ratio (FSR) development standards.
- Amendments to low-rise residential properties located in The Hill HCA to remove them from the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, delete HOB and FSR development standards, and where applicable change the land use zoning from MU1 Mixed Use to R3 Medium Density Residential.
- Amendments to the DCP to include updated statements of significance and desired future character statements for the amended Newcastle East and proposed Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street HCAs.
- Amendments to the Heritage Technical Manual to update contributory building maps for the amended Newcastle East, The Hill, and Cooks Hill HCAs, and new contributory building maps for the proposed Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street HCAs.

The recommendations from the review do not instigate changes to HCA boundaries or heritage listings. Such changes require strict legal process to amend the LEP and similarly, recommended changes to the DCP require a formal, legal process. This work will be undertaken as a separate project.

CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

A Heritage conservation area (HCA) is a group of places, often defined by its distinctive architecture, streetscape, and landscape features, which together contribute to our history and cultural identity. Heritage significance of these areas is likely to change over time and with use. These dynamic areas continuously change from development, cultural and social changes to the resident population and use, as well as renewal, neglect, and decay. These changes enhance, maintain and erode their cultural heritage significance. Therefore, it is essential to review and update the conservation management strategies, policies and planning framework for these areas to ensure their heritage value is understood, protected and supported for future generations.

This report presents the results of a review and analysis conducted during 2023 of two of City of Newcastle's (CN) eight existing HCAs - Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs. It incorporates the results from CN's engagement with the community (Phase 1) from 17 April 2023 to 29 May 2023. The Community Engagement Report, September 2023 is attached in **Appendix A**.

CN's Strategic Planning team drafted the report. The study area for this review is existing HCA land within the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary and comprises the following HCAs:

- Newcastle City Centre
- Newcastle East
- The Hill (part of due to a shared boundary)
- Cooks Hill (part of due to a shared boundary)

Following a review of feedback received during public exhibition, a final report will be presented to Council for adoption.

The project included the following tasks for the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs:

- Community engagement to determine what residents and businesses value about these HCAs.
- Review the heritage significance of the HCAs in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines.
- Identify and define building styles and key elements of heritage value within these HCAs.
- Review the HCAs boundaries for continued heritage significance, examining whether they remain appropriate and for any need to adjust or manage them differently to best guide development assessment.
- Review the boundaries of other existing HCAs that adjoin these areas (The Hill and Cooks Hill) to examine whether land in the Newcastle City Centre Local Environmental Plan boundary reflects the heritage significance or would be better added to the Newcastle City Centre or Newcastle East HCAs.
- Identify low-rise residential properties on HCA land in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary. Review the land use zoning objectives and development standards in the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) with the built form of the land, the development objectives of the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, and the HCA's conservation objectives.

1.2 Purpose of this report

This report presents the findings of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs review. The purpose of the report is to recommend ways to guide future heritage planning. It aims to ensure these HCAs reflect significant and demonstrable built, landscape or other heritage values in the study area, and are identified and mapped for clarity. The report reviews and proposes planning controls with specific measures to conserve and manage the distinctive heritage significance of each HCA.

The buildings, streets, and precincts of the Newcastle City Centre's HCAs have experienced significant change with recent economic revitalisation. This has altered the streetscape with many older buildings replaced and vacant sites infilled with new mixed-use higher density development, and triggered the need for a review.

The review aims to allow the Newcastle City Centre's revitalisation to continue while enabling our rich and diverse cultural heritage to remain protected and conserved.

The report focusses on built heritage and urban form and:

- Reviews the boundaries, significance and integrity of existing HCAs in response to change.
- Recommends amendments to the LEP and to the Newcastle Development Control Plan 2012 (DCP) (and associated Heritage Technical Manual).

1.3 Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan

The Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a shared community vision, developed as a guide to inform policies and actions throughout the city for the next 10+ years. With direct input from the community, it represents what we value in our city and what we want to prioritise.

The CSP outlines four key themes to guide the implementation of this vision (**refer to Figure 1**). This project aligns with the objectives set under these themes, and will contribute to "*enriched neighbourhoods and places*" (Theme 1.1), as well as "*trust and transparency*" (Theme 4.2).

Through the CSP, the Newcastle community has expressed its aspiration that moving towards 2040, local heritage places will be protected. Overall, CN aims to ensure that the significant aspects of the city's heritage are identified, cared for, celebrated and appropriately managed on behalf of residents and visitors of Newcastle. The intention is to ensure decisions about heritage places are made with due regard to heritage significance, and that we strengthen or better appreciate heritage significance.

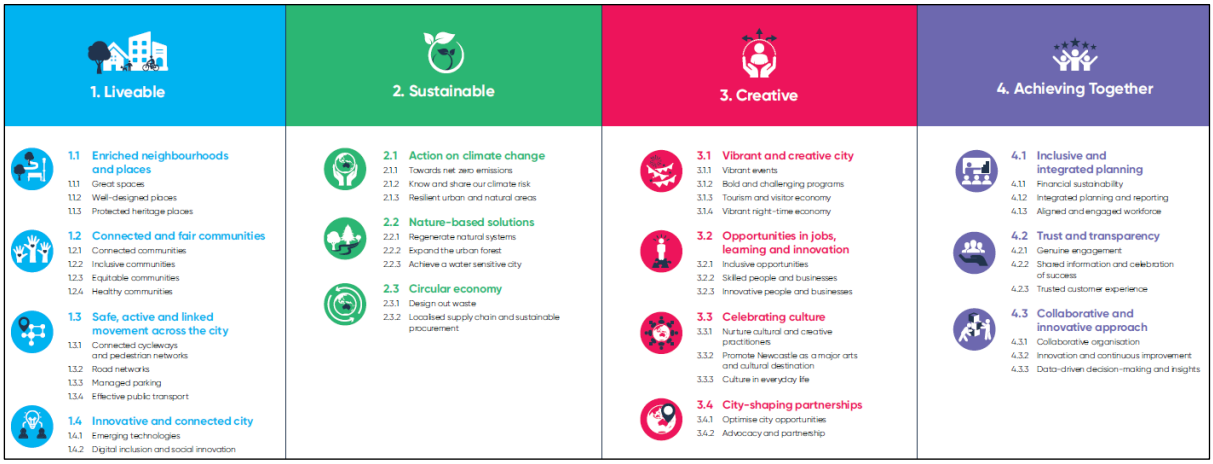


Figure 1: Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan themes and objectives.

1.4 Alignment with Newcastle Heritage Strategy 2020-2030

CN's Heritage Strategy is a strategic framework to guide the management of heritage matters in the Newcastle LGA over the next ten years. It draws from the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 (CSP) (City of Newcastle, 2018) and Newcastle's Heritage Policy 2013 (updated 2022). Consultation told us the Newcastle community has strongly expressed its aspiration that moving towards 2030+, local heritage will be valued, enhanced and celebrated.

The Heritage Strategy allows CN to articulate a framework for achieving this vision and to meet its statutory obligations and community expectations for regulating and managing local heritage. It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda developed by the United Nations, the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 and contemporary heritage guidelines for local government required by the NSW Heritage Council.

The Heritage Strategy identifies actions and services that when implemented align with the Newcastle Heritage Policy, best practice, legislative responsibilities and community expectations. It identifies the vision statement for heritage, sets out the context, identifies the core themes/priorities and the objectives, outcomes and measures of these themes.

This review delivers on the following priorities outlined in the Newcastle Heritage Strategy 2020-2030:

Priority 1 *Enhancing our community's knowledge of and regard for local heritage items and places.*

Priority 2 *City of Newcastle will protect and conserve the City's heritage places for the benefit of everyone.*

Priority 3 *City of Newcastle will protect the integrity of heritage places by ensuring consistent and sympathetic uses, physical and aesthetic treatments and outstanding interpretations.*

Priority 4 *Newcastle's significant heritage places are a unique historical resource and represent an asset for the continuing educational, cultural and economic enrichment of the region. City of Newcastle will invest in the promotion and care of these assets as part of the city's economic and cultural development.*

1.5 What is a heritage conservation area (HCA)?

An HCA is an area of land recognised for its collective nature of buildings and elements that contribute to an overall heritage significance valued by the community and worth protecting. More than a collection of heritage items, it can include a group of buildings, landscape or whole suburbs with heritage values that give it a distinct identity. Their significance is often associated with the underlying land subdivision, street pattern, arrangement of lots, and a predominance of buildings that share common periods of development, historical associations, materials, form and scale.

An HCA is determined by examining its heritage significance and identifying the special characteristics making up that significance. To be considered for listing by the NSW Minister and protected under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), the area must meet at least one of the seven Heritage Council of NSW criteria for assessing significance.

HCAs are statutorily recognised and protected at the local government level by their listing in the heritage schedule of LEP. The LEP governs the circumstances in which development is permitted. Most development on land in HCAs is unlikely to meet the requirements for exempt development, and therefore needs a development application or complying development certificate.

1.6 Conservation principles

The approach to managing HCA changes is underpinned by the principles and processes of the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Charter for Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter).[1] The Burra Charter is the best practice standard to guide heritage conservation practitioners managing change to heritage places in Australia. This HCA review is based on the following Burra Charter approaches where change should be:

- based on an understanding of the heritage significance of the place
- guided by the heritage significance of the item, site, streetscape and/or area
- managed in accordance with an appropriate conservation policy.

A key principle is that the sum of the parts is equally important as the individual features themselves and explains why the cumulative impact of change is an important consideration. This is often not well understood. Where buildings positively reinforce the character of an HCA, they need to be retained to conserve the significance of the HCA.

1.7 How are heritage conservation areas determined?

An HCA is determined using the Heritage Council of NSW's evidence based process[2], the NSW standard criteria used for heritage significance assessment. The process examines heritage significance to determine why an HCAs is valued by the community and which special characteristics are worthy of conservation and contribute to that significance. These characteristics can include the subdivision pattern, consistency of the building stock, or common building and construction materials. HCAs usually demonstrate aspects of our cultural, economic and social history, and patterns of change and

[1] *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, Australia ICOMOS, 2013. ISBN 0 9578528 4 3

[2] NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2023, *Assessing heritage significance: Guidelines for assessing places and objects against the Heritage Council of NSW criteria*, ISBN 978 1 923018 53 2

development over time. These elements will provide evidence of how people respond physically, emotionally, socially and architecturally to their environment; and how places have been occupied, used, ignored, refined, degraded or associated with Australian history over time.

The historical analysis provides the context for assessing significance, which is made by applying standard evaluation criteria to the development and associations of an HCA. The Heritage Council of NSW produced standard evaluation criteria compatible with The Burra Charter values.

To include an HCA on the LEP heritage schedule, the responsible NSW Minister requires it meets one or more of the State Heritage criteria. The values embodied in the criteria generally relate to:

- natural heritage values of places
- Indigenous heritage values of places
- historic heritage values of places

The level of significance of an HCA is determined by its value relative to other comparable HCAs, be they in a local, regional, national, or international context. The rarity and/or representativeness of the HCA is considered as part of the overall analysis of its significance.

Heritage criteria for listing HCAs (and heritage items) at the State or local level in NSW are:

Criterion (a) (Historic significance)	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)
Criterion (b) (Historical association)	An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion (c) (Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement)	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).
Criterion (d) (Social, cultural, and spiritual)	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons.
Criterion (e) (Research potential)	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion (f) (Rare)	An item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
Criterion (g) (Representative)	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

1.8 Contributory buildings

In HCAs, contributory items are buildings and elements that contribute to the overall significance of the area, and must be kept if the heritage significance of the area is to be retained. Non-contributory items may be replaced. There may also be an opportunity to strengthen the local character by removing elements that detract from or compromise that character.

In the Newcastle LGA, buildings can make three levels of contribution in an HCA – contributory, neutral, and non-contributory. The contribution of any building to the area or streetscape's character and heritage significance, based on the Contributory Buildings Map (example provided in **Figure 2**), will guide the approach to development and assist in determining the degree of change permitted. Each level of contribution is explained in the table below.

Contributory buildings – are buildings that contribute to the character of the HCA. They are: **(i)** **Heritage item** – buildings listed as a heritage item in the LEP; or **(ii)** **Contributory 1** – buildings that clearly reflect a Key Period of Significance for the HCA and are key elements of the HCA. This ranking is assigned where the main front portion of the building is largely unaltered as viewed from the street. Includes buildings with rear additions which do not affect the main front roof; or **(iii)** **Contributory 2** – buildings that have been altered but are still identifiable as dating from a Key Period of Significance for the HCA. They retain their overall form from the original date of construction and, even though altered, are contributory to the heritage conservation area character. This ranking is assigned where a building has alterations such as cement rendering to Federation or Inter-war period brickwork or a first-floor addition which affects the main front roof form, yet the period and style of the building remains discernible.
Neutral buildings – are buildings that are either altered to an extent where the construction period is uncertain, or are from a construction period which falls outside any Key Period of Significance for the HCA, but which reflect the predominant scale and form of other buildings within the HCA, and therefore do not detract from the character of the HCA. This ranking is assigned where the building is either so altered that the period and style is no longer evident, or it is a recent building which is of a height, form and scale which is consistent with the streetscape.
Non-contributory buildings – are buildings from a construction period which fall outside any Key Period of Significance for the heritage conservation area and that have scale or form that is not consistent with the key characteristics of the heritage conservation area. This ranking is assigned where the building is recent or late 20th century and is out of scale, ie, not consistent with the height, form and scale of buildings within the streetscape.

The Contributory Buildings Maps, prepared in January 2020 provide a snapshot assessment of the building as viewed from the street and can be used as a starting point to understand a building's potential heritage significance. The ranking of each building was a visual assessment and not based on historical documentary research.



Figure 2: Example of Contributory Buildings Map – Hamilton Residential Precinct HCA (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)

1.9 Methodology

This review is based on the NSW Heritage Council's heritage assessment guidelines[3] and the criteria defined in the NSW Heritage Act 1977 as the standard methodology to assess heritage significance.

[3] NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2023, *Assessing heritage significance: Guidelines for assessing places and objects against the Heritage Council of NSW criteria*, ISBN 978 1 923018 53 2

The document "Better Placed: Design Guide for Heritage", best practice guidelines of Heritage Council of NSW and Government Architect NSW[4] was also used.

This review includes a literature review of heritage studies relating to the HCAs, an analysis of new information, historical updates, and the results of fieldwork and community engagement.

An important element of heritage significance is social value – that is, the esteem people place on an item or HCA and its contribution to a community's sense of identity. To seek the views of each community residing and working in the HCAs in a robust and objective manner, the review included community engagement feedback. This feedback is included in each HCA chapter and has been treated as the baseline data to explore the social significance of each heritage conservation area.

[4] Heritage Council of NSW and Government Architect NSW, *Better Placed: Design Guide for Heritage: Implementing the Better Placed policy for heritage buildings, sites and precincts,* ISBN 978 0 6483700 4 8

CHAPTER TWO – STATUTORY PLANNING FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the planning context in which CN regulates and manages the HCAs listed in the LEP. In NSW, State and local Governments share the responsibility for managing heritage. The Heritage Council of NSW, assisted by Heritage NSW, has responsibility for items of State heritage significance listed on the State Heritage Register and for relics of State and local significance. Local Government is responsible for local heritage, through LEPs and DCPs.

The State Heritage Register lists items and areas that have significance to the people of NSW, while nationally significant places are listed on the National Heritage List administered by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The three legal instruments regulating cultural heritage in NSW are:

1. *NSW Heritage Act* 1977
2. *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act,* 1979
3. *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1974.

Identifying and listing items and places of heritage significance are the first steps in protecting and managing places deemed to be of heritage significance. Listing heritage places on statutory heritage registers provides a legal framework for managing the approval of major changes so that heritage significance is retained and not diminished.

CN's heritage listings are made through the *EP&A Act* which enables the listing of heritage items and places in the LEP. The *Standard Instrument—Principal LEP* contains provisions to regulate heritage. This is the legal framework heritage items, heritage conservation areas and archaeological sites are recognised and managed.

The *Transport and Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 2021* defines the boundary of the Three Ports area including Port Botany, Port Kembla, and Port of Newcastle. The port of Newcastle's Three Ports area **(refer to Figure 3)** applies to the harbour and parts of Kooragang, Mayfield North, Tighes Hill, Carrington, and Newcastle East (Coal River Precinct). Heritage items and archaeological sites in this area are listed in the heritage schedule of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP 2021 and this provides the mechanism for their identification and management. A SEPP prevails over an LEP, and so heritage listings in the SEPP for the Port of Newcastle's Three Ports area are not listed in CN's LEP.

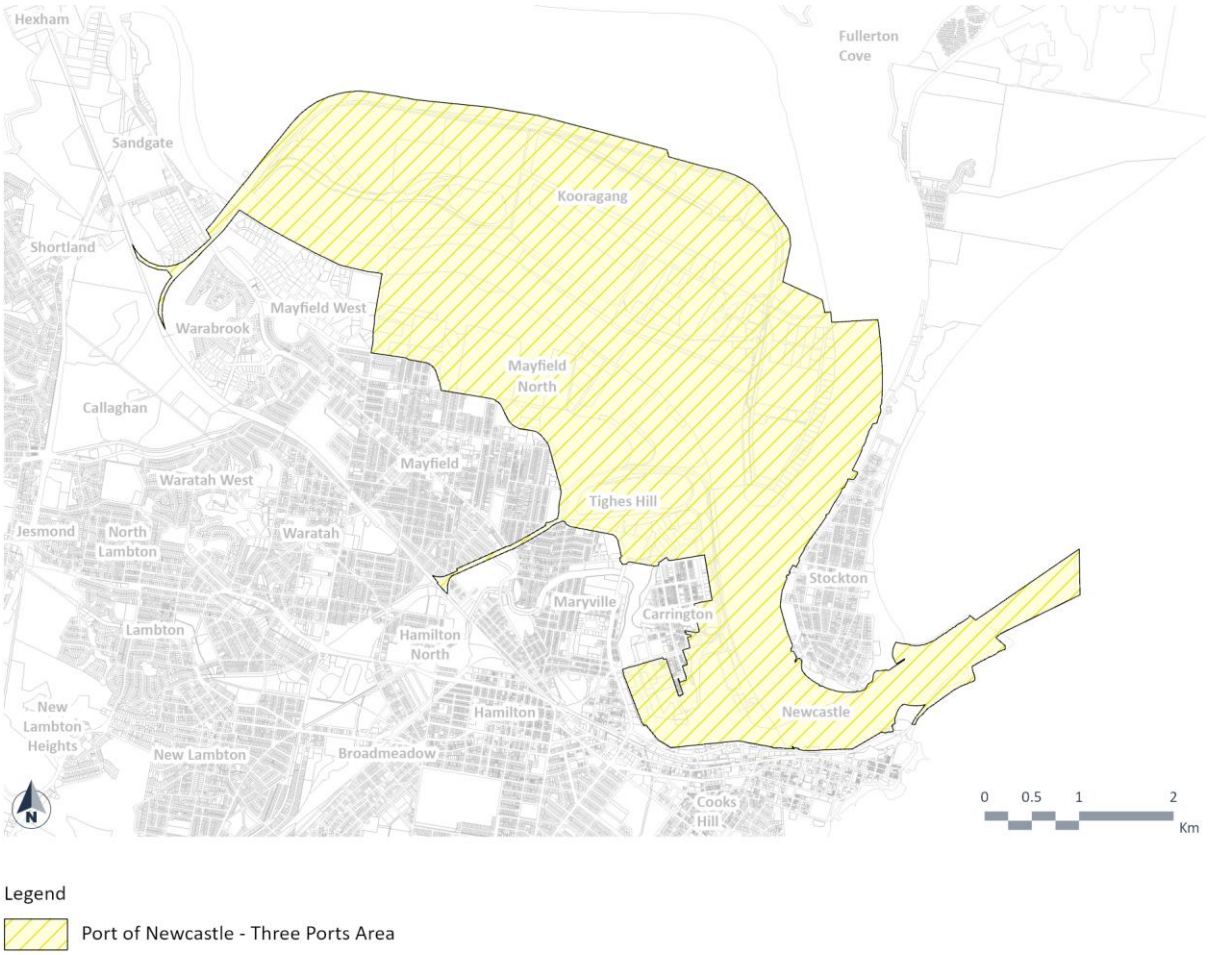


***Figure 3**: Port of Newcastle - SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 Three Ports*

2.2 Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

LEPs are the main planning tool to shape the future of communities by ensuring local development is carried out appropriately. In NSW council's plans are required to conform to a standard LEP, known as the 'Standard Instrument'. This instrument directs the provisions in the Newcastle LEP 2012 (LEP) which establishes the consent requirements for development in HCAs and provides the assessment framework to follow when assessing a development application within an HCA. Part 5 of the LEP sets out the provisions CN must consider in its assessment of a development application within an HCA or land listed as a heritage item.

Under Clause 5.10 of the LEP, CN must assess the impact of a proposed development on the heritage significance of the HCA or heritage item concerned. Most types of development in a HCA or to a heritage item, unless exempt, require development consent via a development application or complying development certificate. An applicant must demonstrate that there is no heritage impact or that it is minimal and measures to manage impacts are in place.

The heritage clauses at Part 5 of the LEP are mandatory clauses of the NSW planning authority (NSW Department of Planning and Environment). Council has no discretion to alter or amend these provisions. The LEP is guided by the DCP, which provides direction on the types of changes considered acceptable for an HCA or heritage item. This is further explained below.

HCAs and heritage items are listed in Schedule 5 of the LEP. Any changes HCAs and heritage item listings such as boundary adjustments, re-naming, removal, or creating a new HCA or heritage item listing requires an amendment to the LEP.

This review examines the heritage significance and boundaries of the existing HCAs and potential new heritage item listings in the HCAs in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary (**refer to Figure 4**) to ensure the objectives and associated provisions are responsive to facilitate the preservation ideals and management of the HCAs.

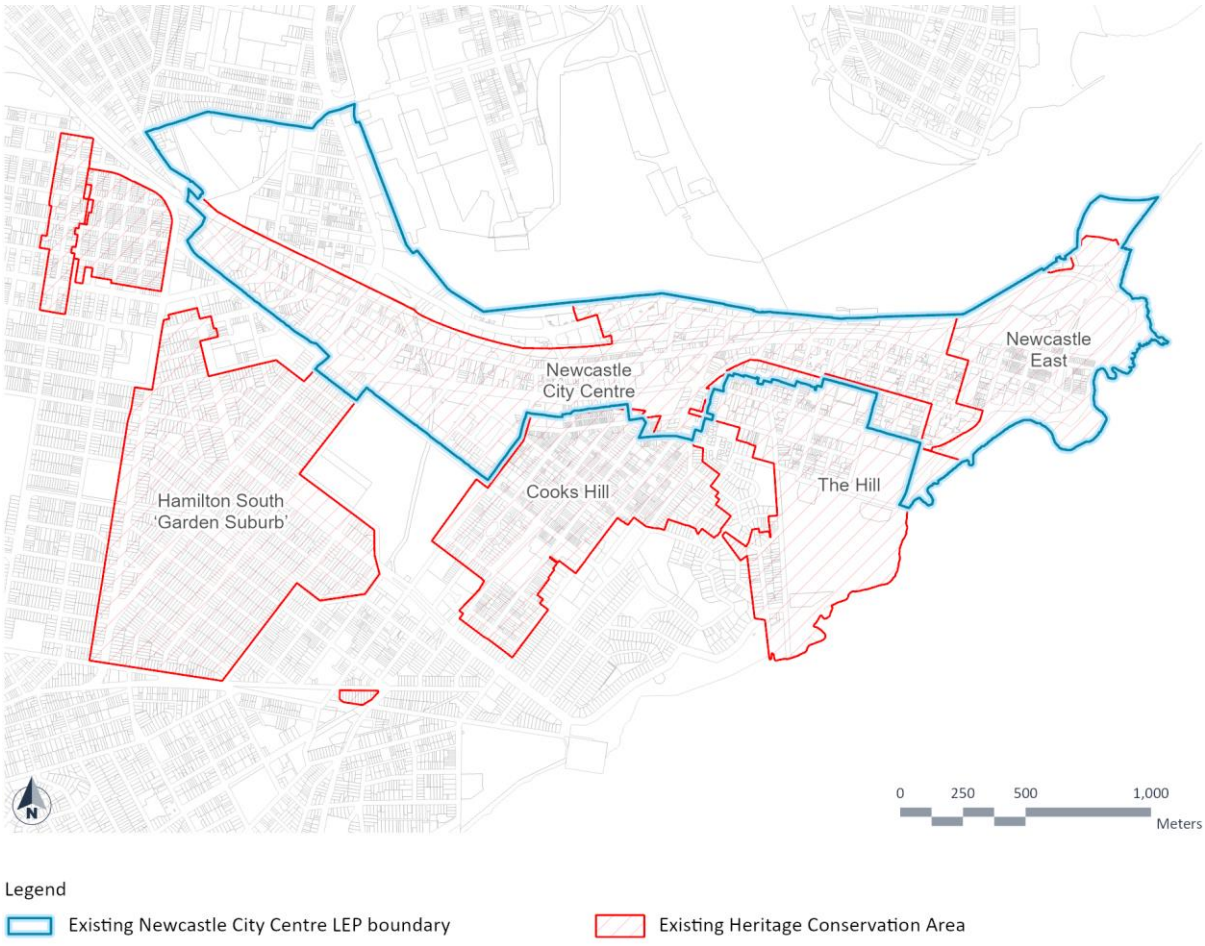


***Figure 4**: Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary & existing HCAs*

2.2.1 Land Use Zones

Zoning is the division of land into categories (i.e. land use zones) providing a local framework for the way land can be developed and used for the area they cover. Zoning in the LEP is guided by the Standard Instrument provisions, and is identified in maps supported by the relevant land use tables.

The Standard Instrument LEP identifies certain mandatory objectives and mandatory land uses permitted with or without consent, or prohibited for each zone. This is provided in Part 2 of the LEP. Any changes to land use zones requires an amendment to the LEP. Councils may, where appropriate, prepare additional local land use objectives and provisions to supplement the standard provisions without altering those mandated and aligning with other relevant State or regional provisions.

The EP&A Act prescribes how a council is to prepare and make a Local Strategic Planning Statement. In 2020 Council, adopted the Newcastle Local Strategic Planning Statement – Planning Newcastle 2040: Global City, Local Character (LSPS). This is Council's 20-year land use vision identifying how we will sustainably manage the city's growth and change. The LSPS gives effect to the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 and Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036; and implements priorities from our Community Strategic Plan, Newcastle 2040. The LSPS brings together land use planning actions in adopted strategies and informs changes to the LEP and DCP, to guide land use decisions for the LGA.

This review examines the land use zones to ensure the zone objectives and associated provisions are responsive to facilitate the preservation ideals and management of the HCAs in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary.

2.2.2 Height of Buildings (HOB)

Building height (or height of building) means—

a) in relation to the height of a building in metres—the vertical distance from ground level (existing) to the highest point of the building, or

b) in relation to the RL of a building—the vertical distance from the Australian Height Datum to the highest point of the building,

including plant and lift overruns, but excluding communication devices, antennae, satellite dishes, masts, flagpoles, chimneys, flues and the like.

A development standard for height is a planning tool to help implement strategic planning objectives and provide certainty to the community and landowners about the acceptable scale of development. Height is one component of a combination of ways used to help establish the primary building envelopes for new development. The DCP supports this with built form provisions such as building setbacks as explained below. It is important that a consistent approach to the identification and application of height development standards is used so controls are clearly understood by development and community interests.

Being an optional clause of the Standard Instrument that CN adopted in its LEP, Clause 4.3 (HOB) to set maximum building heights for development on the accompanying HOB Map. Additionally, the clause allows different maximum heights to be applied for different zones and for different locations in the same zone. Heights are shown in metres.

Although the HOB clause is optional, it is the NSW planning authority's preference (LEP practice note PN 08–001) that building height development standards are applied to strategic centres in the LEP. This is to provide a level of certainty. As part of the planning process, CN assess the impact of a proposed development against the Clause 4.3 (HOB) objectives and development standards specified on the accompany mapping. Any changes to HOBs require an LEP amendment.

This review examines the HOB objectives to ensure the objectives and associated provisions are responsive to facilitate the preservation ideals and management of the HCAs in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary.

2.2.3 Floor Space Ratio (FSR)

The floor space ratio of buildings on a site is the ratio of the gross floor area of all buildings within the site to the site area.

A development standard for floor space ratio (FSR) is a planning tool for implementing strategic planning objectives and providing certainty to the community and landowners about the acceptable bulk of development. FSR is one component of a combination of ways to help establish the primary building envelopes for new development and the gross floor areas available for retail, commercial and residential activities in centres. The DCP supports this by including additional built form provisions as explained below. It is important that a consistent approach to the identification and application of FSR development standards is used so these controls are clearly understood by development and community interests.

Clause 4.4 (floor space ratio) of the LEP allows CN to:

- specify maximum FSRs on the accompanying Floor Space Ratio Map;
- apply different maximum FSRs for different zones and different locations in the same zone; and
- use a table in conjunction with a map so separate FSRs may be set out depending on the mix of land uses or the dimensions of the site.

In line with NSW planning authority recommendations, CN adopted Clause 4.5 (calculation of FSR and site area). This provides a method of calculating FSR in a consistent manner by defining FSR and by setting out rules for the calculation of site area for the purpose of applying permitted FSRs.

Although the FSR clauses are optional, it is the NSW planning authority's preference (LEP practice note PN 08–001) to provide FSR development standards for strategic centres set out in the LEP. This gives some certainty about the likely bulk of a building and the likely variations considered to that standard.

As part of the planning process, CN assess the impact of a proposed development against Clause 4.4 (floor space ratio) and Clause 4.5 (calculation of FSR and site area) objectives and development standards specified on the accompany mapping. Any changes to FSR require an LEP amendment.

This review examines the FSR objectives and development standards to ensure the objectives and associated provisions are responsive to facilitate the preservation ideals and management of the heritage conservation areas located in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary.

2.2.4 Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary

The term 'Newcastle City Centre' is commonly employed in strategic planning, such as in the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 and the LSPS. Unless otherwise specified, it can be reasonably assumed this refers to the area identified in the LEP. Any change to its boundary requires an LEP amendment. The Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary is mapped in the LEP **(Refer to Figure 4).** This area is subject to

planning provisions in Part 7 Additional local provisions–Newcastle City Centre of the LEP. This aims to strengthen the regional position of Newcastle City Centre, promote its revitalisation and facilitate the development of building design excellence appropriate to its regional city status. The Newcastle City Centre LEP objectives are:

a) *to promote the economic revitalisation of Newcastle City Centre,*
b) *to strengthen the regional position of Newcastle City Centre as a multi-functional and innovative centre that encourages employment and economic growth,*
c) *to protect and enhance the positive characteristics, vitality, identity, diversity and sustainability of Newcastle City Centre, and the quality of life of its local population,*
d) *to promote the employment, residential, recreational and tourism opportunities in Newcastle City Centre,*
e) *to facilitate the development of building design excellence appropriate to a regional city,*
f) *to encourage responsible management, development and conservation of natural and man-made resources and to ensure that Newcastle City Centre achieves sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes,*
g) *to protect and enhance the environmentally sensitive areas and natural and cultural heritage of Newcastle City Centre for the benefit of present and future generations,*
h) *to help create a mixed use place, with activity during the day and throughout the evening, so Newcastle City Centre is safe, attractive, inclusive and efficient for its local population and visitors alike.*

Part 7 of the LEP (not mandated provisions) sets out matters to consider in assessing a development (or modification) application in the defined Newcastle City Centre area. The provisions are tailored to large scale development and encompass minimum building street frontage, building separation, design excellence, active street frontages, HOB and FSR.

This review examines the Newcastle City Centre LEP objectives and boundary to ensure its objectives and associated provisions are responsive to facilitate the preservation ideals and management of the HCAs located in the current Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary.

2.3 Development Control Plan (DCP)

The DCP supports the LEP with detailed planning and design guidance for those proposing to carry out development in the LGA under a development or modification application. HCA provisions are in Section 6.02. The Heritage Technical Manual supplements the DCP with further technical information for assessing development applications in HCAs. It includes Contributory Buildings Maps ranking the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for each of the HCAs.

The DCP enables merit assessment of development applications as it contains relevant aims, objectives and controls. CN can implement a DCP in a discretionary capacity, and in this way, flexibility in the controls supports design without prescribing the means of achieving it. Applicants can demonstrate how design options to satisfy the objectives. In this sense, the DCP is a non-restrictive planning tool. This approach considers the principle that there is no one-size-fits-all that will be suitable within the HCA, that technology and fashions change and therefore provided that the objectives are met CN does not prescribe the actual means of achieving it.

CHAPTER THREE – ABORIGINAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

The historical analysis provides the context for assessing significance. The study area is existing HCA land within the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary. This includes the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs, and some land parcels at the northern periphery of The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs. These HCAs have a shared and interrelated Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal cultural history.

3.2 Aboriginal Context

The Traditional Custodians of the land within the Newcastle City Centre, including wetlands, rivers, creeks and coastal environments, have heritage and cultural ties to the study area which date back tens of thousands of years. Traditionally, this and surrounding lands were made up of numerous Nurras, family clan group areas. Each Nurra had ceremonial, story and marriage obligations. These obligations formed the binding relationships between all peoples of this language group, and strengthened ties with neighbouring language groups. They gathered on regular occasions to pay respect to the Dreaming Spirits, the country and each other, through ceremony, song and dance. This maintained the Lore, continuously passing it on.

Muluubinba, the traditional name for the people is attributed to a local sea fern traditionally harvested as a food crop. The Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld, a missionary stationed at Newcastle and Lake Macquarie from the 1820s, recorded that the Aboriginal people of the Newcastle Tribe were called Mulubinbakal (men) and Mulubinbakalleen (female). In breaking down the word, it translates to:

- ‘muluu’ the name of the sea fern
- ‘bin’ is plural and
- ‘ba’ place of meaning - the place of many sea ferns.

This area is where the modern-day Foreshore, Honeysuckle and CBD are situated. It was marshland characterised by ti-tree, honeysuckle and ferns and extending south from the nearby Coquun (Hunter River). Fed by a watercourse from what later became the site of The Obelisk on Prospect Hill, the marsh was part of a much larger swamp drained by a serpentine waterway, now known as Cottage Creek. Its interface with the river consisted of a sandy beach and low sand dunes. Exploitation of shellfish, as demonstrated by large deposits of shells along the creek banks, appears to have begun in earnest some 2000 years ago. The estuarine waters were rich in potential harvests of eels and fish, and the fresh water available in the area attracted game.

Evidence of continuous and extensive Aboriginal occupation of Newcastle City Centre is reflected in recent archaeological records. Multiple sites containing Aboriginal objects have been uncovered and documented throughout the study area. This includes but is not limited to sites in Hunter Street Newcastle West, Hunter Mall Newcastle, a shell midden at Meekarlba (Honeysuckle), and a tool making site at the Convict Lumber Yard on Scott Street.

Traditional names and stories of many of Newcastle City Centre's natural landmarks and well-known places are still in use today. Whibayganba (Nobbys Headland) is the final dwelling place of the Kangaroo that broke Marriage (skin) Lore. Skin Lore was one of the most important and stringent Lores regarding marriage, community structure and obligations. The Kangaroo Man had forcibly taken a Wallaby Woman, knowing that consequence of his actions was death, he fled from the rest of the people. Trying to outrun them he headed towards the coast, upon reaching the coast he used the cover of a thick fog to escape to Whibayganba. There he was forever trapped by the clever people on the island. An everlasting reminder to all of the punishment that comes with breaking Lore.

Large numbers of clan groups were known to have lived along the river and coast, around the wetlands and hinterlands. Living a settled life managing and farming their lands according to their cultural and family obligations and the Lore, carefully moving with the seasons and for ceremonial necessities.

Since approximately 1892, the Indigenous people of Newcastle have come to be known as the Awabakal. Today, the descendants of those people proudly and actively identify with, promote and protect their Lore, beliefs and languages through connection to country and each other and are now filling important cultural and modern-day roles in the study area.[5]

3.3 Historical Context

Following in the footsteps of Captain James Cook and his first voyage 1768 to 1771, the First Fleet under Captain Arthur Phillip arrived in Botany Bay in January 1788 to establish a penal colony and the first European settlement in Australia. For the next 13 years, approximately 120km north of Sydney Harbour's penal colony, the coastline and harbour of what is now called Newcastle was the scene of escaping convicts, pursuing naval officers, off-course fisherman and official explorers. Such activity helped to publicise the deep-water port and rich coal seams in the surrounding cliffs.

Lieutenant John Shortland, while pursuing a group of escaped convicts in 1797, landed and camped at the foot of what is now Market Street in Newcastle. He was the first European to officially 'discover' the Coquun – a river he named after Governor Hunter and reported coal deposits. The following year enterprising traders began gouging small amounts of coal from the cliffs and exposed reefs to sell to Sydney. In 1801 local coal shipped to Bengal was considered Australia's first commercial export.

In June 1801, in the first official European exploring expedition, Colonel William Paterson reported to Governor King that a small settlement should be established for coal, boiling salt and burning shells for lime. He noted a plentiful fish supply, and excellent pasture for cattle inland. In 1801, a convict camp called Kings Town (after Governor King) was established at the mouth of the Hunter River (then also known as Muluubinba or Coal River) to mine coal and cut cedar. That same year, what is thought to be the Southern Hemisphere's first coal mine was established at Colliers Point, below Tahlbihn (Flagstaff Hill), and its first coal was shipped to Sydney. This settlement closed less than a year later.

[5] Extract adapted from pp.5-12 of the Heritage Strategy 2020-2030, written by a traditional knowledge holder of the local community.

A permanent settlement at the mouth of the Hunter River began in March 1804, as a secondary place of punishment for recalcitrant convicts. The administration in Sydney, under Governor King, decided the site's isolation, combined with the hard manual labour of coal mining, lime-burning, salt-making, timber cutting, and construction work would make an ideal secondary penal colony for recidivists. The settlement at Newcastle East was initially named Coal River, also Kingstown, and finally Newcastle, after England's famous coal port. The convicts were mostly Irish rebels from the Castle Hill convict uprising. Initially placed under the direction of Lieutenant Menzies and then from 1805 to 1808 Charles Throsby. The convict settlement rapidly gained a notorious reputation in the Colony as 'Sydney's Siberia' due to its striking similarities of extreme isolation and enforced manual labour also experienced in the Siberia of Imperial Russia. The regime was severe and the work arduous. By 1821 it became the major prison in NSW with over one thousand convicts.

Under Captain James Wallis, commandant from 1816 to 1818, a building boom began. He laid out streets, built the first church on the site of Christ Church Cathedral near an established Aboriginal camp, erected a gaol, and began work on the breakwater. In 1816, the oldest school still operating in Australia, Newcastle East Public School, was established at a site near to Christ Church Cathedral.

Newcastle's appearance and layout as a penal colony is well documented in paintings by convict artists such as Joseph Lycett and Richard Browne. Lycett proved to be an excellent chronicler of penal Newcastle, successfully capturing the shape, colour and development of the town in his paintings. His paintings, without romanticism or denigration recorded Aboriginal people living near Newcastle and their cultural practices such as hunting kangaroo and taking part in a corroboree. His work provides an important snapshot in time just before their way of life was profoundly altered by the growing European population. The large collection of artworks is an important testimony of the Aboriginal ownership of the area, and a reminder of the experience of first contact between the local Indigenous tribes and the British. Newcastle East has profound historical significance as a place of first contact between traditional custodians of the land and waters of Newcastle and newly arrived Europeans.

Military rule ended in 1823 following the recall of Governor Macquarie to England and the release of the Bigge Report on the state of the colony. Prisoner numbers were reduced to 100 and the remaining 900 were sent to Port Macquarie. Those few that remained in Newcastle were mostly employed on the building of the breakwater, with others in the building of the barracks at James Fletcher Hospital, or by the AA Company in their coal mines. After 1823, the shipping industry began to develop and soon a high proportion of the population were employed in the maritime industry – pilots, lighthouse keepers, life-boat sailors, tugboat crews, wharf labourers, ship chandlers, and customs staff. Work on the Breakwater slowed, gradually ceasing, delaying its completion until 1846.

The great legacy of this period is the foundation of the modern city of Newcastle, which has continued to grow since 1804. Significant heritage sites associated with the convict period survive in the form of Macquarie pier and breakwater, the Convict Lumber Yard, Christ Church Cathedral and burial ground (Cathedral Park), Nobbys, King Edward Park, Bogey Hole, and Signal Hill within the Fort Scratchley Historic Site.

With the decision to declare Newcastle a free town, surveyor Henry Dangar was sent to Newcastle to re-design the street layout for public sale. In 1828 he laid out the town as a grid of three east-west and seven north-south streets, with a central axis at Christ Church, descending to a broad market at Hunter Street (now Market Square) **(refer to Figure 5)**.

The width of Dangar's city blocks was 90 metres, compared to 200 metres in Melbourne and 500 metres in Adelaide. Dangar's streets were 20 metres wide, creating an enduring intimacy and human scale still evident in the layout of Newcastle. Even today, it is Dangar's town plan that gives Newcastle a human scale unseen in any other Australian city.

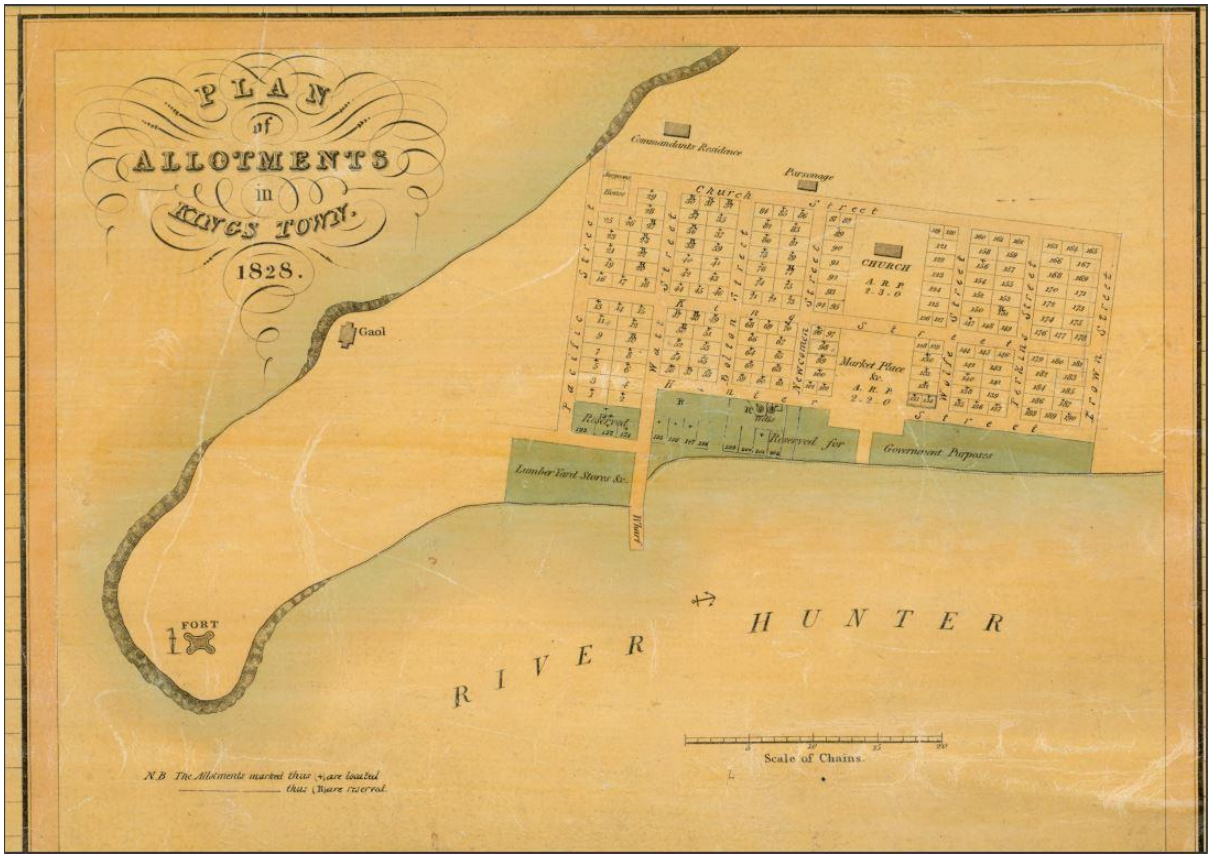


Figure 5: *Henry Dangar's 1828 'Old Town' Plan*

In 1828 the Australian Agricultural Company (AA Company) was given a 2000 acre parcel of coal bearing land in the inner section of Newcastle, and with it, a monopoly on the mining and export of coal. The land extended west from Brown Street to Hamilton and was to constrain residential development west of the city for years to come.

Several coal pits were sunk, commencing with the first private coal mine in Australia, the A Pit, just off Church Street, in 1828, followed by the B, C, D, E, F, and Sea pits. On 10 December 1831 the AA Company opened Australia's first railway in Brown Street to service the A Pit. Remains of the railway are kept in the collection at Newcastle Museum.

The breaking of the AA Company's monopoly by a NSW Act of Parliament in 1850 led to a plethora of new coal mines and associated villages, and the gradual subdivision of their land for residential development. In 1853 the AA Company completed subdivision works between Crown Street and Union Street. Though the commercial value of this work west of Lake Macquarie Road (now Darby Street) was compromised by the completion of Dr James Mitchell's Burwood Railway in 1854, which ran from the coal mines of Merewether to the port of Newcastle via today's Civic Park -and was the

first railway in the colony to transport public passengers. It made this low-lying land on lots addressing Lower Church Street (King Street), Blane Street (Hunter Street West) and Laman Street west of the tramroad (Burwood Street) unattractive for residential development but suitable for industry until the line was removed in the 1950s. This industry included Fred Ash, founder of the important Newcastle hardware and building supplies business who established in 1855 a shop in Hunter Street, which by 1905 was replaced by a four-storey retail, office and warehouse building addressing Hunter Street. Cooks Hill was subdivided from the 1860s, followed by Hamilton and Newcastle West. Hamilton South and residual swamp land, including National Park, were sold off in parcels from 1914.

The period 1850-1860 saw unprecedented growth in Newcastle and the establishment of civic institutions. The first bank was opened in 1853, the Newcastle Borough Council in 1859, the first fire brigade in 1855 and a chamber of commerce in 1856. Most significantly, the Great Northern Railway was opened between Maitland and Honeysuckle Point in 1857, making possible Newcastle's domination of the Hunter region.

Important civic buildings were built in the 1860s and an office of the Department of Public Works opened, symbolising the importance of the region to the economic conditions of NSW. On Hunter Street a courthouse, lock-up and post office were built, and the first part of Newcastle Railway station begun. Customs House was built and the modernisation of the port's coal loading facilities, facilitated by significant land reclamation of the harbour and links to the Great Northern Railway.

One of the early major problems with building in Newcastle East was caused by wind blown sand. Soon after the arrival of Europeans, vegetation was removed from the area now known as Pacific Park, and along the coastline, and this caused the inundation of the area by sand dunes. This issue would continue to limit the residential development of Newcastle East until the 1870s, when mitigation work was carried out on behalf of the government by the Scottish Australian Investment Company. To do this, coal mine chitter was used to stabilise the sand by limiting its' movement. This work facilitated subdivision and development. By the 1880s, substantial Victorian villas began to emerge. Newcastle East, by this time, was described as the 'aristocratic end of the city'.

Australia experienced an economic boom in the 1880s. The city of Newcastle was growing and experiencing significant building activity and waves of immigration. The architecture matched the optimism of the time and throughout the city there was a flurry of construction. Architects who emerged at this time include Frederick Menkens, James Barnet (NSW government architect), James Henderson, Peter Bennet and Ernest Yeomans. These architects were responsible for the design of some of the city centre's finest buildings, such as the Centennial Hotel, the Frederick Ash Building, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Tabernacle, Cohen Bond Store, Customs House, Earp Gillam Bond Store, and The Boltons.

The need for improved coastal defences along Australia's east coast was accepted by the 1890s and Fort Scratchley was built as part of a wider defence plan. It was completed by 1886, with modifications continuing up until the 1940s.

By 1901 the Borehole Seam was mostly worked out, leading to the closure of pits at Hamilton (1901), and Stockton (1907). Many of the villages became ghost towns. Subsequently, the Newcastle chamber of commerce lobbied government to diversify Newcastle's economy, by attracting new industries to the city. The situation improved when the state government announced the development of the state dockyard at Carrington and permitted BHP to build a steelworks on land at Port Waratah. Both of

these initiatives began in 1913 and were soon expanding in readiness for the coming war. By 1919 the local economy developed from a declining coal town to manufacturing and heavy industry. Business in the city centre boomed establishing Newcastle as a major centre of retail, commerce and industry.

The modern city centre landscape took shape in the first three decades of the 20th century. Many architectural and cultural treasures were built such as the final stages of the Christ Church Cathedral, NESCA House, City Hall and Civic Theatre, the CML building, T&G, and the sandstone banks in Hunter Street. With the exponential growth in leisure time, this period also marked the establishment of Newcastle's beach swimming and surf culture with the construction of significant recreational amenities for the city such as Nobbys Beach Pavilion and Newcastle Ocean Baths.

The general optimism through most of this period was briefly interrupted by World War I. However, a decade later it was more severely curtailed by the 1929 Great Depression, leading to unemployment estimated at 30% of the workforce and the establishment of several shanty towns including at Nobbys Beach, Stockton and Carrington. The State Dockyard closed in 1933 but the steelworks gradually increased its production, leading the city out of the slump as the decade progressed.

By the start of World War II, Newcastle had Australia's largest integrated steel making facility, surrounded by heavy industry, coal mines, a busy deep harbour for merchant ships plus shipyards and a floating dock. The task to defend these assets was known as Fortress Newcastle. This included RAAF radar stations at King Edward Park and Ash Island, a minefield across Newcastle's port entrance, tank traps along Stockton Beach, and heavy calibre guns at Shepherd's Hill, Fort Scratchley and Fort Wallace.

On the night of 7-8 June 1942 Japanese submarine I-21 bombarded Newcastle with about two dozen shells (one of the few shells that actually exploded damaged the houses in Parnell Place, with residents escaping uninjured). Fort Scratchley's 6-in guns returned fire, becoming the only coastal fortification in Australia to fire on an enemy vessel during the war.

The story of post-war Newcastle relates to urban infill that occurred on undeveloped land between the coal villages located outside its city centre. This additional housing assisted with accommodating the wave of post-war immigration to Newcastle in the decades immediately following 1945. Providing homes and employment to people predominantly from the war-ravaged countries of Western Europe, notably the United Kingdom, Italy and Greece and refugees from Central and Eastern Europe escaping the expanded Soviet regime. 1973 the Whitlam Government adopted a completely non-discriminatory immigration policy, effectively putting an end to the White Australia policy. This began the contemporary wave of immigration from predominantly the South Pacific, and southern and eastern Asia to Newcastle and throughout Australia which continues to the present day.

The educational and health sector developed substantial regional facilities in Newcastle in this period, including the Rankin Park campus of the Royal Newcastle Hospital, expansion of the old Royal Hospital, and the new Newcastle Teachers' College, Hunter Institute of Higher Education (later amalgamated with the University of Newcastle) and Tighes Hill TAFE.

During the 1970s and 1980s the nineteenth century terraces of Newcastle East were conserved, and the former rail marshalling yards and Zaara St Power Station replaced by Foreshore Park, creating an important public link between the harbour, the eastern beaches and the central business district while protecting a cohesive urban village. This significant conservation outcome was achieved largely through the combined efforts of the local community and the Green Bans movement.

The Newcastle earthquake of 28 December 1989 caused the loss of 13 lives and severely injured hundreds of people, particularly at the Newcastle Workers Club and Beaumont Street, Hamilton. There was also significant damage to buildings across Newcastle, with Hamilton and the CBD experiencing the worst destruction. This resulted in the demolition of many landmark heritage buildings in the city centre including the George Hotel, Newcastle.

A major turning point for the city occurred in 1999, when BHP Steelworks Port Waratah closed. This closure heralded a decade of economic and social change from a heavily industrial base to a more diversified economy dominated by the healthcare, services and education sectors. At the same time, significant revitalisation of the harbour waterfront transformed the face of Newcastle with emerging residential development at Wickham and Honeysuckle. The CBD, which had been in decline since the 1970s, also continued its transition from a purely commercial hub to a residential, educational, tourist and recreational precinct.

Over the last decade this transition and CBD revitalisation process has accelerated with the truncation of the Great Northern Railway at Wickham and the construction of the Newcastle Interchange and light rail service to Newcastle Beach. This has facilitated a shift of the commercial core from Hunter Street Mall and Civic precinct in the east to more intensively developed sites clustered around the new public transport interchange in the west. Notable recent changes to the former commercial core of the CBD in the east have included a new Court House, the establishment of a city campus for the University of Newcastle and an international campus for the Tokyo-based Nihon University, and the redevelopment of the Hunter Street Mall precinct into a luxury hotel, residential apartments and boutique retail.

CHAPTER FOUR – NEWCASTLE EAST HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

4.1 Introduction

This section documents the Newcastle East HCA, at the north-east end of the Newcastle peninsular. It is bounded by Watt Street/Pacific Street/Shortland Esplanade at its west, the Pacific Ocean at its east, Scott Street/Pacific Park/the Pacific Ocean to the south and to the north by the harbour and Horseshoe Beach. A map of the HCA boundary is reproduced in **Figure 6**.

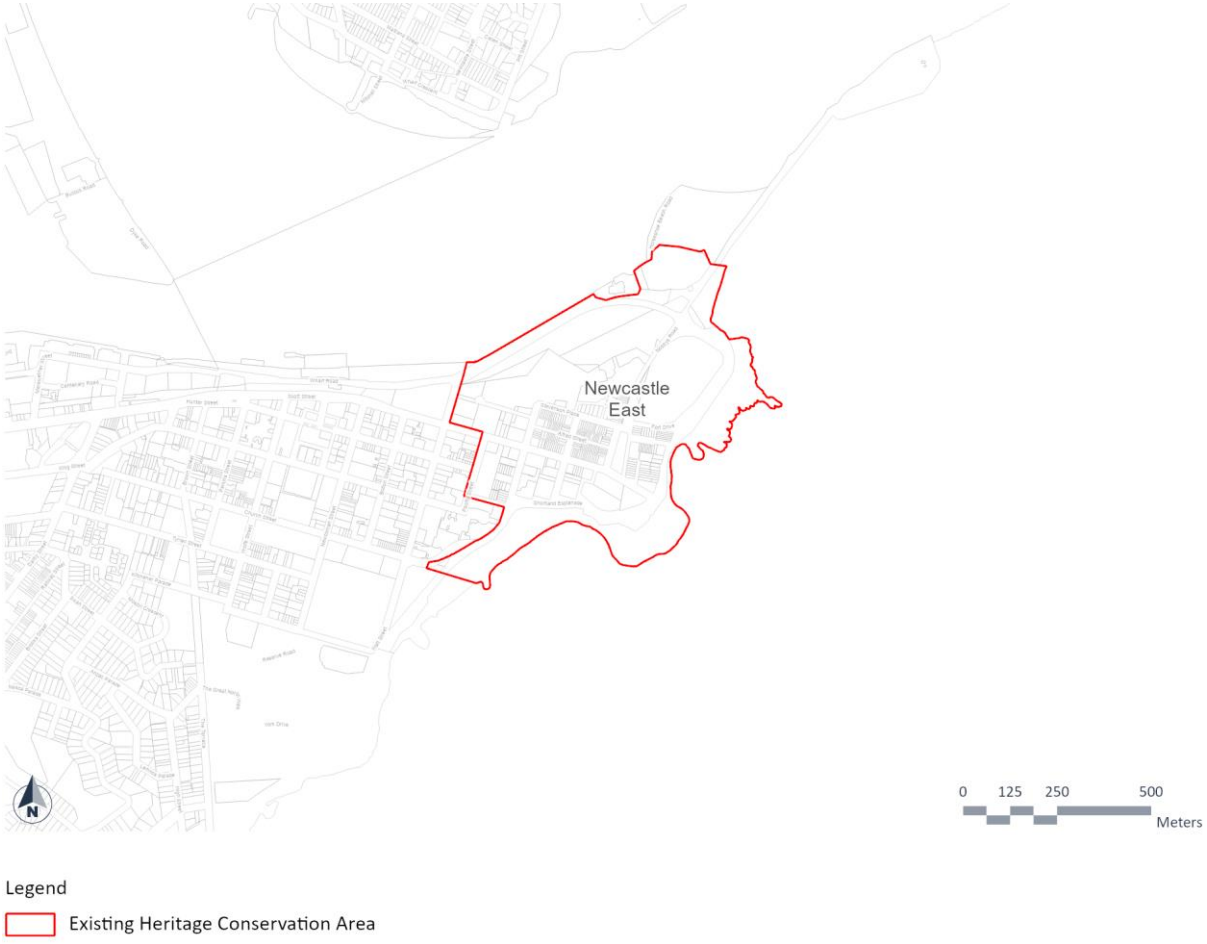


***Figure 6**: Newcastle East HCA (current boundary)*

4.2 Heritage Status - Newcastle East

The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area became an HCA via Amendment No. 52 to Newcastle LEP 1987, 3 July 1992, Gazette No. 83, page 4668 (**refer to Figure 7**). Its current boundary is consistent with that of 1992, with minor adjustments from coastline mapping and from the implementation of the Three Ports SEPP 2013 (now Transport and Infrastructure SEPP 2021).

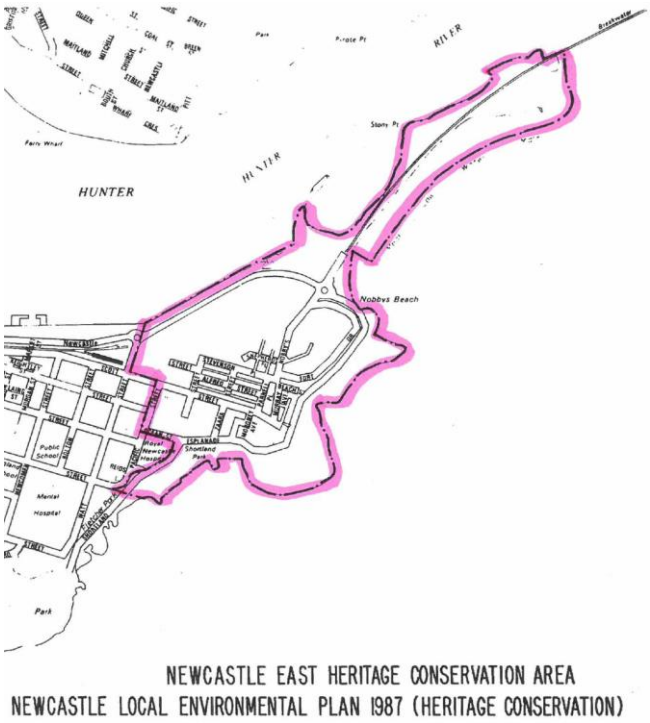


Figure 7: Newcastle East HCA as gazetted by Amendment No. 52 to Newcastle LEP 1987 (1992)

4.3 History

Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3 for the Aboriginal and historical context of the study area.

4.4 Physical Description

Newcastle East comprises of an area of flat land at the north-east end of the Newcastle peninsula (**refer to Figure 6**). It contains iconic sites of cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, including the harbour landscape and ocean. Fort Scratchley Historic site, the Newcastle Customs House, Convict Lumber Yard, Coutts Sailors' Home, and Foreshore Park are significant heritage places that define Newcastle East.

The underlying geology tells important aspects of the Newcastle story. Coal measures outcrop at Newcastle East under Fort Scratchley. The proximity and views of the harbour and ocean are an important aspect of Newcastle East's urban character.

The current built character of Newcastle East HCA ranges from small -scale residential to intensive urban forms, from recreational to business uses. The residential buildings are mostly Victorian or Federation period. Most building stock in the central section of the HCA contributes to the character of the HCA. Collectively, the contributory building stock demonstrates a consistency of scale, style, or

other features which together make up a consistent built form in the Newcastle East HCA. In summary, the physical character of Newcastle East can be described as a cultural landscape comprising historically significant built and natural heritage items (**refer to Figures 8 to 14**). These features include:

- Two and three storey terrace houses, historically significant former bond stores, commercial buildings and worker's housing from the late 19th century and early decades of the 20th century.
- Aboriginal places and sites of cultural significance including locations of known dreaming stories and places of meaning and cultural connection. The Convict Lumber Yard is the location of a documented Aboriginal archaeological site.
- Archaeological areas and relics, known and unknown.
- Views out to the coastline, port of Newcastle and harbour mouth.
- Foreshore Park, Nobbys Beach, Fort Scratchley, Pacific Park, Newcastle Beach, and the Convict Lumber Yard, each with their own history, significance and place in the story of Newcastle.



Figure 8: *Convict Lumber Yard, Paymasters Cottage, and Newcastle Customs House, Newcastle East (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 9: *Earp Gillam Bond Store at 16 Telford Street, Newcastle East (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 10: *43 Stevenson Place, Newcastle East facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 11: *8 and 11 Alfred Steet, Newcastle East facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 12: *52 and 33 Scott Street, Newcastle East facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 13: *Boatman's Terrace Group and Fort Scratchley, Newcastle East facing north (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 14: *Newcastle Ocean Baths, Canoe Pool, and Newcastle Beach, Newcastle East facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*

4.5 Previous Heritage Studies

The heritage value of the inner area of Newcastle has been recognised since the 1960s. On 30 October 1978, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) resolved to classify both The Hill and Newcastle East as an "Urban Conservation Area". The National Trust's 1978 listing boundary became the same boundary implemented in the 1987 Newcastle LEP (5 June 1987) as the statutory boundary of the "Newcastle Conservation Area", now The Hill and Newcastle East HCAs (see **Figure 15**).

Soon after the National Trust listing, the area was included on the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission as the "Newcastle Conservation Area", in 1979.

In 1982, Council commissioned Suters Busteed + Lester Firth to assess the character and heritage significance of The Hill and Newcastle East areas. The purpose of the study was to:

- identify and conserve the environmental heritage of the inner city of Newcastle
- provide rehabilitation and infill guidelines for this area
- provide a draft development control plan for urban conservation in Newcastle East, including the identification of public works.

The major emphasis of the study was to enable policies and objectives for conservation management to be incorporated in detailed development controls for the area. The area was regarded by Council as a key aspect of the city's physical identity and heritage.

The Newcastle Inner Areas Conservation Planning Study, 1984 is an invaluable baseline document for managing the heritage values of the areas and is available to view on CN's website. The areas identified were eventually listed as HCAs in the Newcastle LEP 1987, Amendment No. 52 in 1992. In 1997, Council adopted conservation area development control guidelines in the form of DCP 44 – covering Newcastle East, The Hill and Cooks Hill. The DCP introduced principles and objectives to facilitate the protection and management of the built environment within each precinct.

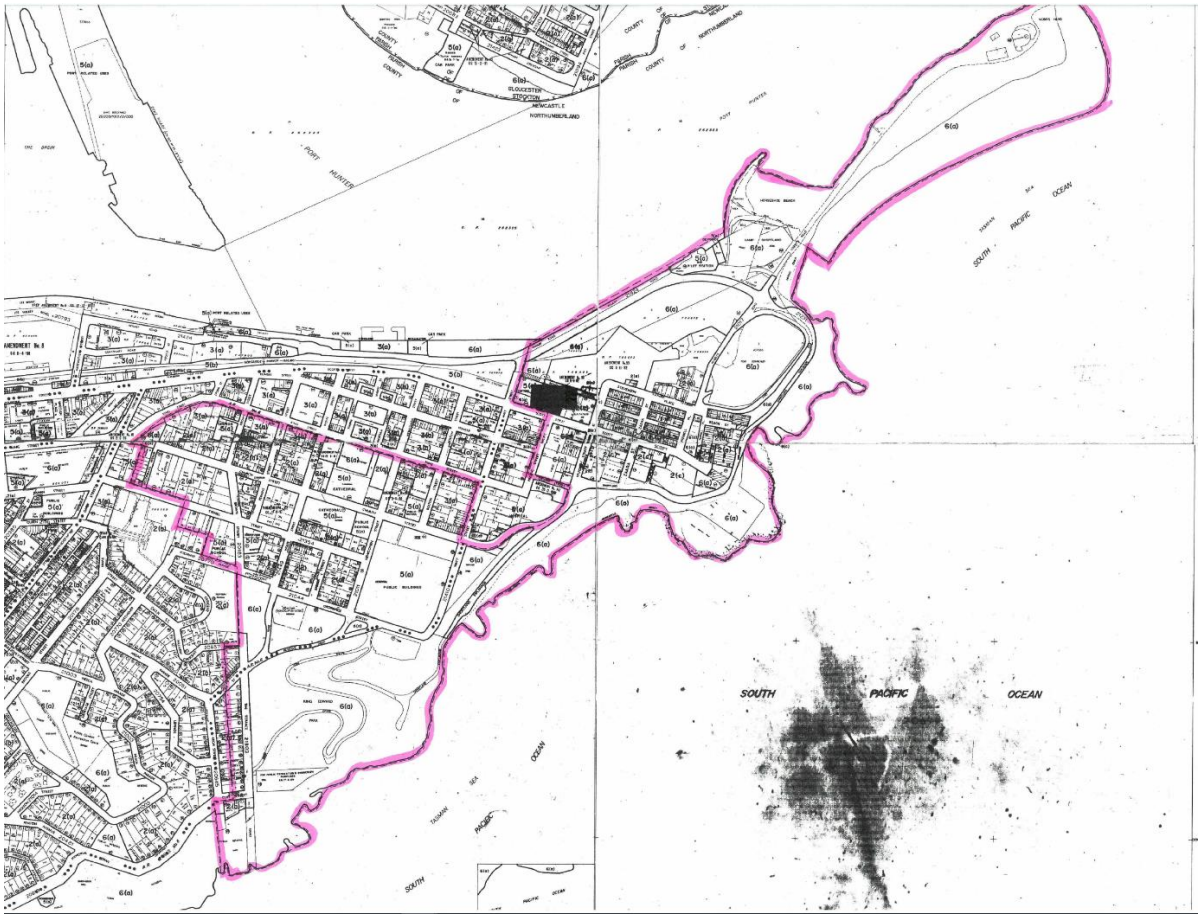


***Figure 15**: Newcastle Conservation Area boundary as gazetted by Newcastle LEP 1987 (5 June 1987).*

In June 2016 Council adopted the Heritage Conservation Areas Review Report which gathered information on the elements of heritage value in Newcastle East, and the features that establish character and provide a sense of place that is recognisable and worth keeping. As a result of this work, CN prepared and included a desired future character statement in DCP Section 6.02 and a contributory buildings map in its Heritage Technical Manual to guide development assessment and design.

4.6 Assessment of Heritage Significance

Applying the NSW Heritage Criteria

In revising the assessment of heritage significance for the area, the NSW heritage assessment guidelines and the NSW heritage criteria has been applied as expressed below:

- *Criterion a - An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Newcastle East HCA is significant for its role in the course of the history of NSW, including being a place of documented first contact between Aboriginal people and the British. It is significant in the

course of NSW's history as the site of the Colonial government's attempt to control and punish recidivist convicts, through the proclamation by Governor King of the penal settlement in 1804, which continued for an 18 year period until 1822. The penal period would create the hallmarks of the city layout and character that defines it today, including the site of the Convict Lumber Yard and Coal River precinct, Flagstaff Hill (Fort Scratchley) and the gradual transition from an Indigenous landscape to a residential precinct.

Newcastle East HCA is important in course of NSW's cultural history as the site of the establishment of the first successful coal mining in Australia, including the colony's first commercial export of coal. The Coal River precinct is therefore significant for its ability to demonstrate the history of coal mining, its impact on the Australian economy and how coal has shaped the Australian economy.

Newcastle East HCA has a notable association with an important phase of social development in the local area with the exponential increase in leisure time during the early twentieth century and the corresponding establishment and significant growth in popularity of beach swimming and surf culture.

Newcastle East HCA is important for its ongoing existence as an urban settlement which is demonstrated by the rich archaeological heritage from the early convict settlement period through to the present day. This significant archaeological record also documents the continuous and extensive Aboriginal occupation. The pre contact traditions and life ways of the Aboriginal people of Muluubinba, who through the ongoing connections of its traditional custodians maintain an attachment to the area today. Following the arrival of the British, Aboriginal associations are recorded in paintings and records of the penal period and the decades that followed.

- *Criterion b - An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Newcastle East HCA has special associations with the convict history of Australia, being a place of secondary punishment for reoffending convicts between 1804-1822. The first administrators of the colony and some of the first European navigators are associated with the area, including Lieutenant Shortland, Governors King and Hunter, and numerous others of importance in the history of early colonial Australia, including Commandant Wallis and Commandant Morisset.

- *Criterion c - An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area):*

Newcastle East HCA is an important urban cultural landscape. It demonstrates aesthetic characteristics that define the evolution of an early Australian city established during the earliest phases of Australia's development into a modern nation, and that has evolved a rich urban fabric that represents over 200 years of urban development. These aesthetic features include:

1. Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
2. A strongly homogenous street and lot layout, developed after the sand reclamation efforts of the 1870s and which can be said to be a reflection of the economic boom of the 1880s.
3. Streetscapes and vistas outwards and inwards strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.

4. An enclosed central precinct with a strongly historic character between Scott Street, Stevenson Place, Parnell Place and Telford Street.
5. The areas of parkland that are an integral element of Newcastle East including Foreshore Park, Pacific Park, Parnell Place, the beaches and coastal facilities.
6. The location of Newcastle East at the end of the Newcastle peninsula, is a defining visual marker of the urban geography of Newcastle.

- *Criterion d - An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons:*

The combined achievements of the local community and the Green Bans movement during the 1970s and 1980s have a direct association over the Newcastle East HCA making an important contribution to the history of the local area with the conservation of its nineteenth century terraces and the establishment of Foreshore Park.

Feedback from residents and businesses in 2023 revealed that the community significantly value the character and physical elements of Newcastle East and identify with its' protection as a HCA. Overall, there is a high degree of esteem held by the resident community and strong attachment to the character of the area, the streetscape, buildings and public open space. The area meets this criterion on cultural grounds at the local level.

- *Criterion e - An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Given the rate of survival of key elements of the early urban settlement of Newcastle, including its ability to demonstrate elements of the early development of Newcastle as well as the system of land subdivision and crown grants following the cessation of the penal colony mining, the area has the potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding aspects of Newcastle's cultural history, and more broadly to the State of NSW for the capacity to yield information about the cessation of a penal settlement and its evolution to a modern city. Archaeological investigations at the Convict Lumber Yard have yielded physical evidence of continuous Aboriginal and then later convict occupation. This reveals evidence of Aboriginal and settler-convicts living and working in the area, especially pre-contact Aboriginal camping, convict coal mining, lime-burning, timber cutting, quarrying and pier building.

- *Criterion f - An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

There is rare surviving archaeological evidence associated with the convict settlement period as the earliest penal settlement outside of Sydney, and one of few such places to be established in NSW.

- *Criterion g - An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments):*

Newcastle East contains many surviving elements of the early 19th and 20th centuries and the processes of urbanisation. It demonstrates these characteristics in its key elements including building stock and the relationship of buildings to the street and each other, street layout including laneways, along with heritage items and green space.

Statement of Significance

The Newcastle East HCA represents a pattern of urban settlement that traces its origins back to the earliest phase of the European settlement of the city of Newcastle, and beyond that, to the long tradition of Indigenous settlement, the physical remains of which are contained in a rich archaeological layer and in stories and paintings of Aboriginal people following the arrival of the British from 1797. As such, Newcastle East HCA has the capacity to demonstrate aspects of the history of Newcastle, in terms of its long Indigenous heritage, through to colonisation and urban change.

Throughout its European history the area has been shaped by different activities including being the second penal settlement on the mainland after Sydney (from 1801), the site of the processing and shipping of cedar and coal (CLY), having an important coastal defence installation (Fort Scratchley Historic site), the Nobbys lighthouse and breakwater important to the story of shipping, through to the generation of electricity.

The cultural significance of Newcastle East is embodied in its setting – a core of heritage items and significant building groups surrounded by water on three sides. The inner part of the HCA, bounded by Scott Street and Stevenson Place, is enclosed and the physical elements within it are iconic features of Newcastle East. The building stock is representative of the urban history of Newcastle, covering almost all decades from the 1820s to the present. The historic buildings provide a series of uniform streetscapes which visually reinforce the historical character of the area.

The social history of Newcastle East is derived from it being the site of early conservation battles in the 1970s, between developers and conservationists and there are rows of public housing that make this place a community and home for many. It is also an important place of recreation at facilities like the Ocean Baths, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park.

The archaeological potential of the Newcastle East HCA is well documented. The Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan 1997 and the Review 2013 confirm that the archaeological resources of this area are abundant, both Aboriginal and historical. The Coal River Precinct, listed on the NSW state Heritage Register, is an area where there is documented and predicted archaeological remains of profound research potential to the nation as the place of first contact with the local Aboriginal population and the place of the establishment of the Australian coal industry.

The architectural values of the Newcastle East HCA are to be found in the high quality of buildings, their landscape settings, style, scale, detail, and contribution to the streetscape. The residential area is significant for its consistent streetscapes of two and three storey terrace housing dating from the mid-19th through to early 20th centuries and its housing for workers. There are also examples of single storey detached houses. The overall impression of Newcastle East is a strongly established historic precinct.

Key visual elements include:

- The narrow range of building types including terrace houses, workers' housing, government buildings, and bond stores which reflects the long history of urban settlement and various industrial themes in the city's history.
- A uniform street layout which reflects the flat topography of Newcastle East and laneways which reflects the historical mechanism of sanitation.
- The ocean bathing and surf culture of Nobbys Beach and Newcastle Beach.
- Views from public areas over the coastline and harbour as these are an important aspect of the urban character of Newcastle East
- Open space and reserves including Foreshore Park, Convict Lumber Yard, Newcastle Beach foreshore, and Pacific Park
- Iconic buildings and structures of significance including Newcastle Ocean Baths, Customs House, Fort Scratchley, the Coutts Sailors Home, the Bond stores, Tyrrell House, and Boatmans' Row.

- Key Period of Significance - circa 1801 to 1940.

Recommendation

The above assessment of heritage significance follows the standard Heritage Assessment Guidelines and the NSW state heritage criteria. As a result of the assessment, it is recommended that the Newcastle East area continues to be protected through the mechanism of a statutory HCA.

4.7 Comparative Assessment

Fieldwork as part of this review found that apart from modern developments on the edges of the HCA, the area's central core is very intact and contains many historic elements that can be placed in the late 19th century and early 20th century. It demonstrates characteristics in its key elements including building stock and the relationship of buildings to the street and each other, street layout including laneways, along with heritage items and green space. The high concentration of State and nationally significant heritage items in this HCA (Fort Scratchley, Newcastle Customs House, Convict Lumber Yard, Newcastle Ocean Baths and Coutts Sailors Home), make this HCA very unique. There is rare surviving archaeological evidence associated with the convict settlement period as the earliest penal settlement outside Sydney, and one of few such places to be established in NSW. Australian Heritage Commission and the National Trust citations between the early 1960s and late 1970s which value the significance of Newcastle East as an historic precinct support the review's findings.

4.8 Threatening Processes

Some issues undermine the integrity and intactness of the Newcastle East HCA. These include:

- The fine-grain, low-rise residential precinct of two to three storeys is at odds with the building typology in the rest of the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary. This part of Newcastle East (and the adjacent land fronting Newcastle Beach) is the only land zoned R3 Medium Density in the

Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary. New development within the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary is more appropriate fronting Newcastle Beach and land west of Pacific Street, the commercial and mixed-use core around Newcastle Interchange and West End. The Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, HOB and FSR do not necessarily promote the best heritage outcome for a low-rise residential area as it can provide perception and expectation of medium to high-rise development and building envelope entitlement.

- Unsympathetic development that is out of scale or not designed as sensitive infill that replaces original building stock, or that alters and adds to contributory buildings.

4.9 Desired Future Character Statement

The DCP is currently subject to a comprehensive review. Draft Newcastle DCP 2023 includes the following statement as a clear guide for development assessment and design planning:

The character of the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the late 19th and early decades of the 20th century. The special character of Newcastle East is to be preserved and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, open space, street trees and elements of visual interest and heritage significance such as the many iconic buildings located in Newcastle East, parks and open space, views and vistas, the unique steep topography and street layout, and the character of the streetscapes including street trees, buildings and the relationship of built elements.

Elements to be preserved and/or sensitively restored or reconstructed (based on evidence of original appearance) include:

- *Range of contributory and historic buildings, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets.*
- *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the integrity of laneways.*
- *Two to three-storey scale of housing stock located in the area to the north of Scott Street and east of Telford Street.*
- *Exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.*
- *Street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items, public stairs, lanes, parks, views and vistas.*
- *Regular and homogenous urban form which reflects a regular pattern of subdivision and development, and building stock from between the 1870s and 1930, demonstrating the gradual urbanisation of a once indigenous landscape.*
- *Existing appearance of Newcastle East, views outwards to the coastline and harbour, and views into the area from Foreshore Park and the Newcastle coastline and Ocean Baths.*
- *Significant heritage places including the Coal River Precinct, the Nobbys headland and breakwater, Fort Scratchley Historic Site, Convict Lumber Yard and Customs House precinct, the Newcastle Ocean Baths, Joy Cummings Centre and other significant groups such as the Lahey Bond Store and Stevenson Place terraces.*
- *Views to and visual interconnections between significant Aboriginal cultural landscape features including Whibayganba (Nobbys Head), Tahlbihn (Flagstaff Hill / Fort Scratchley), Burrabihngarn*

(Pirate Point, Stockton), Yohaaba (Port Hunter), Coquun (Hunter River: South Channel), Khanterin (Shepherds Hill), and Cathedral Park.

- *Mature trees in public domain.*
- *Public parks and reserves, including Newcastle Beach, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park.*
- *Items of heritage significance individually listed as heritage items in Schedule 5 of LEP 2012, including retention of the three-dimensional form of heritage item buildings.*
- *The rich record of relics and archaeological sites beneath the modern city.*

4.10 Contributory Buildings

Fieldwork was undertaken in January 2020 to establish the overall intactness of this area. The Contributory Buildings Map for the Newcastle East HCA (**refer to Figure 16**) included in the Heritage Technical Manual grades the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for the HCA. For definitions of contributory buildings, refer to Section 1.8. If the area is subject to the regulation to amend the boundaries of the Newcastle East and neighbouring The Hill HCAs, updated contributory buildings maps for these HCAs will be required.

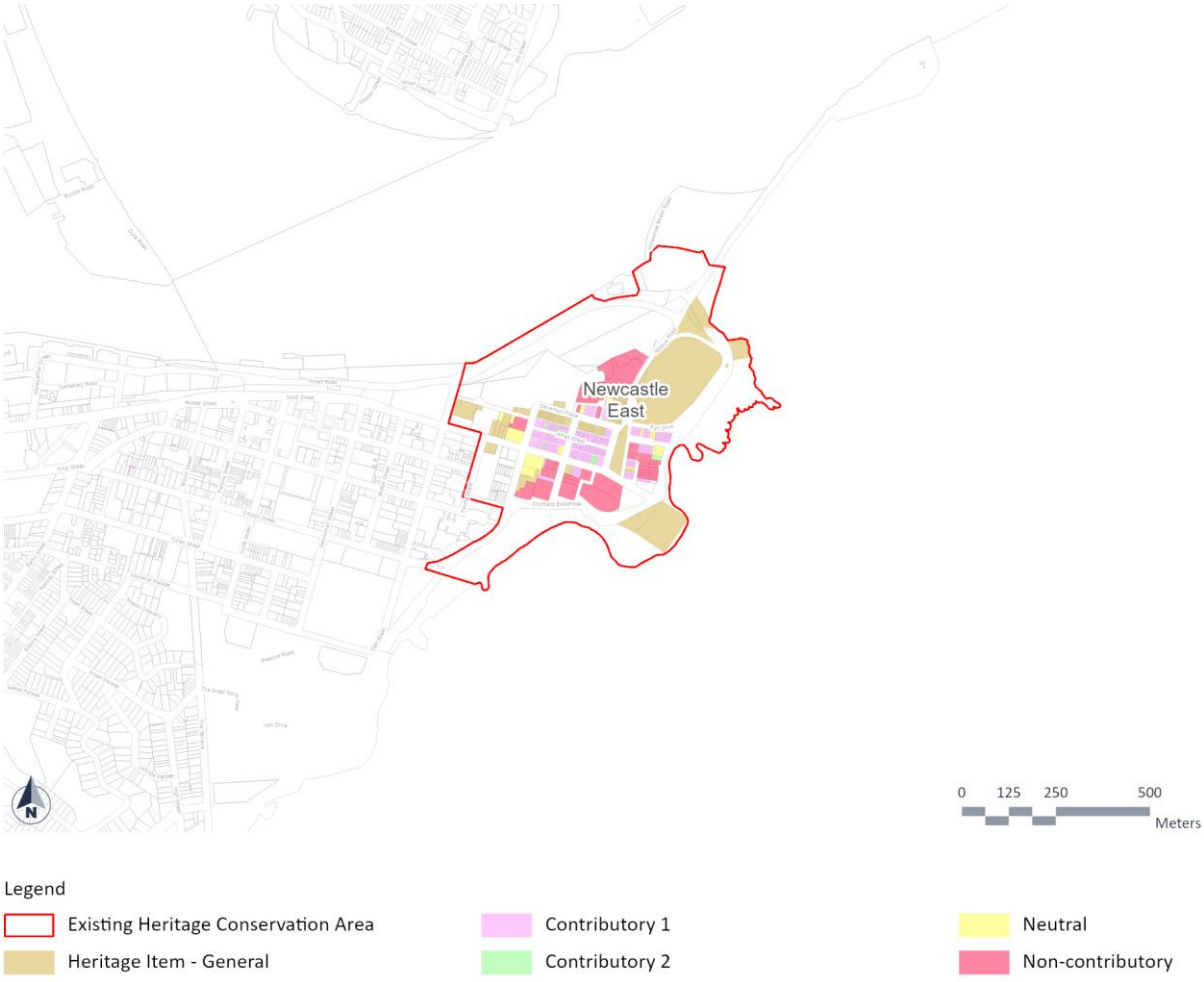


Figure 16: *Contributory Buildings Map - Newcastle East HCA*

4.11 Community Engagement Feedback

As part of the Newcastle City Centre HCAs review, feedback from local community members was sought to gain an understanding of what residents and business owners value about the HCA. This engagement was held in April and May 2023. The following submissions were received:

- 65 submissions via email or Have Your Say
- 328 pins and comments on the interactive map
- 35 precincts of shared history and/or built character drawn on the interactive map
- 238 responses to the streetscape quick poll.

Overall, the Newcastle East HCA was recorded as being significantly valued by the community. Elements of the HCA that were not as highly valued included the more recent and modern development on land parcels which address Shortland Esplanade and Newcastle Beach.

Key findings

- Heritage conservation merit – 113 pins
- No heritage conservation merit – 11 pins
- Places with heritage merit, highest number of up votes:
  - Newcastle Post Office – 97
  - Newcastle Customs House – 77
  - Newcastle Ocean Baths – 76
  - Fort Scratchley – 70
- Places with no heritage merit, highest number of up votes:
  - 33 Shortland Esplanade – 24
  - Noah's on the Beach – 21
- 91% of the 238 Quick Poll responses indicated that the streetscape of Alfred Street, Newcastle East has heritage value
- 4 precincts of shared history and/or built character were identified, focused on:
  - Heritage collection of bond stores/warehouses
  - The core precinct bounded by Stevenson Place, Parnell Place, Scott Street and Telford Street including surroundings, such as Nobbys Road, Fort Drive, Beach Street and Murray Avenue.
  - The history and archaeology along Shortland Esplanade, despite the significant change from modern development.
- Relevant submission comments:
  - *This area east of Pacific Street through to the ocean is a fundamental cultural heritage area for Newcastle and so it is critical that this whole area remains in this heritage conservation area.*
  - *Newcastle East is a small area packed with character and history and is a drawcard for visitors and residents.*
  - *Newcastle East which has a unique collection of buildings of great historical and heritage value.*

- *Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is the most significant, unique and valuable heritage area in the Newcastle LGA.*
- *The whole Newcastle east area is unique, small and to be cherished.*

More comprehensive analysis of the community engagement feedback is provided in **Appendix A**.

4.12 Heritage Conservation Area Boundary

The boundaries of the Newcastle East HCA were reviewed. Overall, these are considered appropriate and will be maintained as the Newcastle East HCA to ensure the heritage significance of the area is retained and conserved, with two exceptions.

Newcastle Beach and the Coal River Precinct are identified by the assessment above and from community engagement feedback as significant contributory elements of the Newcastle East HCA. However, not all of either element is included within the existing boundaries of the HCA. As such, the following amendments to the LEP maps are recommended (**refer to Figure 17**):

- Boundary adjustments to Newcastle East and The Hill HCAs so that Newcastle Beach South is added to the Newcastle East HCA and removed from The Hill HCA. This ensures the whole of Newcastle Beach, an identified area of cultural significance, is located within the boundaries of the Newcastle East HCA for the first time.
- Boundary adjustments to the Newcastle East HCA to include all land within the curtilage of the Coal River Precinct State Heritage Register listing (SHR ID 01674) which is located outside the boundary of the Three Ports area (as defined by the *Transport and Infrastructure SEPP 2021*). This land includes the full length of Nobbys Beach to the high-water mark, and land immediately to the west of Macquarie Pier and east of Horseshoe Beach Road, an area comprising the northern part of Camp Shortland and the eastern part of Horseshoe Beach. This ensures the whole of Coal River Precinct (excluding land in the Three Ports area) is located within the boundaries of the Newcastle East HCA for the first time.

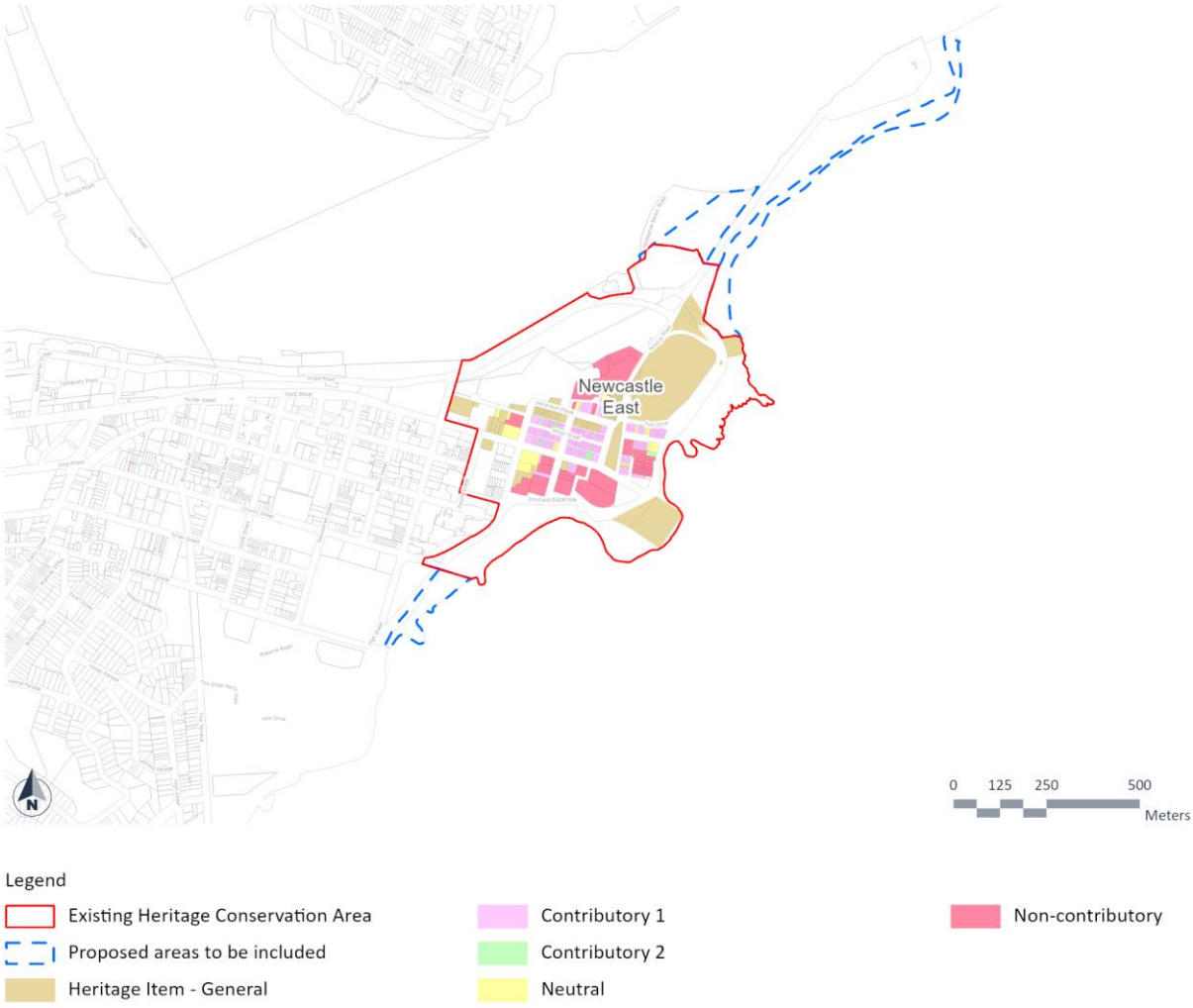


Figure 17: *Recommended Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

4.13 Land use zoning

The land use zoning within the Newcastle East HCA was reviewed. The existing land use zoning is considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the Newcastle East HCA.

4.14 Height of buildings and floor space ratio

The HOB and FSR development standards within the Newcastle East HCA were reviewed. A fine-grain, low-rise residential precinct of two to three storey properties zoned R3 Medium Density Residential was identified (**refer to Figure 18**). This precinct is at odds with the building typology in the rest of the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary which is developed to often far greater heights and across larger

consolidated lots. The land currently has a maximum building height of either 10m or 14m and an FSR of either 1:1 or 1.5:1. These development standards are inconsistent with the current built form on the land and would conflict with the conservation objectives that this review proposes.



Figure 18: *Newcastle East low-rise residential area*

Removal of HOB and FSR is recommended from this low-rise residential zoned area of the HCA, justified on the basis that:

- HOB and FSR development standards are not applied to residential zoned land in HCAs outside the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, such as residential zoned land in Cooks Hill, The Hill, Hamilton South and Hamilton Residential Precinct HCAs. To remove HOB and FSR from this part of Newcastle East HCA will maintain a consistent land-use planning and heritage conservation approach to the management of these areas.
- Not applying HOB and FSR development standards to land in HCAs is best practice and a common approach across NSW. This includes The Rocks and the Millers Point HCA in City of Sydney, and the HCAs in the commercial centres of Maitland and Morpeth, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Singleton, Armidale, and Albury.

- HOB and FSR does not necessarily promote the best heritage outcome for a low-rise residential area as it can provide perception and expectation of building envelope entitlement.
- This area largely consists of small blocks already developed boundary to boundary to a high density. Additionally, existing buildings are already approaching the height limit and Clause 4.6 variations are frequently requested to exceed the FSR to support development applications in this locality. Furthermore, Clause 4.6 variation requests are required for HOB and FSR exceedances when the proposed bulk and form of the development is appropriate to its streetscape setting and there is no impact on the heritage significance of the HCA. For example, a small kitchen extension at the rear of a residential terrace which is not visible from the public street.
- Removing HOB and FSR facilitates a merit assessment approach, allowing the assessment authority to consider development proposals that also maintains the heritage significance and is compatible with the protected character and appearance of the HCA. It also gives the proposed design the flexibility to respond to its place within the surrounding townscape rather than complying with a generic set of prescribed LEP development standards. The merit assessment approach and design responding to place is complemented and robustly controlled by detailed planning and design guidelines provided in the heritage conservation chapters of the DCP and associated Heritage Technical Manual.

For the rest of the HCA, including the more intensely developed land fronting Newcastle Beach, the existing HOB and FSR development standards applied are considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the Newcastle East HCA.

4.15 Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary

A minor adjustment to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary is required to remove the Boat Harbour at 100 Wharf Road (**refer to Figure 19**). Although not in the Newcastle East HCA, this property is identified by the *Transport and Infrastructure SEPP 2021* as in the boundary of the Three Ports area. A SEPP prevails over an LEP. Its removal from the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary is required to correct this anomaly.

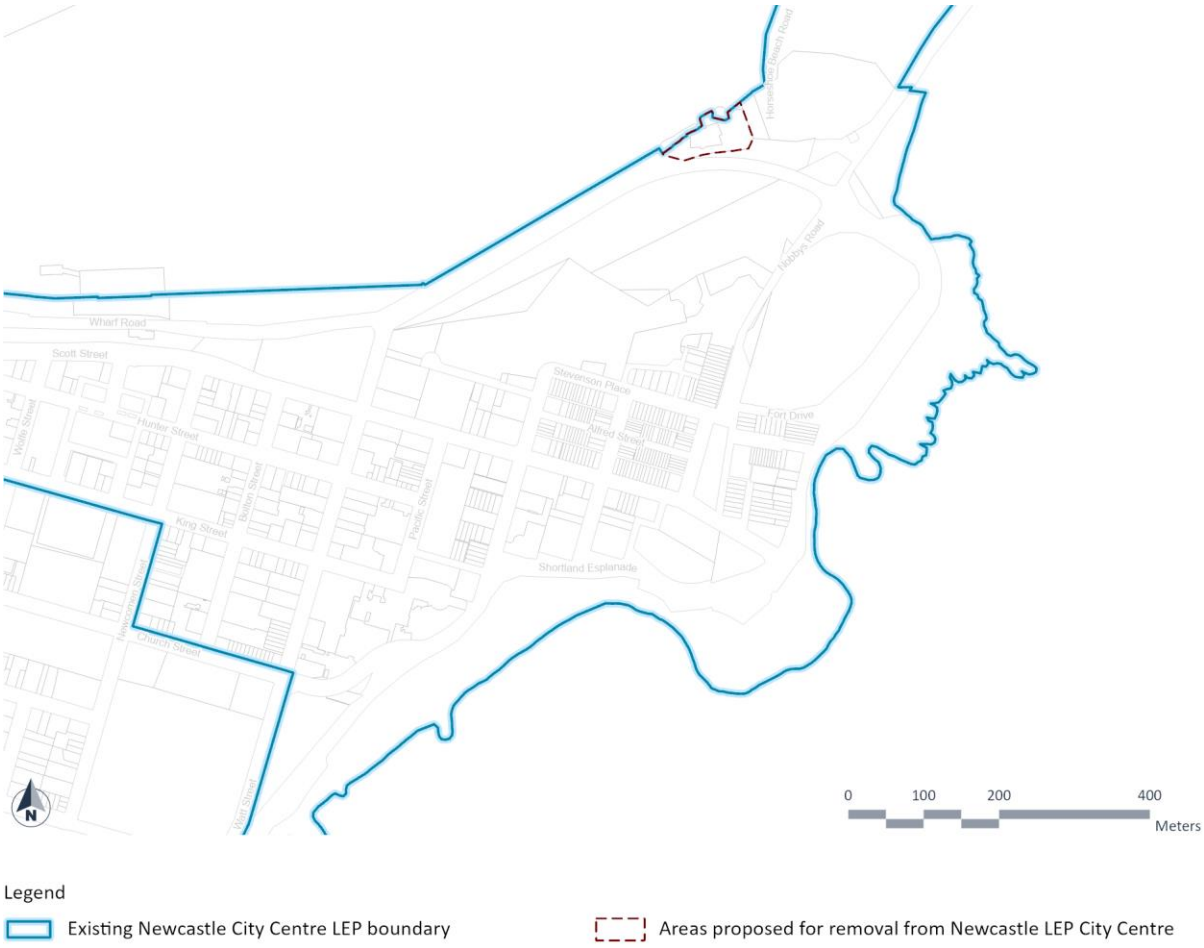


***Figure 19**: Recommended adjustments to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary in the Newcastle East HCA locality.*

4.16 Heritage Items

Identified by the assessment above and from community engagement feedback, it is recommended the following new LEP heritage items and amendments to existing LEP heritage items be investigated:

- Stone Shelter, South Newcastle Beach - investigate new LEP listing.
- Goal, Scott Street - investigate new LEP listing of this archaeological site.
- Newcastle Ocean Baths - boundary adjustments to the LEP listing (item I489) to include the canoe pool and land between the baths and the high-water mark.
- Coal River Precinct - boundary adjustments to the Coal River Precent LEP listing (item A5) to include all land within the curtilage of the Coal River Precinct SHR listing (SHR ID 01674) which is not located within the boundary of the port of Newcastle's Three Ports area.
- Earp Gillam Bond Store Precinct - amend LEP item listings for Former Earp Gillam Bond Store Precinct (item I492) and Stanton Catchlove Bond Store (item I373) to be consistent with the Earp Gillam Bond Store Precinct SHR listing (SHR ID 00762), and investigate separately listing Foreshore Park as a new LEP item.
- Other places in the HCA the community engagement feedback found had potential cultural heritage merit will be investigated for LEP listing in a future heritage study.

CHAPTER FIVE – NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

5.1 Introduction

This section documents the Newcastle City Centre HCA, bounded by the heavy/light rail line and Coquun (Hunter River) to the north, Pacific Street and Shortland Esplanade to the east, to the south by King, Queen, Gibson and Parry Streets, and to the west by Selma Street. The current boundaries and location of the Newcastle City Centre HCA are as reproduced in **Figure 20**.

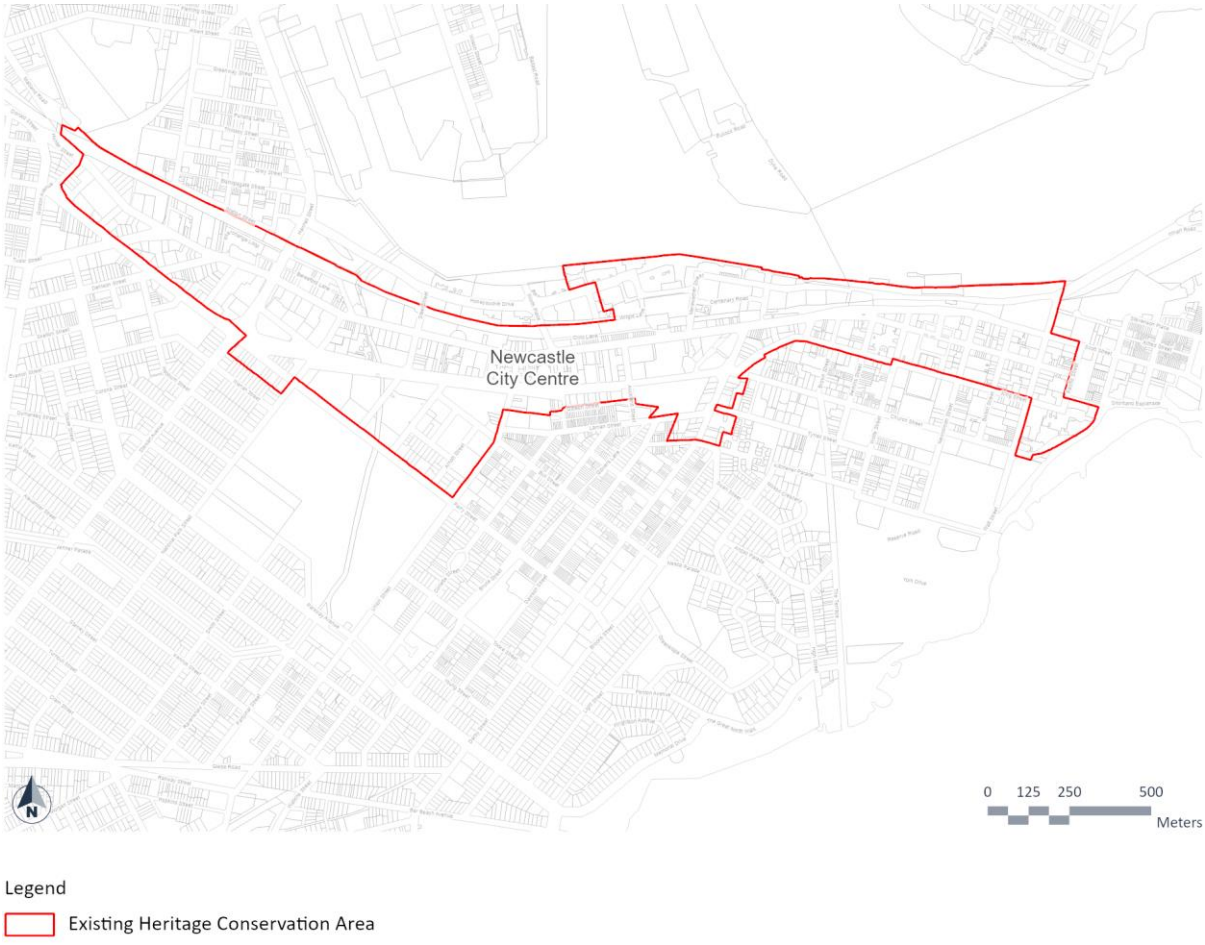


***Figure 20**: Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (Current Boundary)*

5.2 Heritage Status - Newcastle City Centre

The area known as Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area was gazetted as Newcastle C.B.D. Heritage Conservation Area via Amendment No. 52 to the Newcastle LEP 1987, 3 July 1992, Gazette No. 83, page 4668 (**refer to Figure 21**). The current boundaries remain reasonably consistent from the original. Notable changes include the addition of Parry Street industrial opposite Birdwood Park and properties around Queen Street, Cooks Hill and Tyrrell Street, The Hill; and the removal of land at Honeysuckle west of Merewether Street, Newcastle. These changes were implemented with the commencement of Newcastle City Centre Local Environmental Plan 2008, 1 February 2008. No significant changes have occurred since.

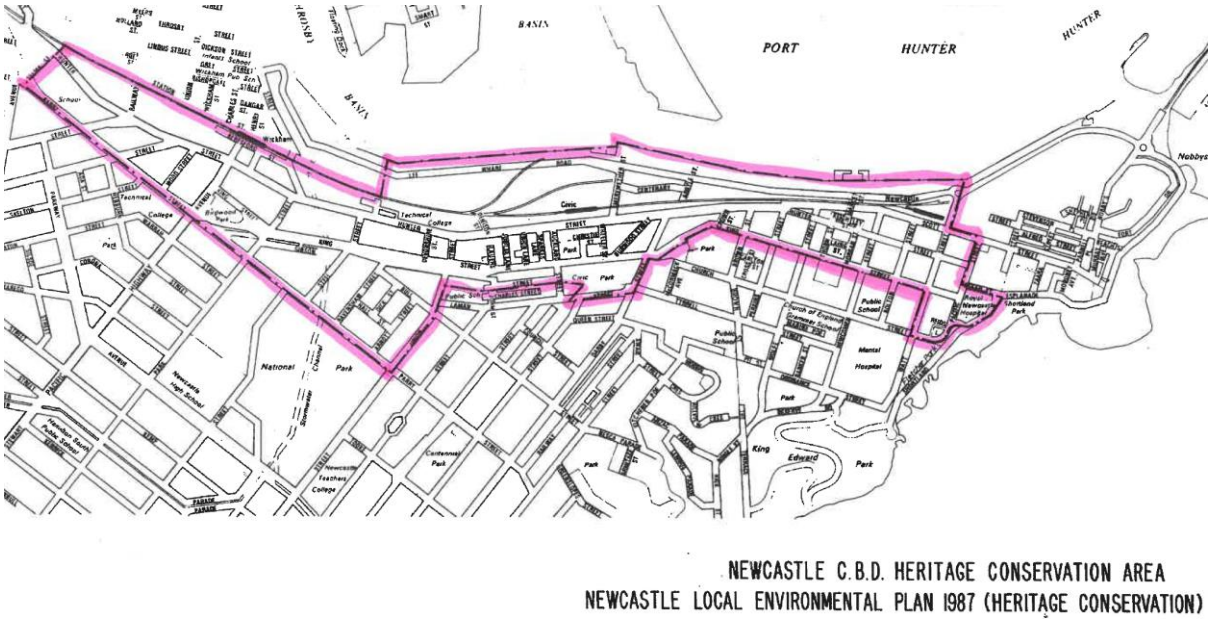


Figure 21: *Newcastle City Centre HCA as gazetted by Amendment No. 52 to Newcastle LEP 1987 (1992).*

5.3 History

Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3 for the Aboriginal and historical context of the study area.

5.4 Physical Description

The Newcastle City Centre HCA comprises an area of flat land along the northern side of the Newcastle peninsular (refer to **Figure 20**). It contains iconic sites of cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, including the harbour landscape of Muluubinba. Newcastle Railway Station, Newcastle Signal Box, Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle Post Office, Former Nurses Home, T&G Mutual Life Assurance Building, Victoria Theatre, Civic Park, Former City Administration Building, Fred Ash

Building, Newcastle City Hall, Civic Theatre, Nesca House, Civic Railway Workshops, Miss Porter's House, and the Castlemaine Brewery are heritage places of State significance that define the Newcastle City Centre HCA.

The proximity and views of the harbour to the north framed by the steep topography of The Hill to the south are an important aspect of Newcastle City Centre's urban character.

The current built character of Newcastle City Centre HCA ranges from regionally significant civic buildings, adaptively re-used industrial buildings, and intensive mixed-use residential and commercial urban forms. The buildings are an eclectic mix of mostly Victorian, Inter-War, or late twentieth century to the present day. Most of the building stock in the eastern and central sections of the HCA contributes to the character of the HCA, with more recent intensive development mostly located in the western section of the HCA. The contributory building stock in the HCA is not homogenous. Instead, it is a series of distinct character precincts, defined by a shared development history or built character, with a consistency of scale, style, or other features in each precinct. These features include:

- Old Town – grid system from Pacific Street in the east to Brown Street in the west, the precinct contains a rich pre-contact and convict/early settler archaeological record, with the economic wealth generated by the Newcastle port expressed in its fine stock of nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial and retail buildings. Views out to the port of Newcastle and harbour mouth, the traditional harbour landscape of Muluubinba. Newcastle Railway Station, T&G Mutual Life Assurance Building and Newcastle Post Office are significant heritage landmarks.
- Civic and Honeysuckle – the precinct has a shared development history of rail and port related infrastructure, the subsequent establishment and concentration of regionally significant civic institutions, and the fine stock of late nineteenth/early twentieth century and inter-war commercial and retail development. Views out to the port of Newcastle and harbour mouth, the traditional harbour landscape of Muluubinba. Civic Park, City Hall, Former City Administration Building, and Lee Wharf Buildings are significant heritage landmarks.
- Newcastle West – the precinct has a shared development history of late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial and commercial development which serviced the port of Newcastle and helped establish the industrial base of the NSW economy. Miss Porter's House, Newcastle Technical College, and the Castlemaine Brewery are significant heritage places.

5.5 Previous Heritage Studies

In 1988, Suters Busteed Corner Clode Architects and Planners prepared the Newcastle CBD Urban Design and Heritage Study (the study area is depicted in **Figure 22**). At the time, this innovative urban design guideline established some important planning principles for the city, such as preserving sight lines to the Christ Church Cathedral and preserving iconic heritage items such as Customs House, the Court House and the Post Office. It identified an inventory of items of heritage significance and areas of special heritage significance in Newcastle East and Newcastle West.

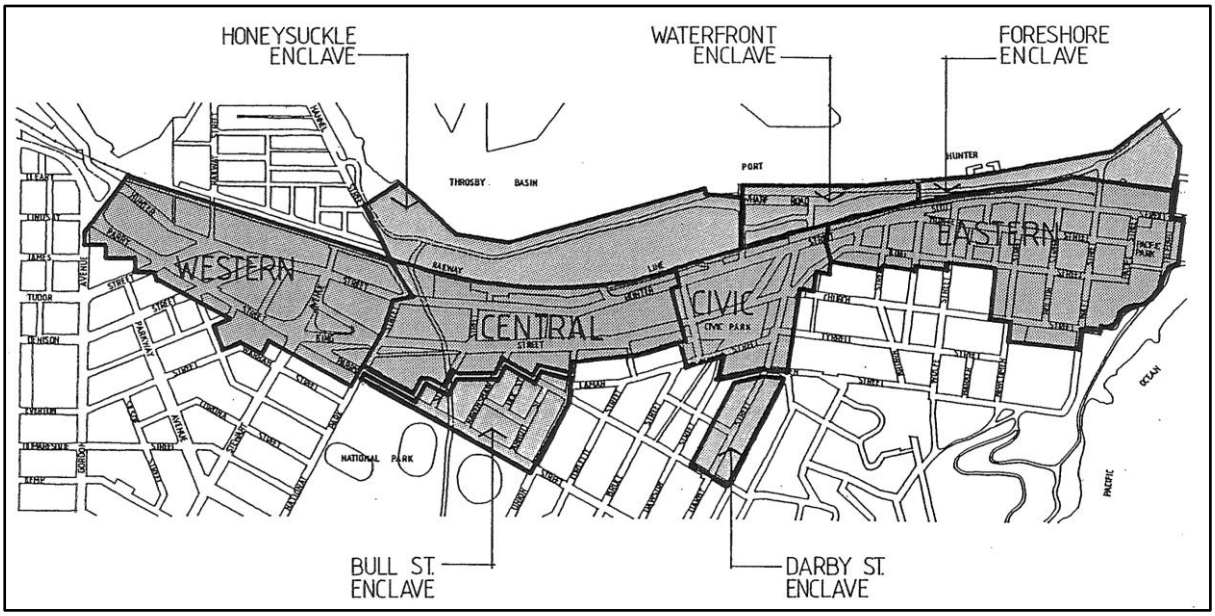


Figure 22: *Study Area of the Newcastle CBD Urban Design and Heritage Study*

The study area defined under the Newcastle CBD Urban Design and Heritage Study (1988) roughly translated into the HCA listing under the Newcastle LEP 1987, Amendment No 52 in 1992.

An early history of DCPs that guided development of the Newcastle City Centre included:

DCP 30 Newcastle Urban Design Guidelines
DCP 17 Newcastle East
↓
DCP 40 City West: unlocking the potential (1998)
DCP 57 City East Urban Design Guidelines: proudly bringing the past alive (2000)
↓
Newcastle Development Control Plan 2005 (2005)

Early development planning recognised that "*the Newcastle CBD comprised two distinct areas with different characteristics. The east with strong heritage qualities, unique streetscapes and topographical features. The west (including Honeysuckle) is less constrained with flat topography, greenfield development sites and good redevelopment potential*"[6]. These previous DCPs introduced important principles and objectives to facilitate the protection and management of the built environment within the now Newcastle City Centre.

In 2012, the then Department of Planning and Infrastructure prepared the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy under State Environmental Planning Policy (Urban Renewal) 2010. The focus of the strategy

[6] City West unlocking the potential: Development Control Plan 40, Newcastle City Council / Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1998. ISBN 0 909115 69 9

was to support the revitalisation of Newcastle over the coming 25 years. It was supported by extensive technical work, which included the heritage field.

Delivery of the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy planning vision occurred through incorporation of provisions in the Newcastle LEP 2012 and Section 6.01 Newcastle city Centre of the Newcastle DCP 2012.

In June 2016 Council adopted the Heritage Conservation Areas Review Report. At the time of this project the Newcastle City Centre HCA was subject to LEP and DCP amendments as part of the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy (mentioned above) and was determined to be outside the scope of the review. Though the Newcastle City Centre HCA was excluded from this review, as a result of this work, CN prepared and included a contributory buildings map for this HCA in its Heritage Technical Manual as a clear guide for development assessment and design planning.

5.6 Assessment of Heritage Significance

Refer to Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 for separate heritage significance assessments for Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street.

5.7 Comparative Assessment

Refer to Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 for separate comparative assessments for Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street.

5.8 Threatening Processes

Some issues undermine the integrity and intactness of the Newcastle City Centre HCA. These include:

- The Newcastle City Centre HCA is approximately 3.2km from east to west and comprises a series of distinct character precincts developed over different time periods and with different building typologies. Given the size of the existing HCA, the current direction and guidance is too broad. The statement of significance for Newcastle City Centre HCA provided in the DCP primarily relates to the 'Old Town' area of Hunter Mall. The heritage significance and development history of Civic, Honeysuckle and Newcastle West are largely overlooked. Clear direction and guidance to manage change in these heritage places is limited and problematic both for the assessment authority and proponents of development.
- Unsympathetic development that is out of scale or not designed as sensitive infill that replaces original building stock, or that alters and adds to contributory buildings.
- Facadism of local heritage item buildings rather than retention of their three-dimensional form.
- The painting of exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.

5.9 Desired Future Character Statement

The DCP is currently subject to a comprehensive review. Draft Newcastle DCP 2023 includes the following statement as a clear guide for development assessment and design planning:

The character of the Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the 19th and early decades of the 20th century. The special character is to be preserved, celebrated and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, existing subdivision pattern, and elements of visual interest.

Elements to be preserved and/or sensitively restored or reconstructed (based on evidence of original appearance) include:

- *Range of contributory and historic buildings constructed prior to the Second World War, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets.*
- *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the human scale of development, the integrity of laneways and the fine grain of Henry Dangar's 1828 'Old Town' plan in the Newcastle East End Precinct from Pacific Street to Brown Street, and from Church Street to Hunter Street.*
- *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the human scale of development, the integrity of laneways, the fine grain and the groupings of contributory late 19th century and art deco buildings which predominate in the cultural, educational and administrative Civic Precinct between Brown and Ravenshaw/Steel streets.*
- *Single to two storey scale of distinctive early industrial and warehouse buildings in Parry Street between National Park Street and Stewart Avenue, and between Wood Street and Railway Street.*
- *Emerging commercial core of tall and landmark mixed-use retail, office and residential apartment buildings of the Newcastle West End Precinct between Ravenshaw/Steel Street and Wood Street are of high-quality contextual design, compatible with and preserve the remnant contributory 19th century and early 20th century properties and their two to three storey scale and setting, the integrity of laneways and the fine grain of Beresford Lane and Beresford Street.*
- *Exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.*
- *Street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items, public stairs, lanes, parks.*
- *Distinctive early industrial, warehouse and retail buildings, including prominent corner buildings.*
- *Views and vistas to and from significant cultural landmarks such as the T&G Building and the former Newcastle Post Office. Views which terminate at significant heritage buildings such as Fort Scratchley and the former Newcastle Courthouse. Views from Market Street and Morgan Street to Christ Church Cathedral. Views to the Hunter River are protected and framed along Market Street, Watt Street and Newcomen Street.*
- *Views to and the visual interconnections between significant Aboriginal cultural landscape features including Whibayganba (Nobbys Head), Tahlbihn (Flagstaff Hill / Fort Scratchley), Burrabihngarn (Pirate Point, Stockton), Yohaaba (Port Hunter), Coquun (Hunter River: South Channel), Khanterin (Shepherds Hill), and Cathedral Park.*

- *Mature trees in the public domain, and parks and public spaces including Market Street Lawn, Civic Park, Wheeler Place, Museum Park, Christie Place and Birdwood Park.*
- *Items of heritage significance individually listed as heritage items in Schedule 5 of LEP 2012, including retention of the three-dimensional form of heritage item buildings.*
- *The rich record of relics and archaeological sites beneath the modern city.*

Refer to Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 for a separate Desired Future Character Statement for Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street.

5.10 Contributory Buildings

Fieldwork in January 2020 established the overall intactness of this area. The Contributory Buildings Map for the Newcastle City Centre HCA (**refer to Figure 23**) included in the Heritage Technical Manual grades the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for the HCA. For definitions of contributory buildings, refer to Section 1.8.

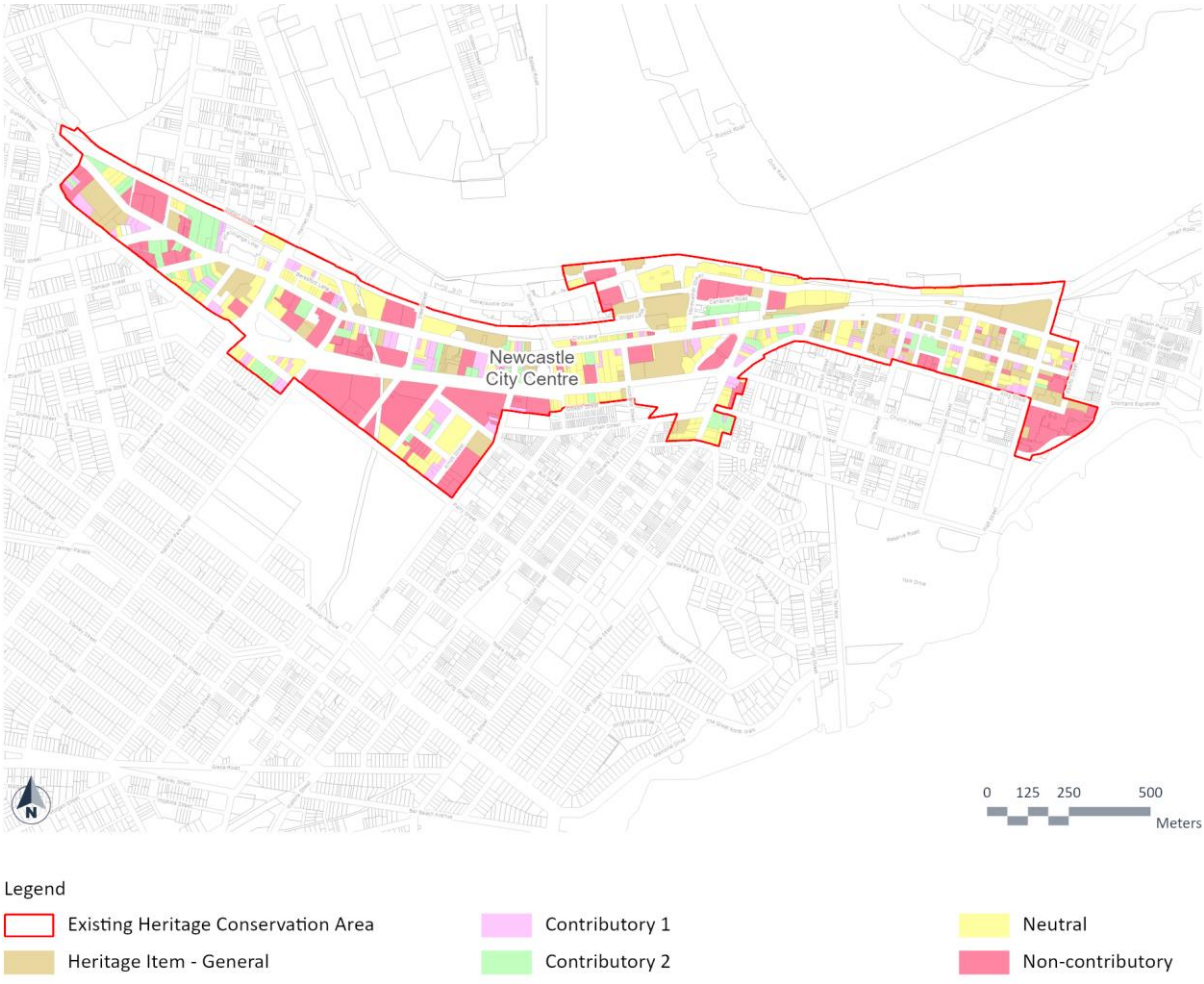


***Figure 23**: Contributory Buildings Map - Newcastle City Centre HCA (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

5.11 Community Engagement Feedback

As part of the Newcastle City Centre HCAs review, feedback from local community members was sought to gain an understanding of what residents and business owners value about the HCA. This engagement was held in April and May 2023. The following submissions were received:

- 65 submissions via email or Have Your Say
- 328 pins and comments on the interactive map
- 35 precincts of shared history and/or built character drawn on the interactive map
- 238 responses to the streetscape quick poll

Feedback found the community placed high value on the heritage significance of the eastern half of the Newcastle City Centre HCA, namely around Civic and the Hunter Mall areas. This value noticeably begins to decrease as you go further westward in the HCA, particularly from Union Street. Elements not as highly valued included development at the former Royal Newcastle Hospital site (opposite Newcastle Beach on Shortland Esplanade), Rydges at Honeysuckle, Marketown commercial precinct and Newcastle's remnant industrial/warehouse buildings, particularly west of Stewart Avenue.

Key findings

- Heritage conservation merit – 161 pins
- No heritage conservation merit – 43 pins
- Places with heritage merit, highest number of up votes:
  - Victoria Theatre – 83
  - Newcastle Railway Station – 70
  - Honeysuckle Railway Workshops – 62
  - Bank Corner/Former Bank of NSW – 57
- Places with no heritage merit, highest number of up votes:
  - Queens Wharf – 21
  - Ibis Hotel (700 Hunter Street, Newcastle West) – 20
  - Arvia Building (67 Watt Street, Newcastle) – 20
  - Novotel Newcastle Beach (1 King Street, Newcastle) – 19
  - Marketown – 19
  - Arena Building (75 Shortland Esplanade) – 18
  - Royal Development (61 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle) – 18
  - Royal Development (3 King Street, Newcastle) – 17
- The east end and central part of Hunter Street around the Post Office and at Civic scored highly in the Quick Poll of 238 responses with 97% and 95% respectively indicating these streetscapes have heritage value.
- Streetscapes that didn't register as having a high heritage merit included Marketown (10%), Centenary Road (18%) and west end of Hunter Street around Sacred Heart Cathedral (21%)
- 31 precincts of shared history and/or built character were identified. These focused on:
  - Hunter Mall/Henry Dangar's Old Town
  - Honeysuckle port and railway legacies

- Civic - institutional, administration and cultural hub
- Small scale contributory shopfronts along Hunter Street between Worth Place and National Park Street
- Bank Corner shop top housing and warehouses
- Parry Street industrial between National Park Street and Stewart Avenue
- West end industrial – west of Stewart Avenue
- Sacred Heart Cathedral precinct

- Relevant submission comments:
  - *In recognition of the varied character of Newcastle West and its individuality distinct from Newcastle city centre, consideration should be given to either reducing the size of the NCCHCA by protracting the western end and reviewing specific West End buildings for individual heritage significance or, splitting the NCCHCA into smaller areas reflecting the historical and architectural character, e.g. City Centre, Civic Precinct, and Newcastle West. The current boundary of NCCHCA encompasses some vastly different character and the City Centre Statement of Significance seems to be unrelated to this.*
  - *The "desired future character" of the city and surrounding areas should seek to build on, rather than diminish, the extant heritage character. Planning should seek to preserve clear evidence of historical precincts.*
  - *There is a wealth of commercial and residential architectural styles, sites, buildings, monuments, facades, streets and open spaces within the HCAs.*
  - *31-37 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East was built in 2006, replacing a 1970s hotel. There is no current heritage value and should be removed from the Heritage area, like all newly built buildings on Shortland Esplanade. There is significant recognised contributory heritage widely spread within the boundaries of both subject heritage conservation areas as they are currently defined. It is therefore important to maintain HCAs as larger continuous areas to ensure that the heritage impact of any development within the area is assessed.*
  - *Notwithstanding the development of over 20 mixed use (apartment/office) complexes within the two HCAs since 2003, the fundamental heritage significance, shared history, and archaeology of these HCAs remains largely unchanged. That said, the character of some City Centre blocks west of Worth Place has been substantially altered due to the construction of several large floorplate Non-Contributory apartment towers, offices and the eastern Market Town shopping complex.*
  - *Planning should aim to preserve clear evidence of historical precincts, well beyond a curated selection of heritage-listed and contributory items.*
  - *Henry Dangar's 1828 street design created an enduring intimacy and human scale still evident in the layout of Newcastle today. Newcastle's human scale is unseen in any other Australian city and it is vitally important to retain it for the future.*
  - *The heritage facades designed by skilled architects of the time (Frederick Menkens and his contemporaries) to Newcastle's CBD which has contributed to Newcastle's attractive streetscapes and date from the 1800's must not be disturbed, diminished or obliterated.*
  - *Although the boundary of the NCCHCA takes in Newcastle West, this Statement of Significance is seemingly unrelated to this end of the city, and even to the easterly Civic*

Precinct. The current Statement of Significance for the Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area is largely irrelevant when considering the West End and Civic area.

A more comprehensive analysis of the community engagement feedback is provided in **Appendix A**.

5.12 Heritage Conservation Area Boundary

The boundaries of the Newcastle City Centre HCA were reviewed.. The existing boundaries of the HCA are considered inappropriate to ensure the heritage significance of the area is retained and conserved. The Newcastle City Centre HCA is too large (approximately 3.5km from east to west) and comprises a series of distinct character precincts developed over different time periods and with different building typologies. This means clear direction and guidance to manage change in these heritage places is limited and problematic both for the assessment authority and proponents of development.

It is recommended the Newcastle City Centre HCA be replaced with smaller, more specific HCAs based on shared development history and/or built character.

The HCAs to replace the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA are recommended as follows:

- Old Town
- Civic and Honeysuckle
- Hunter Street
- Parry Street.

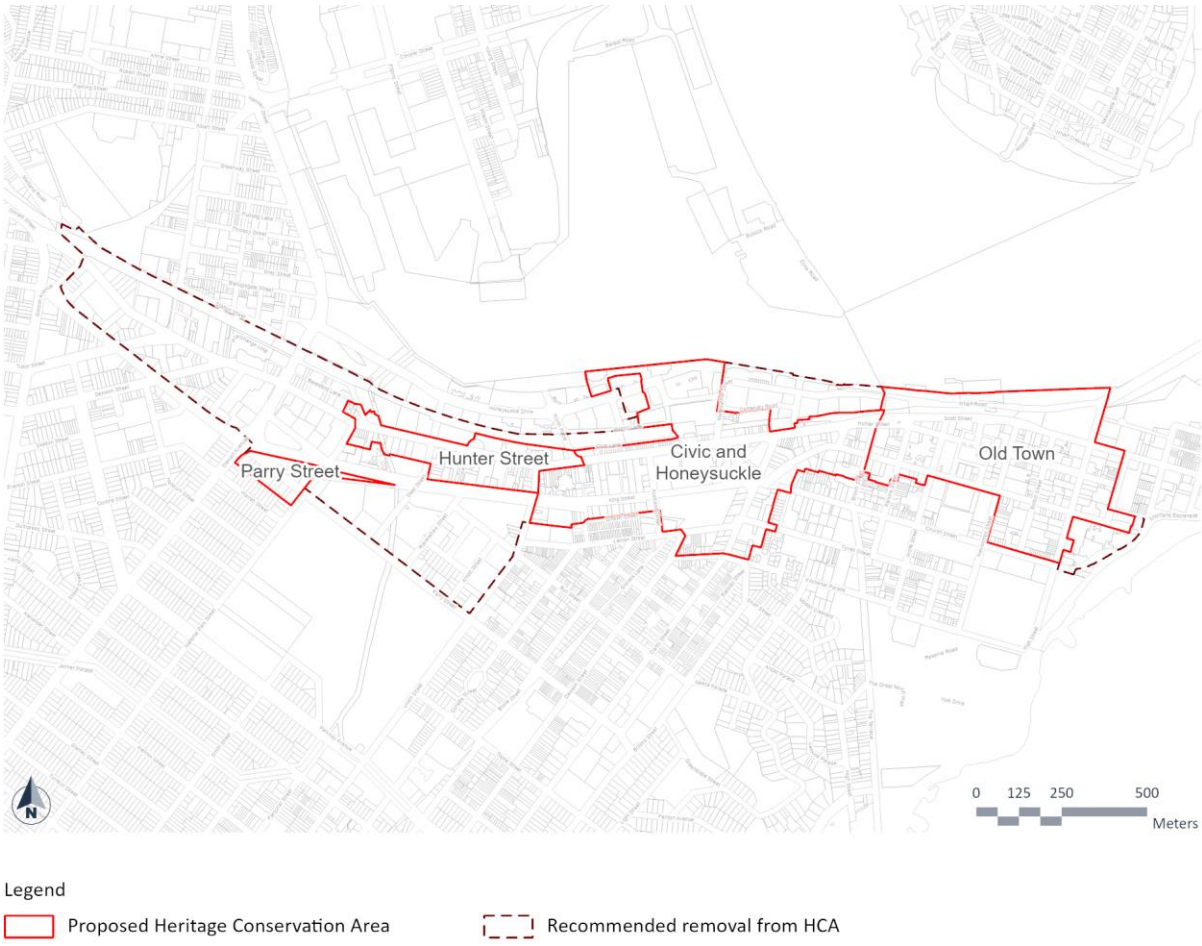


Figure 24: *Proposed heritage conservation areas to replace the existing Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area*

The four proposed HCAs **(refer to Figure 24)** are discussed separately in chapters six to nine which follow. This includes separate reviews of the proposed boundaries, land use zoning, height of building and floor space ratio, the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, and heritage items for each of these areas.

CHAPTER SIX – OLD TOWN HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

6.1 Introduction

This section documents the proposed Old Town Heritage Conservation Area, located in the Newcastle City Centre. It is bounded by Pacific Street at its east, Brown Street at its west, Church and King Streets to the south and to the north by the harbour. A map of the HCA is reproduced in **Figure 25**.



Figure 25: *Proposed Old Town Heritage Conservation Area (Proposed Boundary)*

6.2 History

Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3 for the Aboriginal and historical context of the study area.

6.3 Physical Description

The Old Town HCA comprises an area of flat land along the northern side of the Newcastle peninsular below the steep slopes of The Hill (**refer to Figure 25**). It contains iconic sites of cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, including the harbour landscape of Muluubinba. Newcastle Railway Station, Newcastle Signal Box, Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle Post Office, Manufacturer's House, Former Nurses Home, T&G Mutual Life Assurance Building, Victoria Theatre, David Cohen & Co Warehouse, Toll Cottage (formerly Rose Cottage), and the Church and Watt Street Terraces Group are heritage places of state significance that define the Old Town.

The proximity and views of the harbour to the north framed by the steep topography of The Hill to the south are an important aspect of Old Town's urban character. Views of townscape interest include the view down the Hunter Mall section of Hunter Street, and the fine grain grid system provides channelled views over the harbour along Perkins, Wolfe, Newcomen and Watt Streets.

Market Street Lawn and Newcastle Foreshore are an important element of the amenity and physical character of Old Town and provide an attractive setting for Newcastle Railway Station, Newcastle Signal Box, and the working harbour beyond.

In summary, the physical character of the Old Town is defined by a range of historically, culturally and visually significant built, natural and landscape features (**refer to Figures 26 to 34**). These features include:

- Fine grain, grid system of streets and laneways from Pacific Street in the east to Brown Street in the west, Scott Street to the north and Church/King Streets to the south,
- Diverse built form demonstrated by the diversity of building types and architectural styles - retail, warehousing, and apartments of mostly Victorian, Inter-War, or late twentieth century to the present day reflecting varying periods of economic prosperity and building activity. In particular, the economic wealth generated by the port of Newcastle is expressed in its fine stock of nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial and retail buildings.
- Original building stock and infill provides a consistent street wall height of between two and four storeys, with more recent taller built elements setback on podiums.
- A dense grouping of heritage item buildings, with most building stock in the HCA contributing to the character of the HCA.
- The parks of Market Street Lawn and Newcastle Foreshore facilitate a visual and physical connection between the town and the harbour.
- A rich pre-contact and convict/early settler archaeological record.
- Views out to the port of Newcastle and harbour mouth, the traditional harbour landscape of Muluubinba.
- Newcastle Railway Station, T&G Mutual Life Assurance Building and Newcastle Post Office are significant heritage landmarks.



Figure 26: *Newcastle Railway Station at 110 Scott Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 27: *90 and 55 Hunter Street, Newcastle - view east towards T&G Mutual Life Assurance Building at 45 Hunter Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 28*: Newcastle Post Office and War Memorial Statue at 96-100 Hunter Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



***Figure 29**: Church and Watt Street Terraces Group, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



***Figure 30**: Newcastle Signal Box at 155 Wharf Road, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



***Figure 31**: David Cohen & Co Warehouse at 50 Bolton Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



***Figure 32:** Newcastle Hospital North Wing at 2 Ocean Street and Former Nurses' Home (Royal Newcastle Hospital - The Club Building) at 30 Pacific Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



***Figure 33**: The Great Northern Hotel at 89 Scott Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



***Figure 34:** Market Street Lawn and Newcastle Foreshore - 130 Wharf Road facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*

6.4 Previous Heritage Studies

Refer to Section 5.5 for previous heritage studies for the Old Town area.

6.5 Assessment of Heritage Significance

Applying the NSW Heritage Criteria

In revising the assessment of heritage significance for the area, the NSW heritage assessment guidelines and the NSW heritage criteria has been applied as expressed below:

- *Criterion a - An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Old Town HCA is significant for its role in the course of the history of New South Wales, including being a place of documented first contact between Aboriginal people and the British. It is important in the course of NSW's history as the site of the Colonial government's attempt to control and punish recidivist convicts, through the proclamation by Governor King of the penal settlement in 1804, which continued for an 18 year period until 1822. In 1828, shortly after the penal period, the Old Town's streets were laid out by Surveyor General Henry Dangar. This grid street pattern complemented by the terminus of the Great Northern Rail Line in 1878, and its fine stock of nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial and retail buildings established the Old Town area as the commercial core of Newcastle. A situation reinforced in its formative years by the constraints of the AA Company's land ownership beyond Brown Street which held back urban development west of the city until its coal mining monopoly was broken in the 1850s. Old Town remained the city's commercial core until its gradual decline towards the end of the twentieth century.

Old Town HCA is important for its ongoing existence as an urban settlement which is demonstrated by the rich archaeological heritage from the early convict settlement period through to the present day. This significant archaeological record also documents the continuous and extensive Aboriginal occupation. The pre contact traditions and life ways of the Aboriginal people of Muluubinba, who through the ongoing connections of its traditional custodians maintain an attachment to the area today. Following the arrival of the British, Aboriginal associations are recorded in paintings and records of the penal period and the decades that followed.

- *Criterion b - An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

The Old Town HCA has special associations with the convict history of Australia, being a place of secondary punishment for reoffending convicts between 1804-1822. The first administrators of the colony and some of the first European navigators are associated with the area, including Lieutenant Shortland, Governors King and Hunter, and numerous others of importance in the history of early colonial Australia, including Commandant Wallis and Commandant Morisset.

The Old Town's layout by Surveyor General Henry Dangar* in 1828 is still visible in the city's streets, and is an element of historical value, particularly in the vicinity of Thorn, Keithley, Hunter and Market Streets. Toll Cottage (formally Rose Cottage) is one of Newcastle's oldest buildings, represents an early subdivision of the allotment originally planned by Dangar, and shares associations with the city's convict origins, being constructed in the 1850s using materials from older building stock.

* *Dangar was an explorer and pastoralist. He owned several large farms including the property on which the Myall Creek Massacre took place in 1838. Today he is recognised, along with many other colonial administrators at that time were significantly involved in the dispossession of Aboriginal people from their traditional lands and the Frontier Wars which followed.*

- *Criterion c - An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area):*

Old Town HCA is important urban cultural landscape in that is demonstrates aesthetic characteristics that define the evolution of an early Australian city established during the earliest phases of Australia's development into a modern nation, and that has evolved a rich urban fabric that represents over 200 years of urban development. These aesthetic features include:

1. Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
2. A Strongly homogenous street and lot layout developed to a human scale based on Dangar's Old Town Plan of 1828.
3. The historic commercial retail streetscapes of Hunter and King streets provide an east-west spine and strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
4. Streetscapes and vistas outwards and inwards which strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
5. The corner façade of the David Jones Building, the domes and colonnades of the Post Office Building, and the tower of the T&G Building are prominent landmark features which help to orientate the visitor.
6. The areas of parkland that are an integral element of Old Town including the Foreshore and Market Street Lawn. These public spaces provide an attractive setting for Newcastle Railway Station and Newcastle Signal Box, the former railway and port infrastructure that they have replaced.

- *Criterion d - An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*

Feedback from residents and businesses in 2023 revealed that the community significantly value the character and physical elements of Old Town and identify with its' protection as a heritage conservation area. Overall, there is a high degree of esteem held by the resident community and strong attachment to the character of the area, the streetscape, buildings and public open space. The area meets this criterion on cultural grounds at the local level.

- *Criterion e - An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*

Given the rate of survival of key elements of the early urban settlement of Newcastle, including its ability to demonstrate elements of the early development of Newcastle as well as the system of land subdivision and crown grants following the cessation of the penal colony mining, the area has the potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding aspects of Newcastle's cultural

history, and more broadly to the State of NSW for the capacity to yield information about the cessation of a penal settlement and its evolution to a modern city. There also remains the potential for Aboriginal objects of conservation value to be present in the area due to its proximity to the former course of the Coquun (Hunter River) which ventured further south when compared to today.

- *Criterion f - An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

There is rare surviving archaeological evidence associated with the convict settlement period as the earliest penal settlement outside of Sydney, and one of few such places to be established in NSW.

- *Criterion g - An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

Old Town contains many surviving elements of the early 19th and 20th centuries and the processes of urbanisation. It demonstrates these characteristics in its key elements including building stock and the relationship of buildings to the street and each other, street layout including laneways, along with heritage items and green space.

Statement of Significance

The Old Town Heritage Conservation Area is significant on many levels. The mix of commercial, retail and civic buildings is a powerful reminder of the city's past, its economic and social history. Historic buildings provide the backdrop to a city of dramatic topography by the sea and the harbour.

Toll Cottage (formally Rose Cottage) is one of Newcastle's oldest buildings, represents an early subdivision of the allotment originally planned by Dangar, and shares associations with the city's convict origins, being constructed in the 1850s using materials from older building stock. Newcastle has a rich archaeological record of national significance, with the potential to yield information about the early convict settlement and early industrial activities. The city area is known to have been a place of contact between colonists and the Indigenous population. This evidence is available in historical accounts and in the archaeological record surviving beneath the modern city.

The high numbers of commercial and civic buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries gives the city a rich historic character which is notable and allows an understanding of the importance of the city as a place of commerce, governance and city building. The historical foundation of the city was the discovery and exploitation of coal with good shipping access via a safe and navigable harbour. The town's layout by Surveyor General Henry Dangar in 1828 is still visible in the city's streets, and is an element of historical value, particularly in the vicinity of Thorn, Keightley, Hunter and Market Streets.

The architectural values of the Old Town HCA are to be found in the high quality of buildings, in the landscape settings of many of them, in the style, scale and detail, and in the contribution to the streetscape. The overall impression of Old Town is a strongly established historic precinct.

Key visual elements include:

- Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
- A Strongly homogenous street and lot layout developed to a human scale based on Dangar's Old Town Plan of 1828.
- The historic commercial retail streetscapes of Hunter and King streets provide an east-west spine and strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
- Streetscapes and vistas outwards and inwards strongly contribute to the area's character.
- The corner façade of the David Jones Building, the domes and colonnades of the Post Office Building, and the tower of the T&G Building are prominent landmark features which help to orientate the visitor.
- The areas of parkland that are an integral element of Old Town include the Foreshore and Market Street Lawn. These public spaces provide an attractive setting for the Newcastle Railway Station and Signal Box, the former railway and port infrastructure they have replaced.

- Key Period of Significance - circa 1801 to 1940.

Recommendation

The above assessment of heritage significance follows the standard Heritage Assessment Guidelines and the NSW state heritage criteria. As a result, it is recommended that the area be protected through the mechanism of a statutory HCA referred to as the Old Town Heritage Conservation Area, in a future LEP amendment.

6.6 Comparative Assessment

The Old Town area is rare at the state level for its pre-1840s grid system layout and its pre-contact Aboriginal and early convict settlement archaeological layers surviving beneath the modern city, comparable only with NSW's other convict settlements at Sydney's The Rocks, Paramatta and Port Macquarie. It is locally rare for the high concentration, integrity and intactness of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and retail buildings, comparable locally with the HCAs of Civic and Honeysuckle, Darby Street in Cooks Hill, Hunter Street, and Hamilton Business Centre.

6.7 Threatening Processes

Some issues that undermine the integrity and intactness of the Old Town HCA include:

- Unsympathetic development that is out of scale or not designed as sensitive infill that replaces original building stock, or that alters and adds to contributory buildings.
- Facadism of local heritage item buildings rather than retention of their three-dimensional form.
- The painting of exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.

6.8 Desired Future Character Statement

The DCP provides Desired Future Character Statements for each HCA. These guide development assessment and design planning. Should the Old Town area become an HCA replacing parts of the existing Newcastle City Centre and The Hill HCAs, it is recommended the DCP be amended to include the following statement:

The character of the Old Town Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the 19th and early decades of the 20th century. The special character is to be preserved, celebrated and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, existing subdivision pattern, and elements of visual interest.

Elements to be preserved and/or sensitively restored or reconstructed (based on evidence of original appearance) include:

- *Range of contributory and historic buildings constructed prior to the Second World War, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets.*
- *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the human scale of development, the integrity of laneways and the fine grain of Henry Dangar's 1828 'Old Town' plan in the Newcastle East End Precinct from Pacific Street to Brown Street, and from Church Street to Hunter Street.*
- *Exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.*
- *Street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items, public stairs, lanes, parks.*
- *Distinctive early industrial, warehouse and retail buildings, including prominent corner buildings.*
- *Views and vistas to and from significant cultural landmarks such as the T&G Building and former Newcastle Post Office. Views terminating at significant heritage buildings such as Fort Scratchley and the former Newcastle Courthouse. Views from Market Street and Morgan Street to Christ Church Cathedral. Views to the Hunter River and framed along Market, Watt and Newcomen Streets.*
- *Views to and the visual interconnections between significant Aboriginal cultural landscape features including Whibayganba (Nobbys Head), Tahlbihn (Flagstaff Hill / Fort Scratchley), Burrabihngarn (Pirate Point, Stockton), Yohaaba (Port Hunter), Coquun (Hunter River: South Channel), Khanterin (Shepherds Hill), and Cathedral Park.*
- *Mature trees in the public domain, and parks and public spaces including Market Street Lawn.*
- *Items of heritage significance individually listed as heritage items in Schedule 5 of LEP 2012, including retention of the three-dimensional form of heritage item buildings.*
- *The rich record of relics and archaeological sites beneath the modern city.*

6.9 Contributory Buildings

Fieldwork was undertaken in January 2020 to establish the overall intactness of this area. The Contributory Buildings Map for the Old Town HCA (**refer to Figure 35**) grades the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for the existing Newcastle City Centre and The Hill HCAs in which they are currently located. For definitions of contributory buildings, refer to Section 1.8. If the area is subject to the regulation of a new HCA to replace parts of the existing Newcastle City Centre and The Hill HCAs, an updated contributory buildings map for The Hill HCA and a new contributory buildings map for the Old Town area will be required.



***Figure 35**: Proposed Old Town HCA - Contributory Buildings Map (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

6.10 Community Engagement Feedback

Refer to Section 5.11 for community engagement feedback for the Old Town area of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA.

6.11 Heritage Conservation Area Boundary

The boundaries of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA were reviewed for land between Pacific Street and Brown Street. For this locality, overall, the existing boundaries of the HCA are considered appropriate to ensure the heritage significance of the area is retained and conserved, with a few exceptions.

Apart from the United Services Club at 55 Watt Street (LEP item I468) (**refer to Figure 36**) and the Newcastle Hospital North Wing at 2 Ocean Street (LEP item I442) (**refer to Figure 32**), the land parcels in the street block between King Street, Ocean Street, Shortland Esplanade and Watt Street have recently been comprehensively and intensively re-developed with mixed-use medium to high rise buildings (**refer to Figures 37 and 38**). This no longer reinforces the special built character of Old Town.



Figure 36: *United Services Club at 55 Watt Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*

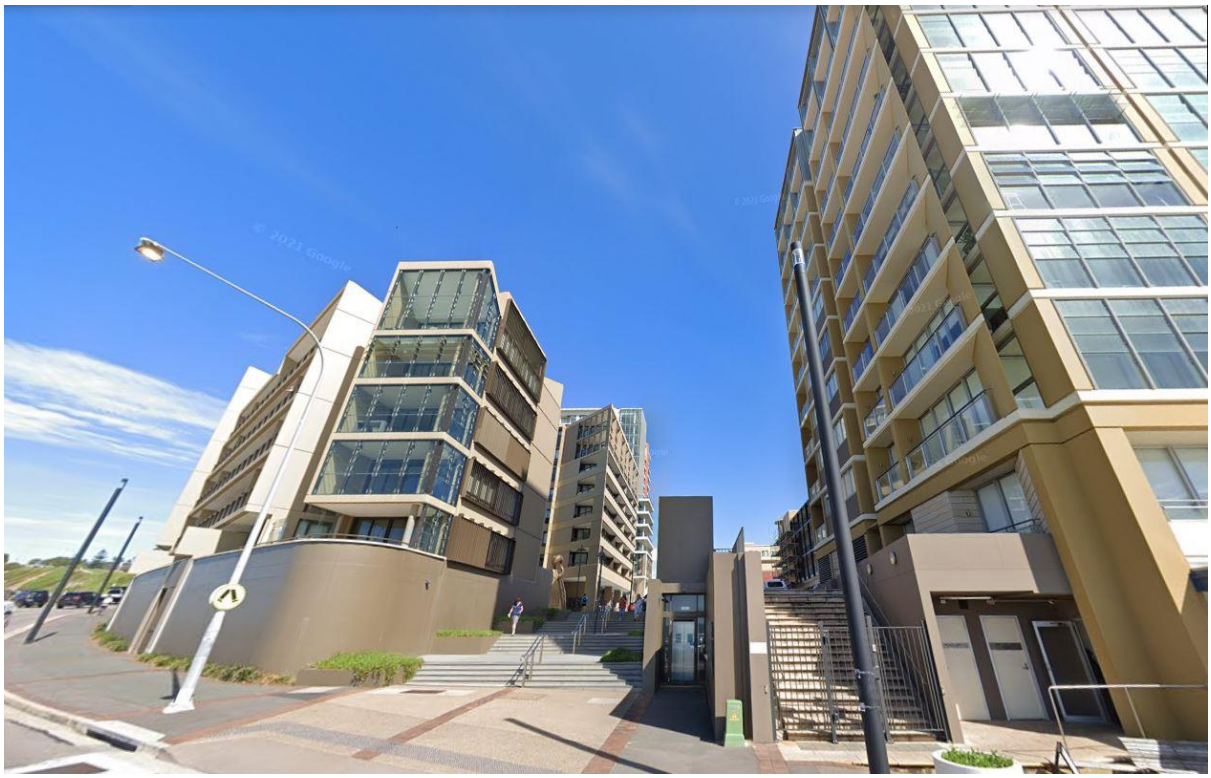


Figure 37: *61 Shortland Esplanade and 1 King Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 38: *Corner of Watt and King streets, Newcastle facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*

In addition, land parcels located both in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary and the existing The Hill HCA were reviewed. This area applies to two street blocks between Watt and Newcomen streets to the south of King Street and north of Church Street (**refer to Figures 29 and 31**), and properties which address the south side of King Street between Wolfe and Brown streets (**refer to Figure 39**). The land is situated within Dangar's 1828 Old Town Plan and, except for a few low-rise residential properties south of King Street, shares a development history and the commercial, mixed-use built character with the adjacent Newcastle City Centre HCA.



Figure 39: *115 King Street, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*

Amendments to the LEP maps for the Old Town area are recommended (refer to **Figure 40**) below:

- The existing Newcastle City Centre HCA between Pacific and Brown streets is renamed the Old Town HCA.
- Boundary adjustments to the Old Town HCA to remove from the HCA all land parcels in the street block between King Street, Ocean Street, Shortland Esplanade and Watt Street (with the exception of the United Services Club at 55 Watt Street and the Newcastle Hospital North Wing at 2 Ocean Street which remain in the Old Town HCA).
- Boundary adjustments to The Hill HCA so all land parcels located both in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary and the existing The Hill HCA are added to the Old Town HCA (except for 15, 17 and 19 Brown Street, 27 and 29 Perkins Street, and 6 Noster Place which remain in The Hill HCA).



***Figure 40**: Proposed changes to The Hill Heritage Conservation Area (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

6.12 Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary

The Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary was reviewed for land parcels in the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA between Pacific Street and Brown Street. Overall, it is considered appropriate that this land will remain in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary as the LEP provisions for this area align with the heritage significance and desired future character of the proposed Old Town HCA.

In addition, the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary was reviewed for land parcels between Watt Street and Brown Street located in the existing The Hill HCA. Again, overall, it is considered appropriate that this land will remain in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary as the LEP provisions for the Newcastle City Centre are commensurate with the heritage significance and desired future character of the proposed Old Town HCA, with one exception.

The review identified a handful of land parcels in the existing Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary located behind the commercial properties situated along the southern side of King Street, which consist of low-rise two to three storey residential dwellings (**refer to Figures 41 and 42**). These dwellings contribute to the heritage significance of The Hill HCA and share a development history and built character with the other neighbouring residential properties in The Hill to the south, rather than the more intensively developed commercial properties which address King Street to the north. The continued retention and conservation of these residential properties is at odds with the LEP provisions for the Newcastle City Centre which is tailored to encouraging larger scale commercial and mixed-use development. As such, the following is recommended:

- Minor adjustments to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary to remove land parcels 15, 17 and 19 Brown Street; 27 and 29 Perkins Street; and 6 Noster Place (**refer to Figure 43**).

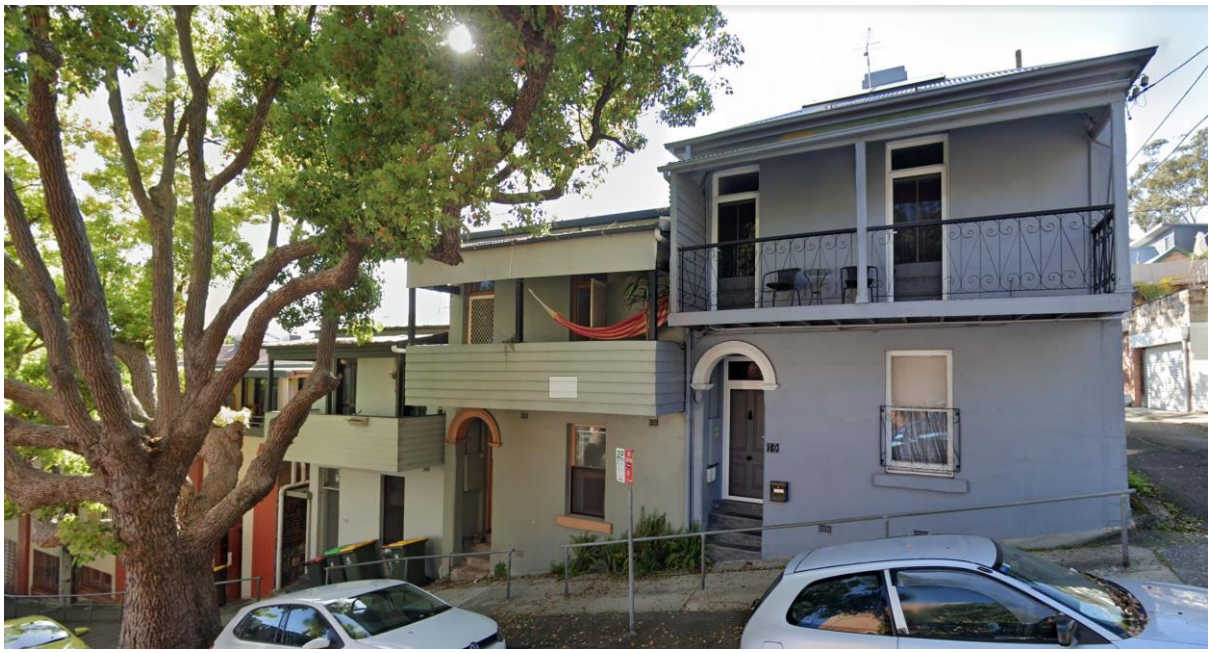


Figure 41: *15, 17 and 19 Brown Street, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 42: *6 Noster Place, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*

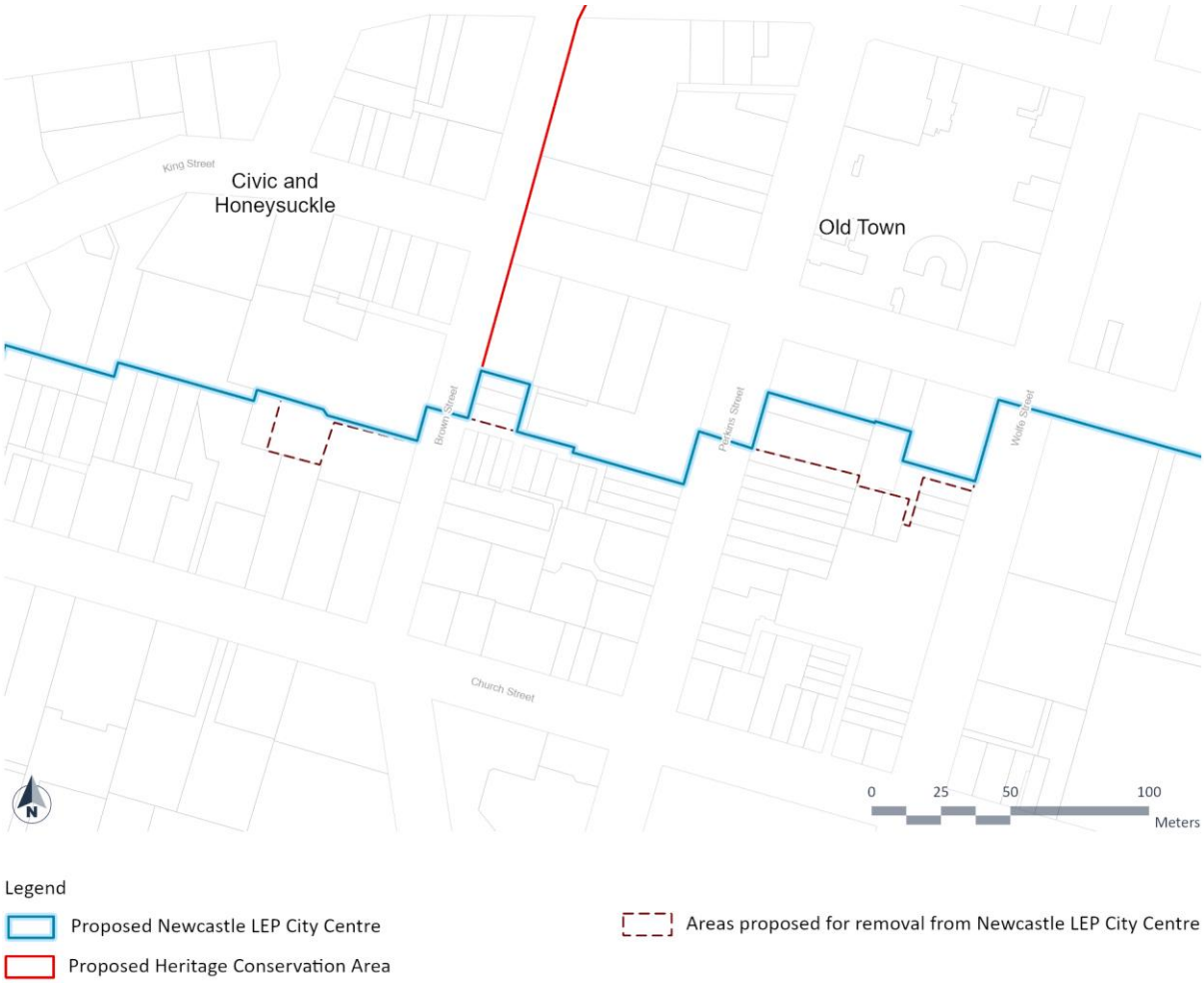


***Figure 43**: Recommended Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary in Old Town and Civic and Honeysuckle locality*

6.13 Land use zoning

A review of the land use zoning within the boundary of the proposed Old Town HCA was undertaken. Overall, the existing land use zoning is considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA.

Though outside the boundary of the proposed Old Town HCA, the review has identified a handful of land parcels in The Hill HCA also located in the existing Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary which consist of low-rise two to three storey residential dwellings (**refer to Figures 41 and 42**). The subject land currently has a land use zoning of MU1 Mixed Use, which is inconsistent with the current use and built form on the land and would conflict with the conservation objectives that this review proposes. These residential dwellings contribute to the heritage significance of The Hill HCA and share a development history and built character with the other neighbouring residential properties in The Hill to the south which are zoned R3 Medium Density Residential. This is in stark contrast to the adjacent more intensively developed commercial properties which address King Street to the north zoned MU1 Mixed Use (Note: land identified in **Figure 40** which is proposed to be relocated from the existing The

Hill HCA to the proposed Old Town HCA). As such, in tandem with the recommended changes to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, the following is recommended:

- Amendments to LEP maps to change the land use zoning of land parcels 15, 17 and 19 Brown Street, 27 and 29 Perkins Street, and 6 Noster Place from MU1 Mixed Use to R3 Medium Density Residential (**refer to Figure 44**).

6.14 Height of buildings and floor space ratio

A review of the height of buildings (HOB) and floor space ratio (FSR) development standards was undertaken for land parcels in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary between Pacific Street and Brown Street, currently located either in the Newcastle City Centre or The Hill HCAs. Overall, the existing HOB and FSR development standards applied are considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed Old Town HCA.

Though outside the boundary of the proposed Old Town HCA, the review has identified a handful of land parcels in The Hill HCA also located in the existing Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary which consist of low-rise two to three storey residential dwellings (**refer to Figures 41 and 42**). These dwellings contribute to the heritage significance of The Hill HCA and share a development history and built character with the other neighbouring residential properties in The Hill to the south, rather than the adjacent more intensively developed commercial properties which address King Street to the north. However, the land currently has a maximum building height of 14m and an FSR of 1.5:1, which is inconsistent with the current built form on the land and would conflict with the conservation objectives that this review proposes. HOB and FSR does not necessarily promote the best heritage outcome for a low-rise residential area as it can provide perception and expectation of building envelope entitlement, resulting in a built form that inadequately respects the character and significance of the existing building stock. CN does not currently apply numeric HOB or FSR development standards to residential zoned properties on HCA land located outside Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary. As such, in tandem with the recommended changes to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary and land use zoning, the following is recommended:

- Amendments to LEP maps to remove the HOB and FSR development standards from land parcels at 15, 17 and 19 Brown Street, 27 and 29 Perkins Street, and 6 Noster Place (**refer to Figure 44**).



Figure 44: *Land at 15, 17, 19 and 22 Brown Street, 27 and 29 Perkins Street, and 6 Noster Place, Newcastle*

6.15 Heritage Items

Identified by the assessment above and from community engagement feedback, it is recommended the following new LEP heritage items and amendments to existing LEP heritage items be investigated:

- War Memorial Statue, Hunter Street - investigate new LEP listing.
- Other places in the HCA identified from the community engagement feedback as having potential cultural heritage merit will be investigated for LEP listing in a future heritage study.

CHAPTER SEVEN – CIVIC AND HONEYSUCKLE HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

7.1 Introduction

This section documents the proposed Civic and Honeysuckle Heritage Conservation Area, located in the Newcastle City Centre, which is bounded by Brown Street at its east, Union Street and Worth Place at its west, King Street and Civic Park to the south and by the harbour to the north. A map of the HCA is reproduced in **Figure 45**.

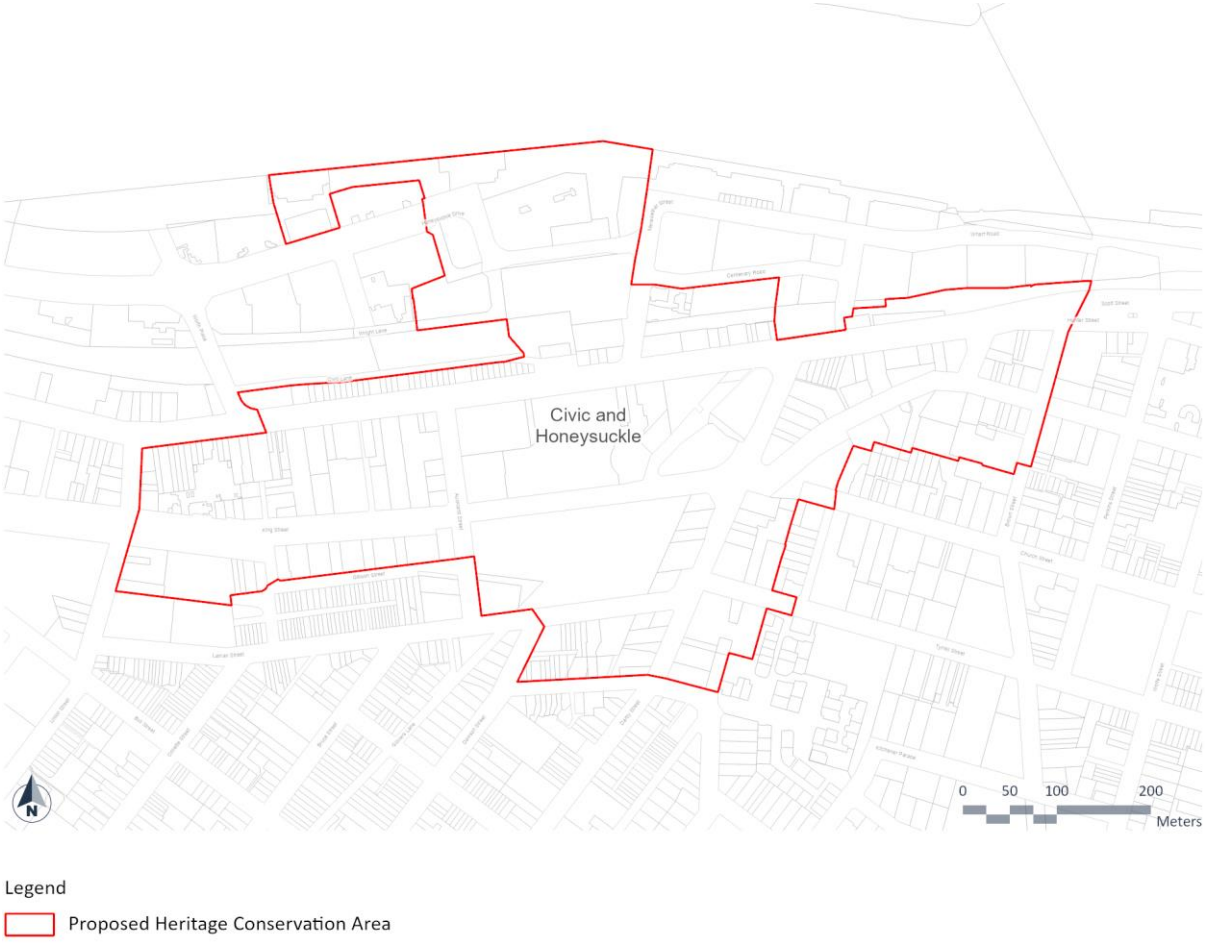


***Figure 45**: Proposed Civic and Honeysuckle Heritage Conservation Area (Proposed Boundary)*

7.2 History

Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3 for the Aboriginal and historical context of the study area.

7.3 Physical Description

The Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is an area of flat land along the northern side of the Newcastle peninsular (**refer to Figure 45**). It contains iconic sites of cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, including the harbour landscape of Muluubinba. Civic Park, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre, Nesca House, Newcastle City Hall and Civic Theatre, Former City Administration Building, Emporium Building, Civic Railway Station, Civic Railway Workshops, and Lee Wharf buildings are significant heritage places that define the Civic and Honeysuckle area.

The proximity and views of the harbour to the north, the east-west commercial spine of Hunter Street, and Civic Park at its centre are an important aspect of Civic and Honeysuckle's urban character. The series of public open spaces between Laman Street and Honeysuckle Drive are a significant element of the amenity and civic meeting space for the city which connect the regionally important clusters of city institutions and visitor attractions.

The physical character of the Civic and Honeysuckle area is defined by a range of historically, culturally and visually significant built, natural and landscape features (**refer to Figures 46 to 52**). These include:

- Diverse built form demonstrated by the diversity of building types and architectural styles – reflecting varying periods of economic prosperity and building activity. In particular, the economic wealth generated by the Newcastle port and steel manufacturing industry expressed in its fine stock of late nineteenth to early twentieth century and inter-war period civic, industrial, commercial office and retail buildings, apartments, and former industrial warehousing. This includes late Victorian, inter-war Art Deco, post-war Brutalist and late twentieth century to present day architecture.
- Original building stock and infill provides a consistent street wall height of two to four storeys.
- A dense grouping of heritage item buildings through the centre of the HCA between Laman Street and the harbour, with most building stock in the HCA contributing to its character in some way.
- Civic Park, Wheeler Place and Museum Park provide important civic meeting places and the setting for clusters of regionally important city institutions and visitor attractions.
- The precinct contains a rich pre-contact and nineteenth century settler-colonial archaeological record, including remnants of Australia's first railway at 280 Hunter Street.
- Views from Honeysuckle out to the port of Newcastle and harbour mouth, the traditional harbour landscape of Muluubinba.
- St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newcastle City Hall, Former City Administration Building, Civic Railway Workshops, and Lee Wharf buildings are significant heritage landmarks.



Figure 46: *Civic Park facing north (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 47: *No.2 Lee Wharf - Building C (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 48: *Wheeler Place facing south (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 49: *Civic Railway Workshops (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 50: *Museum Park, Civic Railway Station, and Civic Theatre, Newcastle facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 51: *Corner of Crown and Hunter streets, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 52: *Corner of Union and Hunter streets, Newcastle facing east with Emporium Building at 517 to 525 Hunter Street (Source: Google Streetview)*

7.4 Previous Heritage Studies

Refer to Section 5.5 for previous heritage studies for the Civic and Honeysuckle area.

7.5 Assessment of Heritage Significance

Applying the NSW Heritage Criteria

In revising the assessment of heritage significance for the area, the NSW heritage assessment guidelines and the NSW heritage criteria has been applied as expressed below:

- *Criterion a - An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history* (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*:*

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is significant as a record of the development of Newcastle and the transition from a coal town largely in the ownership of the Austrian Agricultural Company to an industrial city. It is also a place that is important in course of NSW's cultural history as the site of Australia's oldest railway (the remnant AA Company bridge and pier at Hunter Street) and the first railway in the colony to carry public passengers (the Burwood Railway). Civic Railway Station was the original location for the terminus of the Great Northern Line in 1857, and the inter-war station building assisted with the development of a new civic centre for Newcastle in the 1930s. The Lee Wharf buildings are historically significant as they are among the earliest surviving examples of the extensive cargo and commercial wharf facilities that once existed in the port of Newcastle.

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is a record of the development of the civic centre of Newcastle from 1929 with the establishment of Civic Park from an industrial site and the completion of Newcastle City Hall and Civic Theatre by Newcastle Council. This was followed in 1957 by the War Memorial Cultural Centre and the Newcastle Art Gallery in 1977. The change of use of surrounding buildings reinforced the civic centre with the park central to this use, such as the adaptive reuse of NESCA House as part of the University of Newcastle in 1992.

The commercial and retail buildings along Hunter and King Streets in the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA represent the city's development and trade during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in a growing country. Many Victorian and Inter-war period buildings remain, most notably the Menkens designed Fred Ash Building and the Emporium Building.

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is important for its ongoing existence as an urban settlement which is demonstrated by the rich archaeological heritage from the mid nineteenth century settler-colonial period through to the present day. This significant archaeological record also documents the continuous and extensive Aboriginal occupation. The pre contact traditions and life ways of the Aboriginal people of Muluubinba, who through the ongoing connections of its traditional custodians maintain an attachment to the area today. Following the arrival of the British, Aboriginal associations are recorded in paintings and records of the penal period and the decades that followed.

- *Criterion b - An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

The original street pattern of the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA was established by the AA Company following the breaking of its monopoly on the city's coal mining industry in 1850 and the completion of subdivision works between Crown Street and Union Street in 1853. Burwood Street was added by Dr James Mitchell's Burwood Railway in 1854.

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA has special associations with the civic cultural and institutional centre of Newcastle and the region. It is the location for the City's administration buildings, art gallery, regional library, and museum, a university campus, and several places of public worship. Civic Park is an important meeting place for civic events and public protest, and home to Newcastle's war memorials.

- *Criterion c - An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area):*

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is an important urban cultural landscape in that it demonstrates aesthetic characteristics that define the evolution of an early Australian city established during the earliest phases of Australia's development into a modern nation, and that has evolved a rich urban fabric that represents over 150 years of urban development. These aesthetic features include:

1. Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
2. The historic commercial retail streetscapes of Hunter and King streets provide an east-west spine and strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
3. The siting of Civic Park is significant within a civic centre, framed by buildings, most importantly the City Hall and the War Memorial Cultural Centre that reinforce the central axis and create an enclosed civic space with openings that form vistas.
4. The Lee Wharf buildings have a group quality which creates a visually appealing edge to the waterfront.
5. The spire of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, the clock tower of Newcastle City Hall, and the glazed top floor of the Former City Administration Centre Building are prominent landmark features which help to orientate the visitor.
6. The areas of parkland and public domain that are an integral element of Civic and Honeysuckle including Civic Park, Church Walk Park, Christie Place, Wheeler Place, Museum Park, Honeysuckle Drive Reserve, and the Honeysuckle Waterfront.

- *Criterion d - An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*

Feedback from residents and businesses in 2023 revealed that the community significantly value the character and physical elements of Civic and Honeysuckle and identify with its' protection as a heritage conservation area. Overall, there is a high degree of esteem held by the resident community and strong attachment to the character of the area, the streetscape, buildings and public open space. The area meets this criterion on cultural grounds at the local level.

- *Criterion e - An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*

Given the rate of survival of key elements of the nineteenth century urban settlement of Newcastle, the area has the potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding aspects of Newcastle's cultural history, and more broadly to the State of NSW for the capacity to yield information about the industrial pattern of development and its evolution to a modern city. There also remains the potential for Aboriginal objects of conservation value to be present in the area due to its proximity to the former course of the Coquun (Hunter River) and Cottage Creek which respectively ventured further south and east when compared to today.

- *Criterion f - An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

This area is rare at the local level for the number of intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century civic, commercial, industrial, and retail buildings and its pre-contact Aboriginal and nineteenth century settler-colonial archaeological layers surviving beneath the modern city.

- *Criterion g - An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is relatively intact, containing many surviving elements of the mid-19th to early 20th century and the processes of urbanisation. It demonstrates these characteristics in its key elements including building stock and the relationship of buildings to the street and each other, street layout including laneways, along with heritage items and green space.

Statement of Significance

The Civic and Honeysuckle Heritage Conservation Area is of heritage significance for its contribution to the civic and commercial life of Newcastle and its region. The mix of civic, commercial and retail buildings is a powerful reminder of the city's past, its economic and social history. Historic buildings provide the backdrop to a city of dramatic topography at the mouth of a harbour.

Civic and Honeysuckle is a place that is important in the course of NSW's cultural history as the site of Australia's oldest railway (the remnant AA Company bridge and pier at Hunter Street) and the first railway in the colony to carry public passengers (the Burwood Railway). Civic Railway Station was the original location for the terminus of the Great Northern Line, and the inter-war station building assisted with the development of a new civic centre for Newcastle. The Lee Wharf buildings are historically significant as they are among the earliest surviving examples of the extensive cargo and commercial wharf facilities that once existed in the port of Newcastle.

Civic and Honeysuckle HCA is a record of the development of the civic centre of Newcastle over the last one hundred years with the establishment of Civic Park from an industrial site and the significant cluster of civic and administrative buildings including Newcastle City Hall and Civic Theatre, the War Memorial Cultural Centre, the Newcastle Art Gallery, and the University of Newcastle city campus.

Newcastle has a rich archaeological record, with the potential to yield information about the post convict settlement and early industrial activities. Most of the Civic and Honeysuckle area is traditionally known as Muluubinba and continues today to be a significant cultural place for its Traditional Custodians. Evidence from the pre-contact and early contact periods is available in historical accounts and in the archaeological record surviving beneath the modern city.

The architectural values of the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA are to be found in the high quality of buildings, in the landscape settings of many of them, in the style, scale and detail, and in the contribution to the streetscape. The overall impression of Civic and Honeysuckle is a strongly established historic precinct.

Key visual elements include:

- Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
- The historic commercial retail streetscapes of Hunter and King streets provide an east-west spine and strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
- The siting of Civic Park is significant within a civic centre, framed by buildings, most importantly the City Hall and the War Memorial Cultural Centre that reinforce the central axis and create an enclosed civic space with openings that form vistas.
- The Lee Wharf buildings have a group quality that is a visually appealing waterfront edge.
- The spire of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, the clock tower of Newcastle City Hall, and the glazed top floor of the Former City Administration Centre Building are prominent landmark features which help to orientate the visitor.
- The areas of parkland and public domain that are an integral element of Civic and Honeysuckle including Civic Park, Church Walk Park, Christie Place, Wheeler Place, Museum Park, Honeysuckle Drive Reserve, and the Honeysuckle Waterfront.

- Key Period of Significance - circa 1850 to 1940.

Recommendation

The above heritage significance assessment followed the standard Heritage Assessment Guidelines and the NSW state heritage criteria. As a result, it is recommended that the area be protected through the mechanism of a statutory HCA and referred to as the Civic and Honeysuckle Heritage Conservation Area, in a future LEP amendment.

7.6 Comparative Assessment

The Civic and Honeysuckle area is locally rare for the high concentration, integrity and intactness of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial, industrial and retail buildings, comparable locally with the HCAs of Old Town, Darby Street in Cooks Hill, Hunter Street, and Hamilton Business Centre and the industrial rail heritage at the Broadmeadow Railway Locomotive Deport at 25 Cameron Street, Broadmeadow (LEP Item I46, SHR ID 01100) and the Railway Goods Shed at 76 Cowper Street, Wallsend (LEP Item I632, SHR ID 00739). The civic buildings and associated public spaces of the HCA are comparable nationally with Hyde Park in Sydney and Brisbane City Hall in Brisbane.

7.7 Threatening Processes

There are some issues that continue to undermine the integrity and intactness of the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA. These include:

- Unsympathetic development. In particular, inappropriately scaled and designed development either as infill that replaces original building stock, or that alters and adds to contributory buildings.
- Facadism of local heritage item buildings rather than retention of their three-dimensional form.
- The painting of exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.

7.8 Desired Future Character Statement

Desired Future Character Statements for each HCA are provided in the DCP as a clear guide for development assessment and design planning. If the Civic and Honeysuckle area is subject to the regulation of a new HCA to replace parts of the existing Newcastle City Centre, The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs, it is recommended the DCP be updated to include the following statement:

> *The character of the Civic and Honeysuckle Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the 19th and early decades of the 20th century. The special character is to be preserved, celebrated and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, existing subdivision pattern, and elements of visual interest.*
>
> *Elements to be preserved and/or sensitively restored or reconstructed (based on evidence of original appearance) include:*
>
> - *Range of contributory and historic buildings constructed prior to the Second World War, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets.*
> - *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the human scale of development, the integrity of laneways, the fine grain and the groupings of contributory late 19th century and art deco buildings which predominate in the cultural, educational and administrative Civic Precinct between Brown and Union streets.*
> - *Exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.*
> - *Street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items, public stairs, lanes, parks.*
> - *Distinctive early industrial, warehouse and retail buildings, including prominent corner buildings.*
> - *Views and vistas to and from significant cultural landmarks such as the Newcastle City Hall, St Andrews Presbyterian Church and the former City Administration Building. Views to the Coquun (Hunter River) are protected and framed along Honeysuckle Drive and Honeysuckle Foreshore.*

- *The setting of Civic Park, a public space framed by Church Walk Park and the significant civic heritage buildings of the former City Administration Building, Newcastle City Hall, Nesca House, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Tabernacle and the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre.*
- *Views to and the visual interconnections between significant Aboriginal cultural landscape features including Whibayganba (Nobbys Head), Tahlbihn (Flagstaff Hill / Fort Scratchley), Burrabihngarn (Pirate Point, Stockton), Yohaaba (Port Hunter), Coquun (Hunter River: South Channel), Khanterin (Shepherds Hill), and Cathedral Park.*
- *Mature trees in the public domain, and parks and public spaces including Civic Park, Church Walk Park, Wheeler Place, Museum Park, and Christie Place.*
- *Items of heritage significance individually listed as heritage items in Schedule 5 of LEP 2012, including retention of the three-dimensional form of heritage item buildings.*
- *The rich record of relics and archaeological sites beneath the modern city.*

7.9 Contributory Buildings

Fieldwork was undertaken in January 2020 to establish the overall intactness of this area. The Contributory Buildings Map for the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA (**refer to Figure 53**) grades the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for the existing Newcastle City Centre, The Hill, and Cooks Hill HCAs in which they are currently located. For definitions of contributory buildings, refer to Section 1.8. If the area is subject to the regulation of a new HCA to replace parts of the existing Newcastle City Centre, The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs, updated contributory buildings maps for The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs and a new contributory buildings map for the Civic and Honeysuckle area will be required.

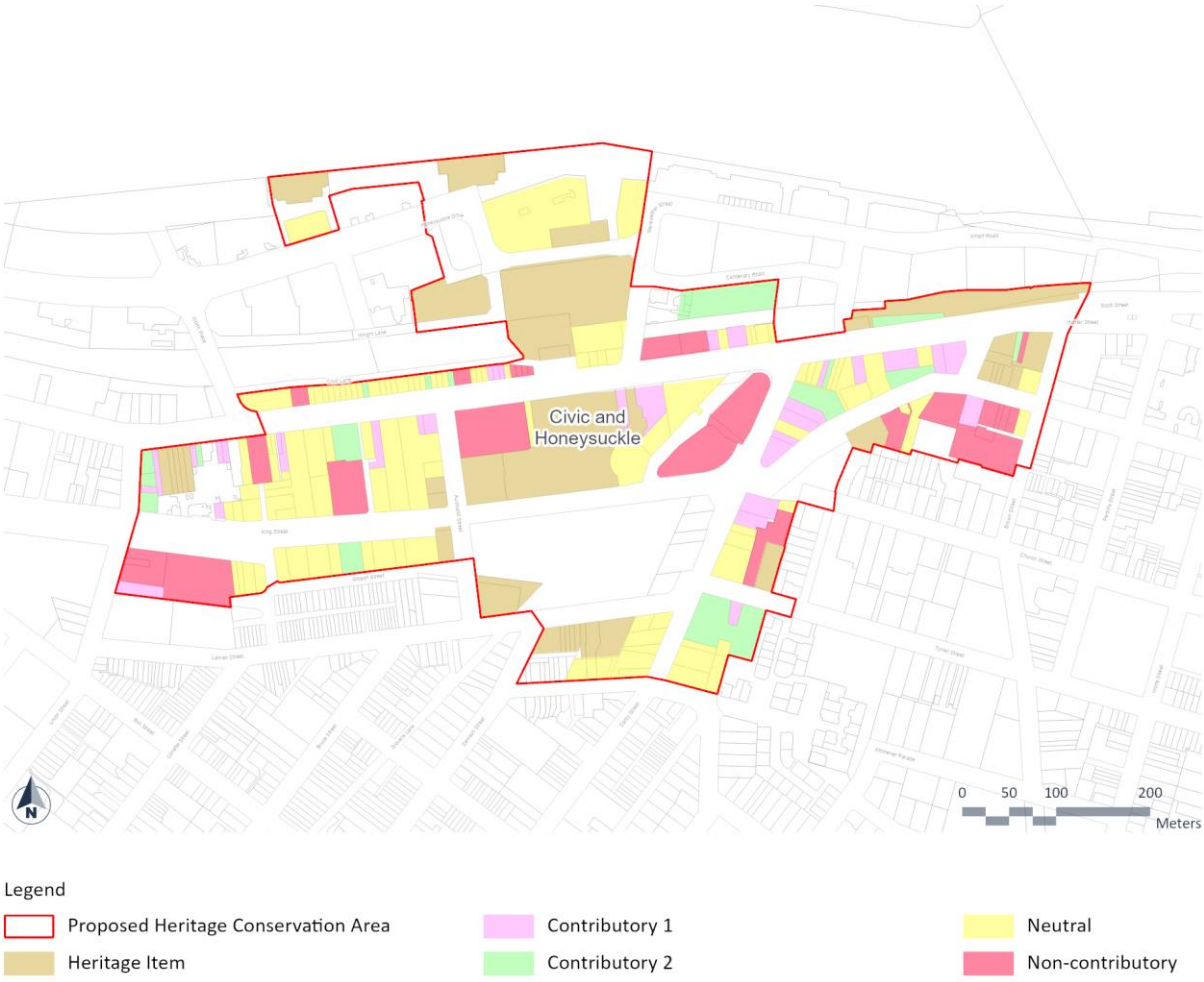


***Figure 53**: Proposed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA - Contributory Buildings Map (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

7.10 Community Engagement Feedback

Section 5.11 summarises the community engagement feedback for the Civic and Honeysuckle area of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA.

7.11 Heritage Conservation Area Boundary

The boundaries of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA were reviewed for land between Brown and Union streets. For this locality, overall, the existing boundaries of the HCA are considered appropriate to ensure the heritage significance of the area is retained and conserved, with a few exceptions.

In the Honeysuckle area the land parcels in the street blocks north of Centenary Road and the former Great Northern Railway line, east of Merewether Street, south of the harbour, west of 233 and 292

Wharf Road are either vacant post-war industrial warehouse buildings, open car parking areas or, in the last three decades, have been comprehensively and intensively re-developed with mixed-use medium to high rise buildings (**refer to Figures 54 and 55**). Land parcels east of Settlement Lane and west of Honeysuckle Drive Reserve, and between 1 Workshop Way and the harbour have also in the last two decades been comprehensively and intensively re-developed with mixed-use medium to high rise (**refer to Figure 56**). Furthermore, land parcels in the former Great Norther Railway line corridor between Museum Park and Worth Place are either vacant undeveloped land or open car parking areas (**refer to Figure 57**). Except for the southern portion of Rydges Hotel at 350 Wharf Road located west of Merewether Street, which is exposed face brick and so compatible with the setting of the adjacent Civic Railway Workshops Group (LEP item I479) (**refer to Figure 49**), this no longer reinforces the special built character of Honeysuckle.



Figure 54: *317 and 304 Wharf Road, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 55: *237 Wharf Road, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*

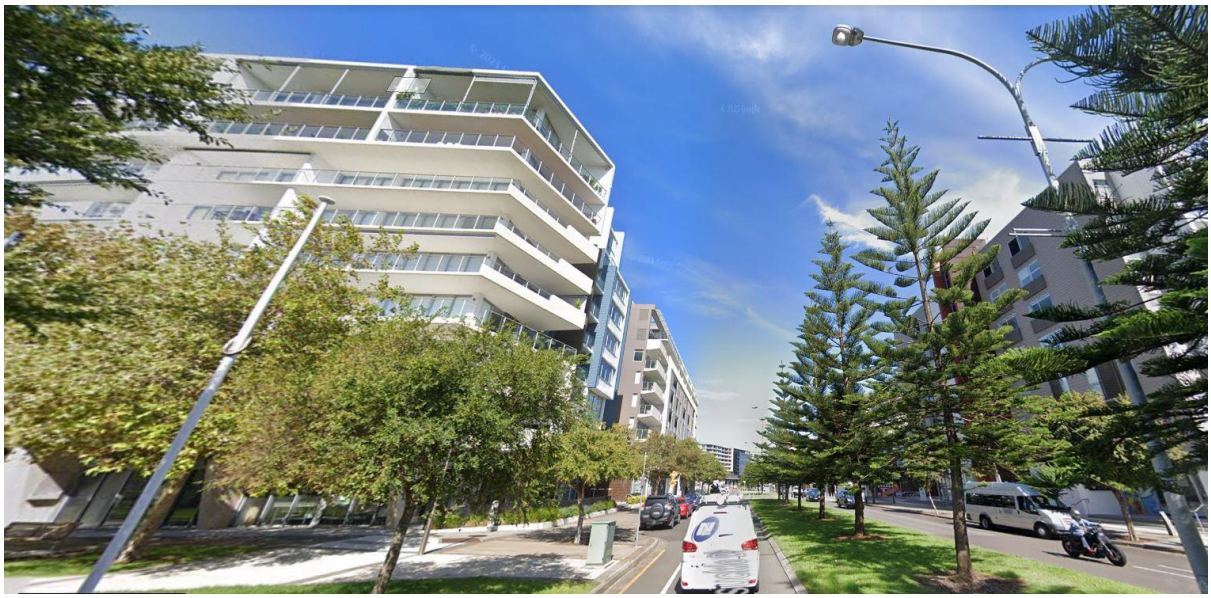


Figure 56: *4 and 5 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 57: *14 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle facing north (Source: Google Streetview)*

The heritage significance of the land parcel containing Fanny's Tavern at 311 Wharf Road is already conserved and protected by existing heritage item listings (LEP item I476, SHR ID 00315) and is isolated from the special built character of Honeysuckle by adjoining recent development (**refer to Figure 58**).



Figure 58: *Fanny's Tavern at 311 Wharf Road, Newcastle (Source: Google Streetview)*

In addition, land parcels located both in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary and the existing The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs were reviewed. This area applies to properties which address the south side of King Street between Brown and Darby streets (**refer to Figure 59**), the Newcastle Synagogue at 122 Tyrell Street, The Hill (LEP Item I608) (**refer to Figure 60**), and the properties adjacent to the south-east corner of Civic Park - those being Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre (LEP Item I87), Baptist Tabernacle (LEP Item I90), and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (LEP Item I89) (**refer to Figure 61**). The land, except for the rear of residential property 22 Brown Street (**refer to Figure 63**), shares a development history and a civic, commercial, mixed-use built character with the adjacent Newcastle City Centre HCA.



Figure 59: *199 and 218 King Street, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 60: *the Newcastle Synagogue at 122 Tyrell Street, The Hill (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 61: *Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre, Baptist Tabernacle, and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Laman Street, Cooks Hill (Source: Google Streetview)*

The following amendments to the LEP maps for the Civic and Honeysuckle areas are recommended (refer to **Figure 62**):

- The existing Newcastle City Centre HCA between Brown and Union streets is renamed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA.
- Boundary adjustments to the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA to remove from the HCA land parcel 352 Hunter Street, all land parcels in the street blocks east of Merewether Street and west of 233 Wharf Road, south of the harbour and north of Centenary Road, and the land parcels north of the former Great Northern Railway line and east of Lot 185 DP164170. This includes removal from the HCA the land parcel containing Fanny's Tavern at 311 Wharf Road (LEP item I476, SHR ID 00315).
- Boundary adjustments to the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA to remove from the HCA all land parcels in the street blocks north of 1 Workshop Way, east of Settlement Lane, west of the Honeysuckle Drive Reserve, and south of the harbour.
- Boundary adjustments to The Hill HCA so that all land parcels between Brown Street and Darby Street located in both the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary and the existing The Hill HCA are added to the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA Street (except for the rear of 22 Brown Street, Newcastle which is retained in The Hill HCA).
- Boundary adjustments to The Hill HCA so that the land parcel of the Newcastle Synagogue at 122 Tyrell Street, The Hill is added to the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA.
- Boundary adjustments to the Cooks Hill HCA so land parcels of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 12 Laman Street, the Baptist Tabernacle at 25 Laman Street, and the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre at 1 Laman Street, Cooks Hill are added to the Civic and Honeysuckle HCA.



***Figure 62**: Proposed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA - Proposed boundary changes to the existing Newcastle City Centre, The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs*

7.12 Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary

A review of the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA. Overall, it is considered appropriate that this land will remain in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary as the LEP provisions for the Newcastle City Centre are commensurate with the heritage significance and desired future character of the proposed HCA, with one exception.

The review has identified a land parcel in the existing Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary located behind the commercial properties situated along the southern side of King Street, which consists of a low-rise single storey residential building (**refer to Figure 63**). The scale and form of this post-war building makes a benign contribution to The Hill HCA and is compatible with the other neighbouring residential properties in The Hill to the south and west, rather than the more intensively developed commercial properties which address King Street to the north. The continued benign contribution of

this residential property is at odds with the LEP provisions for the Newcastle City Centre which is tailored to encouraging larger scale commercial and mixed-use development. As such, the following recommended:

- Minor adjustments to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary to remove land parcel at the rear of 22 Brown Street, Newcastle (**refer to Figure 43**).



Figure 63: *22 Brown Street, The Hill (Source: Google Streetview)*

7.13 Land use zoning

A review of the land use zoning was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA. Overall, the existing land use zoning is considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA.

7.14 Height of buildings and floor space ratio

A review of the HOB and FSR development standards was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA. Overall, the existing HOB and FSR development standards applied to this land are considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA, with one exception.

Though outside the boundary of the proposed Civic and Honeysuckle HCA, the review has identified a land parcel at 22 Brown Street in The Hill HCA, part of which is also located in the existing Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, and which consists of low-rise one and two storey residential buildings zoned R3 Medium Density Residential by the LEP (**refer to Figure 63**). The scale and form of these post-war buildings make a benign contribution to The Hill HCA and are compatible with the other neighbouring residential properties zoned R3 in The Hill to the south and west. This is in sharp contrast to the more intensively developed commercial properties zoned MU1 which address King Street immediately to the north. However, the land currently has a maximum building height of 10m and an FSR of 1.5:1, which is inconsistent with the current built form on the land and would conflict with the conservation objectives that this review proposes. HOB and FSR does not necessarily promote the best heritage outcome for low-rise residential properties as it can provide perception and expectation of building envelope entitlement, resulting in a built form that inadequately respects the character and significance of the existing building stock. CN does not currently apply numeric HOB or FSR development standards to residential zoned properties on HCA land located outside Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary. As such, in tandem with the recommended changes to the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, the following is recommended:

- Amendments to LEP maps to remove the HOB and FSR development standards from land parcel 22 Brown Street, Newcastle (refer to **Figure 44**).

7.15 Heritage Items

Identified by the assessment above and from community engagement feedback, it is recommended the following new LEP heritage items and amendments to existing LEP heritage items be investigated:

- City Administration Building, King Street - new LEP listing consistent with existing City Administration Building SHR listing (SHR ID 02055).
- Civic Railway Workshops - investigate separately listing as a new LEP heritage item (archaeological site) land parcels in the curtilage of the Civic Railway Workshops SHR listing (SHR ID 00956) which are not listed by LEP item Civic Railway Workshops Group (item I479).
- Other places in the HCA identified from the community engagement feedback as having potential cultural heritage merit will be investigated for LEP listing in a future heritage study.

CHAPTER EIGHT – HUNTER STREET HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

8.1 Introduction

This section documents the proposed Hunter Street Heritage Conservation Area, located within the Newcastle City Centre. It is bounded by Worth Place and Union Street at its east, National Park Street ad 770 Hunter Street at its west, King Street to the south and to the north by the Newcastle Light Rail corridor and Hunter Street. A map of the HCA is reproduced in **Figure 64.**

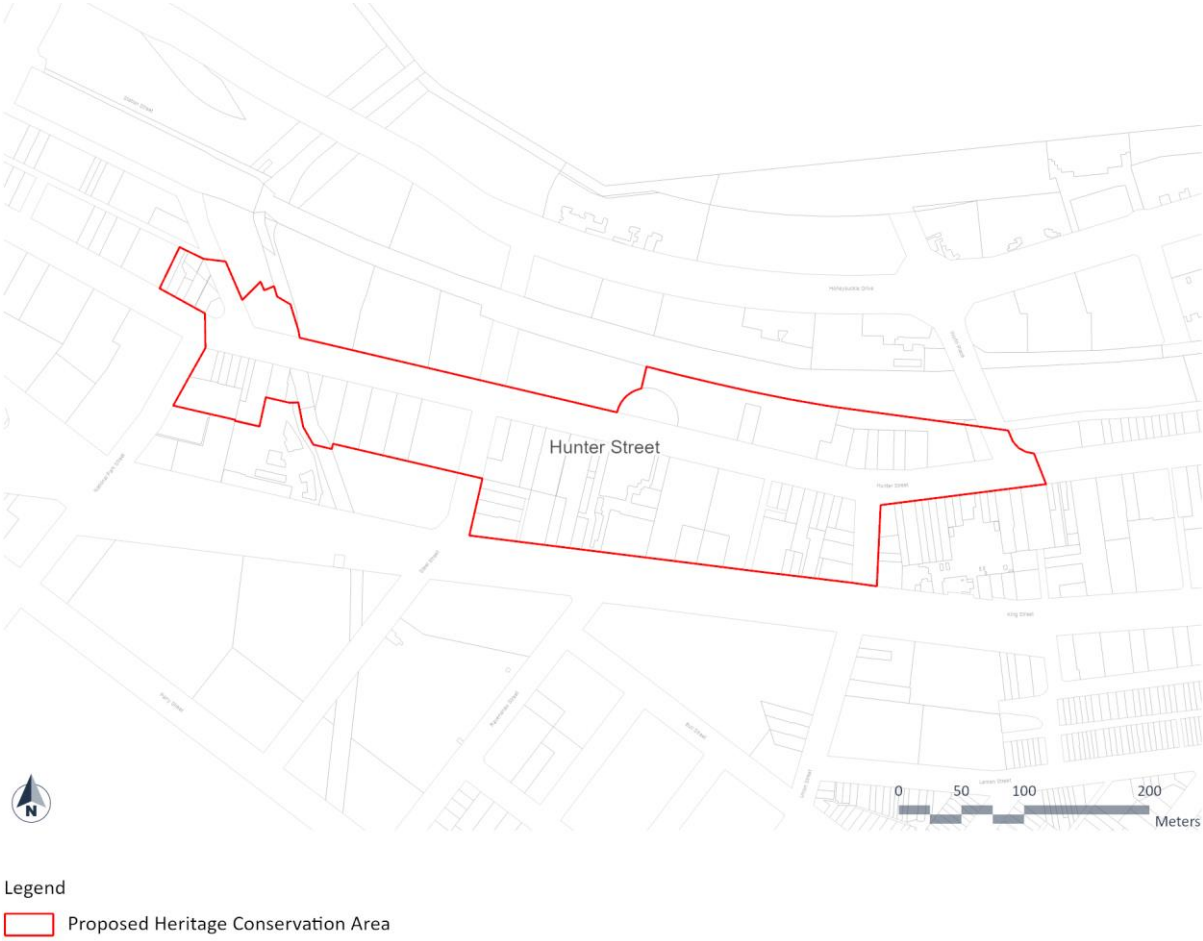


***Figure 64**: Proposed Hunter Street Heritage Conservation Area (Proposed Boundary)*

8.2 History

Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3 for the Aboriginal and historical context of the study area.

8.3 Physical Description

The Hunter Street HCA comprises an area of flat land along the north-western side of the Newcastle peninsular (**refer to Figure 64**). It contains iconic sites of cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, including the harbour landscape of Muluubinba. Newcastle Technical College, the Hunter Water Board Building, Miss Porter's House, Theatre Royale, and Bank Corner are significant heritage places that define Hunter Street.

The current built character of the Hunter Street HCA is intensive mixed-use residential and commercial urban forms. The buildings are an eclectic mix of mostly Victorian, Inter-War, or late twentieth century to the present day. The contributory building stock in the HCA is defined by a shared nineteenth and early twentieth century development history, and commercial built character, with a consistent medium density scale (**refer to Figures 65 to 72**). These features include:

- Diverse built form demonstrated by the diversity of building types and architectural styles – offices, retail, and apartments of mostly late Victorian, inter-war Art Deco, or late twentieth century to the present day reflecting varying periods of economic prosperity and building activity. In particular, the economic wealth generated by the Newcastle port and steel manufacturing industry expressed in its fine stock of late nineteenth to early twentieth century and inter-war period commercial office and retail buildings.
- Original building stock and infill provides a consistent street wall height of two to four storeys.
- Newcastle Technical College and Bank Corner are significant heritage landmarks.



Figure 65: *558 Hunter Street, Newcastle facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 66: *Corner of Union and Hunter streets, Newcastle West facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 67: *Newcastle Technical College at 590-608 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

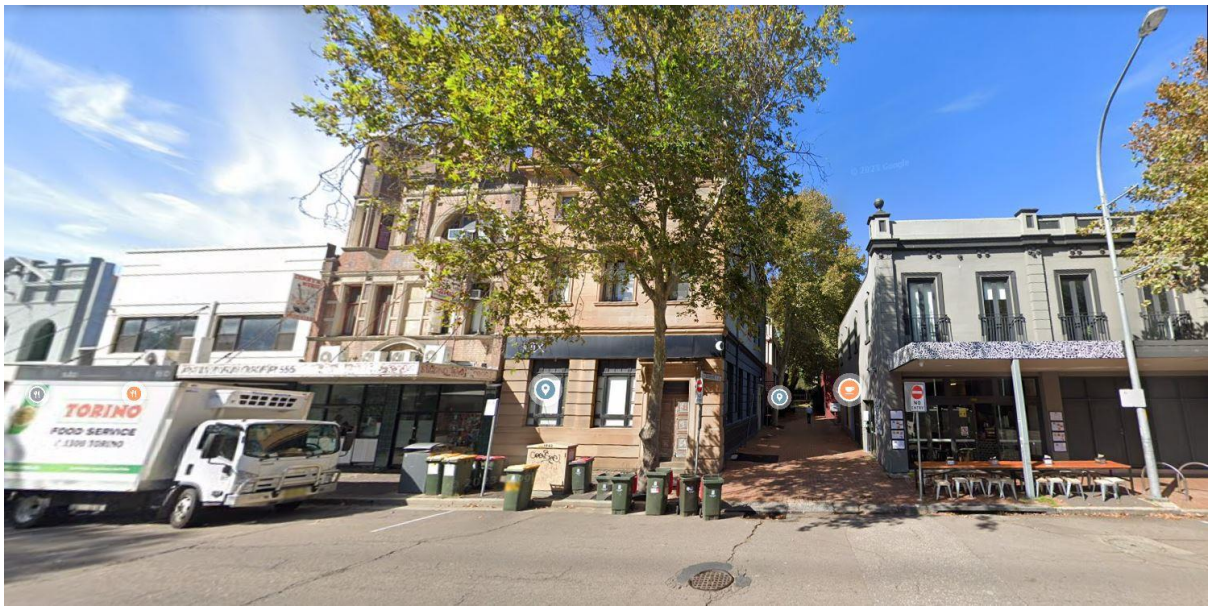


Figure 68: *Corner of Devonshire and Hunter streets, Newcastle West facing south (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 69: *the Hunter Water Board Building at 591-595 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 70: *Miss Porter's House at 434 King Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 71: *Theatre Royale at 669 Hunter Street, Newcastle West and its neighbours (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 72: *Bank Corner at 744 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

8.4 Previous Heritage Studies

Refer to Section 5.5 for previous heritage studies for the Hunter Street area.

8.5 Assessment of Heritage Significance

Applying the NSW Heritage Criteria

In revising the assessment of heritage significance for the area, the NSW heritage assessment guidelines and the NSW heritage criteria has been applied as expressed below:

- *Criterion a - An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history* (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*:*

Hunter Street HCA consists of a range of buildings dating from the latter part of the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth, the conservation area has historical importance for reflecting the development and prosperity of central Newcastle during this period. Historically significant for its

associations with the AA Company, it has become a densely populated entertainment, commercial and residential precinct.

The Hunter Street HCA provided the location for The Star Hotel riot, a significant historical event which is a record of the area's importance as an entertainment hub for the city.

Hunter Street HCA is important for its continuous and extensive Aboriginal occupation. This is demonstrated through the rich archaeological heritage which records the pre contact traditions and life ways of Aboriginal people of Muluubinba, who through the ongoing connections of its traditional custodians maintain an attachment to the area today. Following the arrival of the British, Aboriginal associations are recorded in paintings and records of the penal period and the decades that followed.

- *Criterion b - An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Hunter Street HCA does not demonstrate this criterion to any notable degree.

- *Criterion c - An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area):*

Hunter Street HCA is important urban cultural landscape in that is demonstrates aesthetic characteristics that define the evolution of an early Australian city established during the earliest phases of Australia's development into a modern nation, and that has evolved a rich urban fabric that represents over 150 years of urban development. These aesthetic features of the retail strip include:

1. Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
2. The historic commercial retail streetscapes of Hunter and King streets provide an east-west spine and strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
3. Bank Corner and Newcastle Technical College (TAFE NSW - Hunter Street) are prominent landmark features which help to orientate the visitor.
4. The areas of public domain that are an integral element of Hunter Street including Cottage Creek and Kuwumi Place.

- *Criterion d - An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*

Feedback from residents and businesses in 2023 found the community significantly value the character and physical elements of the Hunter Street retail strip and identify with its protection as an HCA. Overall, there is a high degree of esteem held by the resident community and strong attachment to the character of the area, the streetscape and buildings. The area meets this criterion on cultural grounds at the local level.

- *Criterion e - An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*

Given the rate of survival of key elements of the nineteenth century urban settlement of Newcastle, the area has the potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding aspects of Newcastle's cultural history, and more broadly to the State of NSW for the capacity to yield information about the retail and commercial pattern of development and its evolution to a modern city. There also remains the potential for Aboriginal objects of conservation value to be present in the area due to its proximity to the former course of the Coquun (Hunter River) and Cottage Creek which respectively ventured further south and east-west when compared to today.

- *Criterion f - An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

This area is rare at the local level for the number of intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial, and retail buildings and its pre-contact Aboriginal and nineteenth century settler-colonial archaeological layers surviving beneath the modern city.

- *Criterion g - An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

Hunter Street HCA is consistent and relatively intact, containing many surviving elements of the late 19th to early 20th century and the processes of urbanisation. It demonstrates these characteristics in its key elements including building stock and the relationship of buildings to the street and each other, street layout including laneways, along with heritage items and public space.

Statement of Significance

The Hunter Street Heritage Conservation Area is of local historical, social and aesthetic significance as it provides an evocative physical record of Newcastle's various periods of economic growth and social history, and has high regard in the community. Many of the buildings are impressive reminders of the area's role as a civic, retail and entertainment hub, exemplified by the quality and quantity of relatively intact late nineteenth to the early twentieth century building stock. The continuous two and three storey facades and the general uniformity of scale visually reinforce the area's outstanding townscape qualities and historical character.

Key visual elements include:

- Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
- The historic commercial retail streetscapes of Hunter and King streets provide an east-west spine and strongly contribute to the character of the suburb.
- Bank Corner and Newcastle Technical College (TAFE NSW - Hunter Street) are prominent landmark features which help to orientate the visitor.
- Areas of public domain forming an integral element of Hunter Street include Cottage Creek and Kuwumi Place.

- Key Period of Significance - circa 1850 to 1940

Recommendation

The above assessment of heritage significance followed the standard Heritage Assessment Guidelines and the NSW state heritage criteria. As a result, it is recommended the area be protected through the mechanism of a statutory HCA referred to as the Hunter Street Heritage Conservation Area, in a future LEP amendment.

8.6 Comparative Assessment

The Hunter Street area is locally rare for the high concentration, integrity and intactness of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and retail buildings, comparable locally with the HCAs of Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Darby Street in Cooks Hill, and Hamilton Business Centre, and in NSW with the historic retail and entertainment precinct of Newtown in Sydney.

8.7 Threatening Processes

Some issues undermine the integrity and intactness of the Hunter Street HCA. These include:

- Unsympathetic development, in particular, inappropriately scaled and designed infill development that replaces original building stock.
- Facadism of local heritage item buildings rather than retention of their three-dimensional form.
- The painting of exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.

8.8 Desired Future Character Statement

The DCP provides Desired Future Character Statements for each HCA for development assessment and design planning guidance. If the Hunter Street area becomes a new HCA to replace part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA, it is recommended the DCP be updated to include the following statement:

The character of the Hunter Street Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the 19th and early decades of the 20th century. The special character is to be preserved, celebrated and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, existing subdivision pattern, and elements of visual interest.

Elements to be preserved and/or sensitively restored or reconstructed (based on evidence of original appearance) include:

- *Range of contributory and historic buildings constructed prior to the Second World War, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets.*
- *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the human scale of development, the integrity of laneways, the fine grain and the groupings of contributory late 19th century and art deco buildings.*
- *The integrity of laneways and the fine grain of Devonshire Street.*
- *Exposed face brick and stone of existing building facades and front fencing.*
- *Street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items.*
- *Distinctive early retail and commercial buildings, including prominent corner buildings.*
- *Mature trees in the public domain, and public spaces including Cottage Creek and Kuwumi Place.*
- *Items of heritage significance individually listed as heritage items in Schedule 5 of LEP 2012, including retention of the three-dimensional form of heritage item buildings.*
- *The rich record of relics and archaeological sites beneath the modern city.*

8.9 Contributory Buildings

Fieldwork was undertaken in January 2020 to establish the overall intactness of this area. The Contributory Buildings Map for the Hunter Street HCA (**refer to Figure 73**) grades the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA in which they are currently located. For definitions of contributory buildings, refer to Section 1.8. If the area is subject to the regulation of a new HCA to replace part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA, a new contributory buildings map for the Hunter Street area will be required.

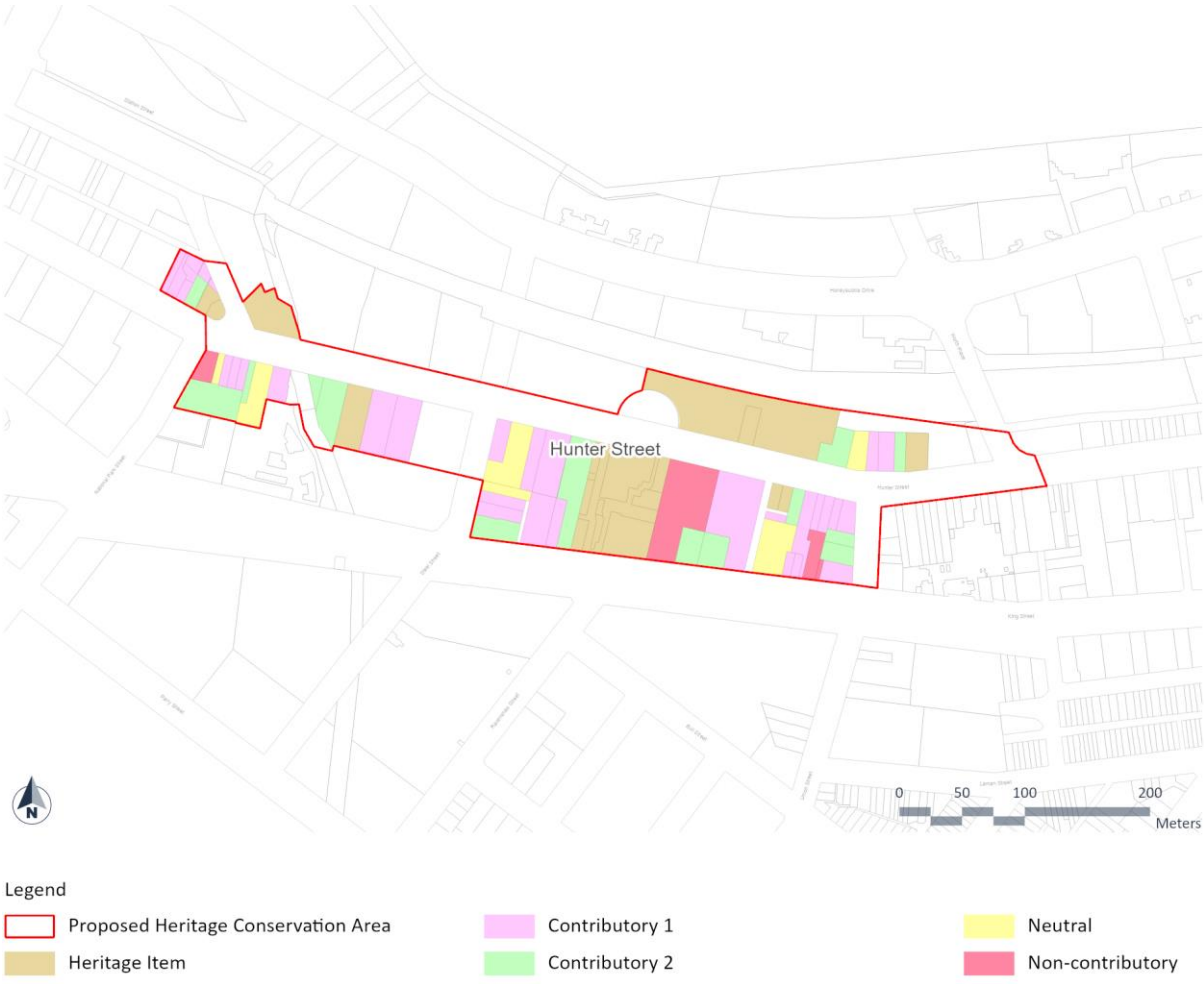


***Figure 73**: Proposed Hunter Street HCA - Contributory Buildings Map (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

8.10 Community Engagement Feedback

Section 5.11 summarises community engagement feedback for the Hunter Street part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA.

8.11 Heritage Conservation Area Boundary

The boundaries of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA were reviewed for land between Union and National Park streets. For this locality, overall, with the exception of development on land parcels addressing either Hunter or King Streets, the existing boundaries of the HCA no longer reinforces the special built character of Newcastle West.

In the Marketown and Arnott Street area the street blocks between National Park, Parry, Union, and King Streets (including the lots addressing the north side of King Street) is a minor scattering of

properties with special built character (including some heritage items). Land parcels of open car parking areas, or in the last 30 years, were comprehensively and intensively re-developed with a mix of retail, commercial office and residential medium to high-rise buildings isolate parts of the area from Hunter Street (**refer to Figures 74 to 77**). No longer reinforcing Newcastle West's special built character.



Figure 74: *54 Union Street, Cooks Hill (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 75: *19 and 21 Steel Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 76: *464 King Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 77: *670 and 684 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

The heritage significance of the land parcels containing the Fire Station at 44 Union Street (LEP item I108) (**refer to Figure 78**), the Former Gasworks Office at 461 King Street (LEP item I507) (**refer to Figure 79**), and the Commandants Farm archaeological site at 684 Hunter Street (LEP item A8) (**refer to Figure 77**) are already conserved and protected by existing heritage item listings and are isolated from the special built character of Newcastle West by adjoining recent development. Similarly isolated properties with potential cultural value are at 117 and 125 Bull Street (**refer to Figures 80 and 81**). Instead, these properties should be investigated for potential as new LEP heritage item listings.



Figure 78: *Fire Station at 44 Union Street, Cooks Hill (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 79: *Former Gasworks Office at 461 King Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 80: *117 Bull Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 81: *125 Bull Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

Recommended LEP map amendments for the Newcastle West area are as follows (refer to **Figure 82**):

- Rename part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA the Hunter Street HCA which is north of King Street and south of the Newcastle Light Rail corridor between Worth Place/Union Street and National Park Street/770 Hunter Street.
- Boundary adjustments to the Hunter Street HCA to remove all land parcels south of the Newcastle Light Rail Corridor and north of Hunter Street between Kuwumi Place and Cottage Creek.

- Boundary adjustments to the Hunter Street HCA to remove all land parcels in the street blocks west of Union Street, south of King Street, east of National Park Street and north of Parry Street.
- Boundary adjustments to the Hunter Street HCA to remove from the HCA all land parcels in the street block between Steel and National Park streets which address the north side of King Street.

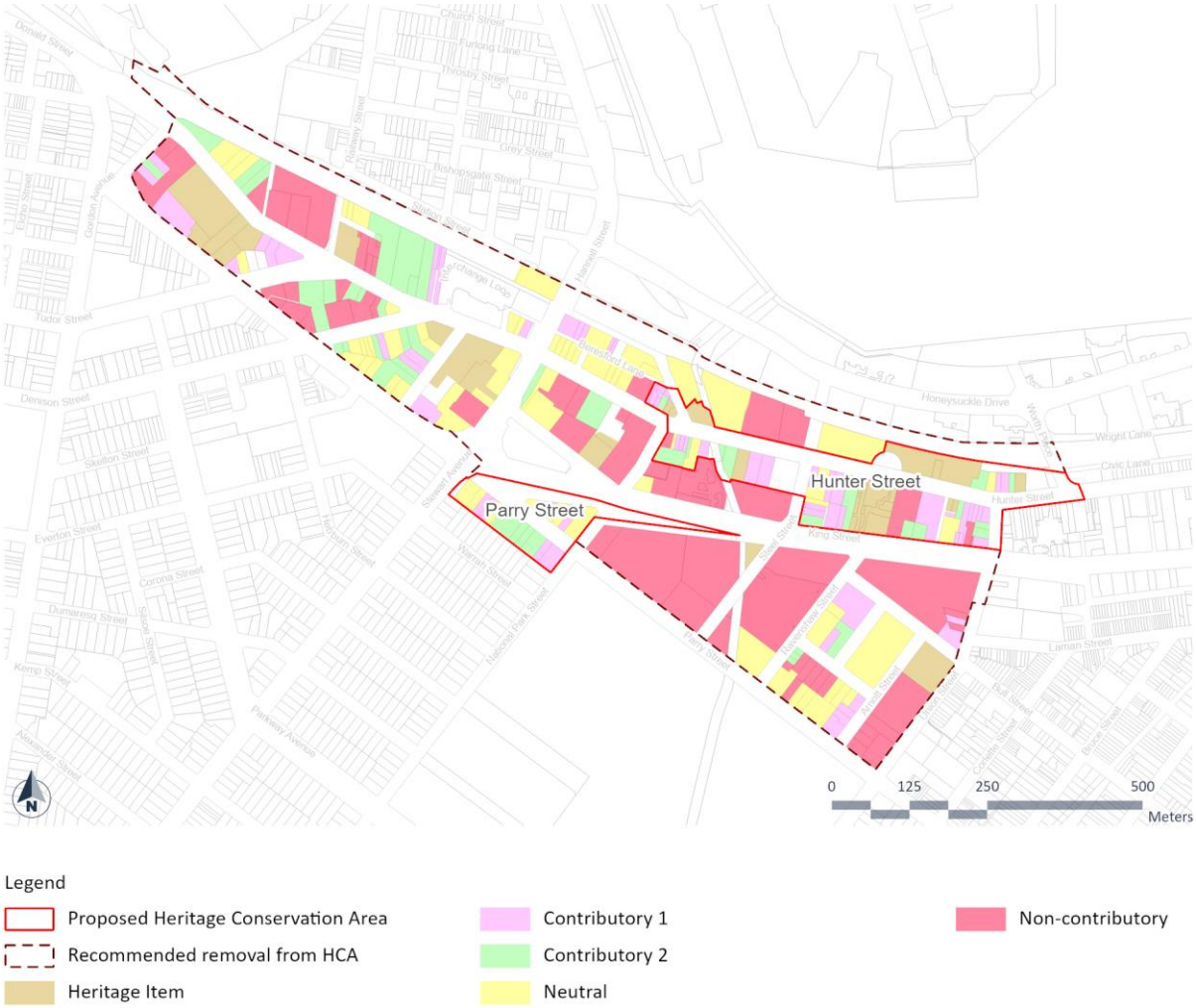


***Figure 82**: Proposed Hunter Street HCA - changes to existing Newcastle City Centre HCA (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

8.12 Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary

A review of the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Hunter Street HCA. Overall, it is considered appropriate that this land will remain in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary as the LEP provisions for the Newcastle City Centre are commensurate with the heritage significance and desired future character of the proposed HCA.

8.13 Land use zoning

A review of the land use zoning was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Hunter Street HCA. Overall, the existing land use zoning is considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA.

8.14 Height of buildings and floor space ratio

The HOB and FSR development standards review considered land parcels at the boundary of the proposed Hunter Street HCA. Overall, these standards applied to this land are considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA.

8.15 Heritage Items

Identified by the assessment above and from community engagement feedback, it is recommended the following new LEP heritage items and amendments to existing LEP heritage items be investigated:

- 125 Bull Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- 117 Bull Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- Other places in the HCA identified from the community engagement feedback as having potential cultural heritage merit will be investigated for LEP listing in a future heritage study.

CHAPTER NINE – PARRY STREET HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA

9.1 Introduction

This section documents the proposed Parry Street Heritage Conservation Area, located in the Newcastle City Centre, which is bounded by King Street at its north, National Park Street at its east, Stewart Avenue to the west, and the rear of properties addressing the south side of Parry Street. It also includes Little Birdwood Park situated east of National Park Street, west of Cottage Creek, north of 136 Parry Street, and south of King Street. A map of the heritage conservation area is reproduced in **Figure 83**.

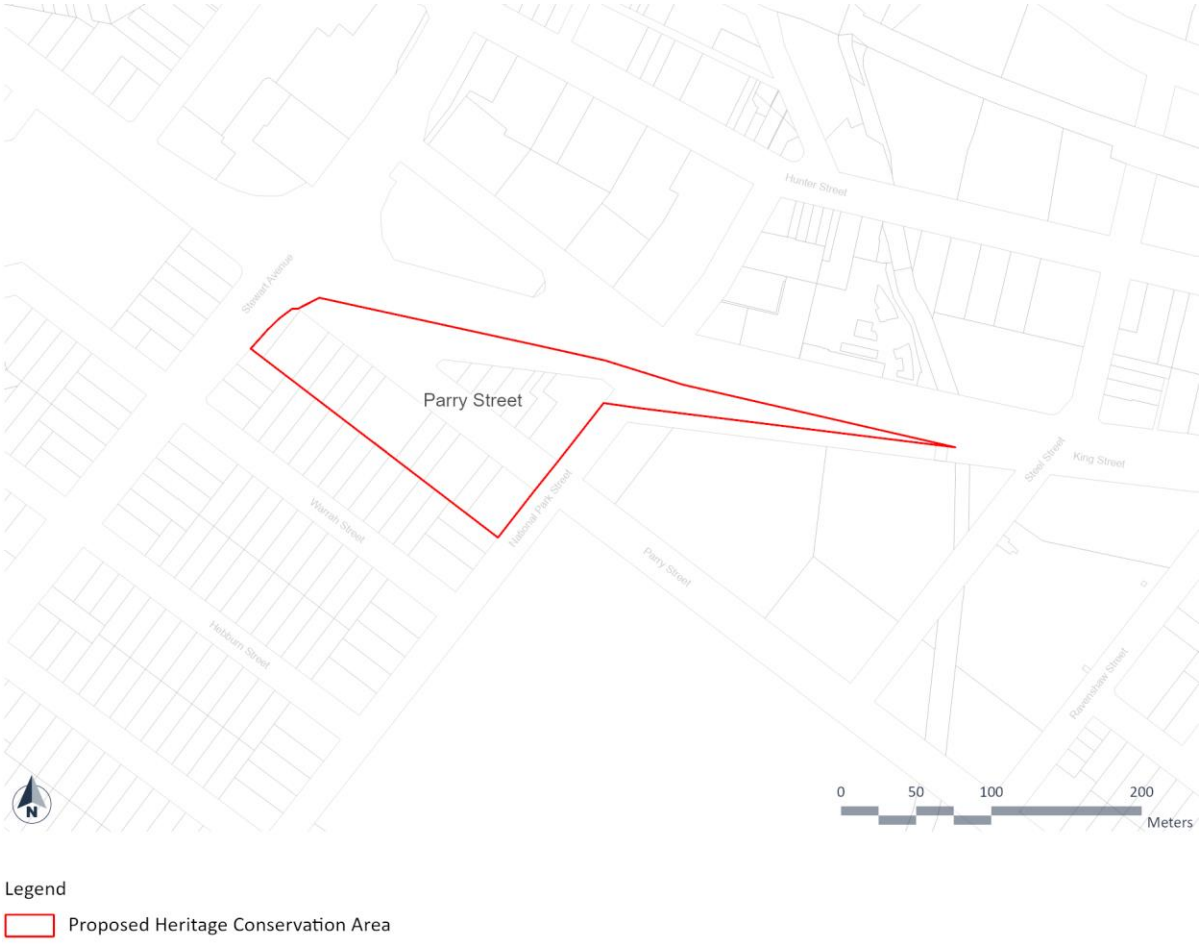


***Figure 83**: Proposed Parry Street Heritage Conservation Area (Proposed Boundary)*

9.2 History

Refer to Sections 3.2 and 3.3 for the Aboriginal and historical context of the study area.

9.3 Physical Description

The Parry Street HCA comprises an area of flat land along the north-western side of the Newcastle peninsular (**refer to Figure 83**).

The current built character of the Parry Street HCA is low-rise industrial warehouse urban forms. It is a highly intact group of mostly early twentieth century and inter-war period buildings, physically separated from the rest of the Newcastle City Centre by King Street. The contributory building stock in the HCA is defined by a shared early twentieth century development history, and modest industrial and commercial built character, with a consistent medium density scale (**refer to Figures 84 to 87**). These features include:

- Limited diversity of building types and architectural styles – an apartment building, and former industrial warehousing converted to offices and retail, predominantly from the early twentieth century and inter-war periods, with some post-war to the present-day infill.
- Original building stock and infill provides a consistent scale, form and massing, with structures between one and two storeys.
- The mature trees of Little Birdwood Park provide an important landscaped screen from vehicle traffic using King Street.



Figure 84: *Parry Street, Newcastle West - view south towards National Park Street (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 85: *69 and 154 Parry Street, Newcastle West - view north towards Stewart Avenue (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 86: *Corner of National Park and Parry streets, Newcastle West facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 87: *Little Birdwood Park and 148 Parry Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

9.4 Previous Heritage Studies

Refer to Section 5.5 for previous heritage studies for the Parry Street area.

9.5 Assessment of Heritage Significance

Applying the NSW Heritage Criteria

In revising the assessment of heritage significance for the area, the NSW heritage assessment guidelines and the NSW heritage criteria has been applied as expressed below:

- *Criterion a - An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history* (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*:*

Parry Street HCA is important at the local level as a record of the development of Newcastle and the transition from a coal town largely in the ownership of the Austrian Agricultural Company to an industrial city. The significant group of early twentieth century industrial and warehouse buildings helped establish the industrial base of the NSW economy.

- *Criterion b - An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Parry Street HCA does not demonstrate this criterion to any notable degree.

- *Criterion c - An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area):*

Parry Street HCA is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics that define the early twentieth century and inter-war period and style of industrial and warehouse buildings. These aesthetic features include:

1. Attached one to two storey industrial and warehouse buildings with flat or slightly pitched roofs and brick facades with limited ornamentation other than some decorative brickwork along the cornice or parapet.
2. The consistency in the scale, form and massing, style and construction of industrial and warehouse buildings built from the early twentieth century up until 1940.

- *Criterion d - An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*

Feedback from residents and businesses in 2023 revealed that the community significantly value the character and physical elements of Parry Street and identify with its' protection as a heritage conservation area. Overall, there is a high degree of esteem held by the resident community and strong attachment to the character of the area, the streetscape and buildings. The area meets this criterion on cultural grounds at the local level.

- *Criterion e - An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*

There remains the potential for Aboriginal objects of conservation value to be present in the area due to its proximity to the former course of Cottage Creek which ventured further east and west when compared to today.

- *Criterion f - An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area):*

Parry Street HCA does not demonstrate this criterion to any notable degree.

- *Criterion g - An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

The Parry Street HCA is important at the local level for being a significant intact grouping of early twentieth century industrial and warehouse buildings that represent the architectural styles and construction technologies of that period of urban development.

Statement of Significance

The Parry Street Heritage Conservation Area is important at the local level in demonstrating the nature of industrial and warehouse building construction in Newcastle between 1901 and 1940. The narrow window of time in which the precinct developed is significant in providing evidence of the key features of the period including construction and building technologies. The uniformity of the group in terms of architectural style, age, height, form, massing, setbacks, and materials contributes to defining the character.

Key visual elements include:

- Attached one to two storey industrial and warehouse buildings with flat or slightly pitched roofs and brick facades with limited ornamentation other than some decorative brickwork along the cornice or parapet.
- The consistency in the scale, form and massing, style and construction of industrial and warehouse buildings built from the early twentieth century up until 1940.

- Key Period of Significance - circa 1901 to 1940

Recommendation

The above assessment of heritage significance followed the standard Heritage Assessment Guidelines and the NSW state heritage criteria. As a result, it is recommended the area be protected through with a statutory HCA, referred to as the Parry Street Heritage Conservation Area, in a future LEP amendment.

9.6 Comparative Assessment

The Parry Street precinct is locally rare for the high concentration, integrity and intactness of early twentieth century industrial and warehouse buildings, comparable locally with isolated LEP heritage item listings such as the ELMA Factory at 54 Clyde Street, Hamilton North (LEP Item I168) and the Winchcombe Carson Warehouse at 14 Milford Street, Islington (LEP Item I203).

9.7 Threatening Processes

Should issues experienced in adjacent areas of the Newcastle City Centre were to eventuate in this locality, it could undermine the integrity and intactness of the Parry Street HCA. This includes:

- Unsympathetic development, in particular, inappropriately scaled and designed infill development that replaces original building stock.

9.8 Desired Future Character Statement

The DCP provides Desired Future Character Statements for each HCA for development assessment and design planning guidance. If the Parry Street area becomes a new HCA to replace part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA, it is recommended the DCP be amended to include the following statement:

The character of the Parry Street Heritage Conservation Area is made up of single and two storey industrial and warehouse buildings that were built in the early decades of the twentieth century. The special character is to be preserved, celebrated and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, existing subdivision pattern, and elements of visual interest.

Elements to be preserved and/or sensitively restored or reconstructed (based on evidence of original appearance) include:

- *Range of contributory and historic buildings constructed prior to the Second World War, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, and the appearance and layout of streets.*
- *Existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the human scale of development and the groupings of contributory early twentieth century and inter-war buildings.*
- *Modest single to two storey scale of distinctive early industrial and warehouse buildings that is an original defining feature of the group.*
- *Exposed face brick of existing building facade and front fencing at 32 National Park Street.*
- *Mature trees in the public domain, and parks and public spaces including Little Birdwood Park.*
- *Items of heritage significance recommended for individual listing as heritage items in Schedule 5 of LEP 2012.*
- *The rich record of relics and archaeological sites beneath the modern city.*

9.9 Contributory Buildings

Fieldwork was undertaken in January 2020 to establish the overall intactness of this area. The Contributory Buildings Map for the Parry Street HCA (**refer to Figure 88**) grades the contribution of buildings to the streetscape character and heritage significance for the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA in which they are currently located. For definitions of contributory buildings, refer to Section 1.8. If the area is subject to the regulation of a new HCA to replace part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA, a new contributory buildings map for the Parry Street area will be required.



***Figure 88**: Proposed Parry Street HCA - Contributory Buildings Map (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

9.10 Community Engagement Feedback

Refer to Section 5.11 for community engagement feedback for the Parry Street area of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA.

9.11 Heritage Conservation Area Boundary

The boundaries of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA were reviewed for land between National Park and Selma streets. For this locality, overall, with the exception of development on land parcels between King and Parry streets, the existing HCA boundary no longer reinforces the special built character of Newcastle West.

Except for a minor scattering of properties with special built character (including some heritage items) which are isolated from Parry Street by adjoining land parcels consisting of either retail warehousing, sale yards and open car parking areas, or in the last few decades, have been comprehensively and intensively re-developed with a mix of retail, commercial office and residential medium to high-rise buildings (**refer to Figures 89 to 92**). This no longer reinforces the special built character of Newcastle West.



Figure 89: *990 Hunter Street, Newcastle West facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 90: *214 Parry Street, Newcastle West facing north (Source: Google Streetview)*

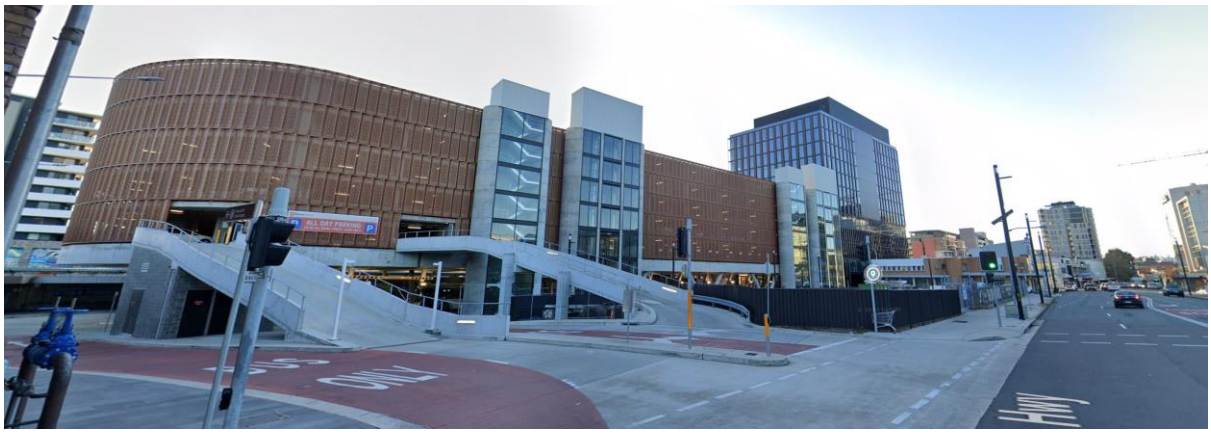


Figure 91: *874 Hunter Street, Newcastle West facing east (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 92: *Corner of National Park and King streets, Newcastle West facing west (Source: Google Streetview)*

1, 3 and 5 Selma Street, Newcastle West consists of three residential bungalows from the Federation and Inter-War periods of urban development (**refer to Figure 93**). This no longer reinforces the special built character of Newcastle West, and a significant number of residential dwellings from the Federation and Inter-War period are already represented and protected in other HCAs of the Inner Area of Newcastle including the Glebe Road Federation Cottages, Cooks Hill, Hamilton Residential Precinct and Hamilton South 'Garden Suburb' HCAs.



Figure 93: *1, 3 and 5 Selma Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

The heritage significance of the land parcels containing Birdwood Park (LEP Item I509), Stewart Avenue's Fig Trees (LEP Item I161), the Army Drill Hall at 498 King Street (LEP item I508) (**refer to Figure 94**), the Former Castlemaine Brewery at 787 Hunter Street (LEP item I501, SHR ID 00312), the Cambridge Hotel at 789 Hunter Street (LEP item I502) (**refer to Figure 95**), Dairy Farmers Building at 924 Hunter Street (LEP item I505), and St Joseph's Convent and Sacred Heart Church and School at 841 Hunter Street (LEP Item I503) (**refer to Figure 96**) are already conserved and protected by existing heritage item listings and are isolated from the special built character of Newcastle West by adjoining recent development.



Figure 94: *Birdwood Park and the Army Drill Hall at 498 King Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 95: *Former Castlemaine Brewery at 787 Hunter Street and the Cambridge Hotel at 789 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 96: *St Joseph's Convent and Sacred Heart Church and School at 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

Furthermore, there are some properties which are of potential cultural value such as those at 741 Hunter Street, 17 and 19 Beresford Street, 840 Hunter Street, 904-908 Hunter Street, and 23 Denison Street, Newcastle West (**refer to Figures 97 to 101**). However, these properties are isolated from the special built character of Newcastle West by adjoining recent development. Instead, these properties should be investigated for new LEP heritage item listings.



Figure 97: *741 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

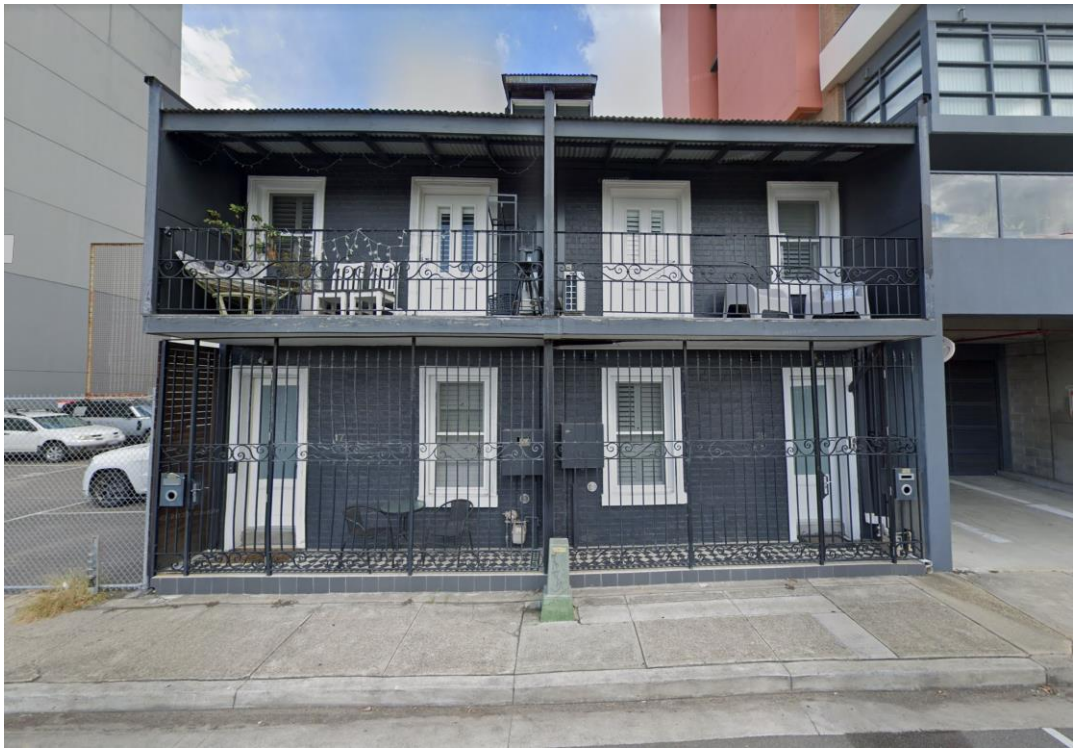


Figure 98: *17 and 19 Beresford Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 99: *840 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 100: *904-908 Hunter Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*



Figure 101: *23 Denison Street, Newcastle West (Source: Google Streetview)*

As such, the following amendments to the LEP maps for the Newcastle West area are recommended (**refer to Figure 102**):

- Rename part of the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA Parry Street HCA which is south of King Street, east of Stewart Avenue, and west of National Park Street.
- Boundary adjustments to the Parry Street HCA to remove from the HCA all land parcels north of King Street, west of Bellevue Street/764 Hunter Street/National Park Street, and east of Selma Street.



***Figure 102**: Proposed Parry Street HCA - Proposed changes to the existing Newcastle City Centre HCA (Source: CN GIS 24 January 2020)*

9.12 Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary

A review of the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary considered land parcels at the boundary of the proposed Parry Street HCA. Overall, it is considered appropriate that this land will remain in the

Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary as the LEP provisions for the Newcastle City Centre are commensurate with the heritage significance and desired future character of the proposed HCA.

9.13 Land use zoning

A review of the land use zoning was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Parry Street HCA. Overall, the existing land use zoning is considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA.

9.14 Height of buildings and floor space ratio

A review of the HOB and FSR development standards was undertaken for land parcels in the boundary of the proposed Parry Street HCA. Overall, the existing HOB and FSR development standards applied to this land are considered appropriate and compatible with retaining and conserving the heritage significance of the proposed HCA.

9.15 Heritage Items

Identified by the assessment above and from community engagement feedback, it is recommended the following new LEP heritage items and amendments to existing LEP heritage items be investigated:

- Former Castlemaine Brewery, Wood Street - adjust boundary of existing LEP listing (Item I501) to include the adjacent land parcel at 1 Wood Street consistent with the existing Former Castlemaine Brewery SHR listing (SHR ID 00312).
- Former Drill Hall, Little King Street - adjust boundary of existing LEP item (Item I508) consistent with recent boundary adjustments to the property.
- 741 Hunter Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- 17 and 19 Beresford Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- 840 Hunter Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- 904-908 Hunter Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- 23 Denison Street, Newcastle West - investigate potential new LEP listing.
- Other places in the HCA identified from the community engagement feedback as having potential cultural heritage merit will be investigated for LEP listing in a future heritage study.

CHAPTER TEN – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Introduction

The recommendations below include an analysis of the community engagement outcomes from consultation held 17 April 2023 and 29 May 2023 by CN's Community Engagement team.

The recommendations do not allow CN to make changes to the HCA boundaries or heritage listings. Such changes follow a strict legal process requiring a planning proposal to amend the LEP. Similarly, recommended changes to the DCP require a formal, legal process. This work will be done as a separate project.

10.2 Recommendations

The draft recommendations for managing the existing heritage conservation areas in the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary are as follows:

Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (Refer to Chapter 4)

- The Newcastle East HCA remains protected through the mechanism of a statutory HCA.
- Amend the LEP maps to adjust the boundary of the Newcastle East and The Hill HCAs.
- Amend the LEP maps to remove height of buildings and floorspace ratio development standards from identified low-rise residential precinct in the Newcastle East HCA.
- Amend the DCP to include updated state of significance and desired future character statement for Newcastle East HCA.
- Amend the Heritage Technical Manual to include updated contributory building maps for the Newcastle East and The Hill HCAs.
- Investigate changes to the LEP heritage schedule and maps to amend existing and add new heritage items.

Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (Refer to Chapter 5)

- Amend the LEP heritage schedule and maps to replace the Newcastle City Centre HCA with the smaller Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street HCAs.

Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street Conservation Areas (Refer to Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9)

- Amend the LEP maps to adjust the boundary of the Newcastle City Centre, The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs.
- Amend the LEP maps to adjust the Newcastle City Centre LEP boundary, change land use zoning, and remove height of buildings and floorspace ratio development standards from identified low-rise residential properties in The Hill HCA.
- Amend the DCP to include new statement of significance and desired future character statements for the Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street HCAs.

- Amend the Heritage Technical Manual to include updated contributory building maps for The Hill and Cooks Hill HCAs, and new contributory building maps for Old Town, Civic and Honeysuckle, Hunter Street, and Parry Street HCAs.
- Investigate potential changes to the LEP heritage schedule and maps to amend existing and add new heritage items.

APPENDIX A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

- September 2023

newcastle.nsw.gov.au



Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas

Community Engagement Report

September 2023

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Executive summary

City of Newcastle (CN) sought to obtain community feedback regarding the existing Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas (HCAs). Figure 1 below outlines the project study area comprising the two HCAs.

Figure 1: Study Area Map – Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs



City of Newcastle engaged a mixed-mode engagement strategy to review existing HCAs in order to:

- Identify which buildings and places the community deem to have heritage significance and/or contribute to the City's cultural identity
- Identify which streets, buildings and places should continue to be included within conservation areas, and which no longer require protection
- Seek suggestions for the grouping and naming of sites with a shared history and/or built character
- Obtain wider feedback regarding heritage conservation areas more broadly within the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East

Engagement activities were advertised across a variety of communications channels, including the Have Your Say webpage, letters to owners and occupiers, flyers, social media, Newcastle Voice e-newsletter, CN Development eNews, Councillor workshop and Liveable Cities Advisory Committee presentations, and the installation of corflute signage in key locations.

Executive summary (Cont'd)

The community were invited to provide feedback via the following means:

- An online form available for submission via the CN Have Your Say webpage – N=59 unique submissions were received from both individuals and community groups (community members were able to provide written submissions via the webpage, as well as having the option to submit attachments and supporting documents/images).
- An interactive map used to pinpoint feedback about specific streets, buildings and places. Community members were given the opportunity to pinpoint sites that should remain protected, those that share history and/or built character, as well as those that no longer require protection as heritage sites – N=363 pins were dropped across the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs, with the opportunity for the community to agree (up-votes) or disagree (down-votes) with each comment made.
- A quick poll asked community members to review a series of 10 streetscapes. Respondents were asked to select which streetscapes have heritage value to them – N=238 respondents provided feedback via the quick poll.
- Providing written submissions via email – N=6 submissions were received

Across the various engagement platforms, feedback could be summarised as follows:

Heritage conservation and the preservation of heritage sites are important to the community

- Based on the Have Your Say submissions (which provided a more macro response to heritage issues), respondents were generally supportive of the protection of heritage conservation areas, with a net of 83% providing a comment or feedback supportive of improvements to/maintenance of heritage conservation in the Newcastle. A net of only 17% of respondents provided feedback/comment which was in some way unsupportive of heritage conservation.
- Over half of the submissions made via the Have Your Say webpage made direct comment on the significance that heritage sites have to the region. Specific comments centred on the cultural and historical significance, as well as the contribution heritage sites have to the uniqueness of the region.

There should be greater attention given to the preservation/expansion of heritage conservation areas

- There is the desire for Heritage Conservation Areas to be expanded, with concerns that development and urban renewal efforts will compromise the history of the region. Across the Newcastle East and Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas there were 274 individual buildings/locations deemed to have heritage conservation merit and a further 35 locations/buildings that were deemed to have shared history and/or built character.

Heritage Conservation Areas add value to tourism in the region

- The community highlighted the value that these locations/buildings add to tourism in the area, with one in five respondents commenting on the important role these heritage conservation areas have on tourism.

Efforts to improve the upkeep and cleanliness of heritage areas should be prioritised

- Almost 20% of respondents commented on the maintenance of Heritage Conservation Areas. Improving the appearance and upkeep of streetscapes, including rubbish/litter removal, graffiti removal and general maintenance is important to the ongoing preservation of existing places/buildings.

1. Background

City of Newcastle (CN) is undertaking a staged strategic review of the existing Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas (HCAs). The buildings, streets, and precincts of these two HCAs have experienced significant change brought about by the recent economic revitalisation of Newcastle City Centre.

CN aim to identify the heritage value and the merits for heritage protection in the area, while addressing requirements under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and CN's Heritage Strategy 2020-2030.

CN sought feedback from the community about which streets, buildings and places within Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs have heritage significance and/or contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity.

The feedback will be used to help investigate how and where land use protections for this area could best be applied so that revitalisation of the Newcastle City Centre continues while ensuring our rich and diverse cultural heritage remains protected and conserved.

The project team will review all feedback received during consultation before considering any changes to the heritage planning for these areas.

Following community consultation, CN will prepare a draft report outlining recommendations and any proposed changes to HCA boundaries or new heritage items. The community will have further opportunities to provide feedback on the recommendations within this report before any changes are implemented.

2. Engagement objectives

To better understand community opinion on which streets, buildings and places within Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs have heritage significance and/or contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity, CN carried out community engagement activities from 17 April to 29 May 2023. Specifically, CN sought to understand:

- Which streets, buildings and precincts in the study area should have continued heritage protection and which don't require protection
- Which buildings and places in the study area are most significant and contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity
- Suggestions for grouping together and naming precincts in the study area which have a shared development history and/or built character.

3. Communication and promotion

During the engagement period, a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the project and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised below, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix I.

Channel	Description	Reach
Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page aimed to provide information and raise awareness about the project, and to encourage people to provide feedback.	4,649 page visits
Letters, flyers and onsite signage	Letters were mailed out to owners and occupiers of residential and commercial properties within and immediately adjoining the study area promoting the project and encouraging people to provide feedback on CN's Have Your Say project page. Flyers were distributed to residential and commercial properties within the study area and all libraries within the City of Newcastle LGA. Signage was also installed at key locations within the study area promoting the project and encouraging community feedback.	8,942 letters 7,000 flyers 4 corflutes
Social media	The project was promoted via organic posts on CN's Facebook page and LinkedIn page on 19 April 2023. A paid Facebook campaign was also launched to increase the reach and encourage feedback via the Have Your Say page.	18,631 people reached 866 engagements (likes, comments or shares) 542 link clicks
Newsletters	An e-newsletter was distributed to subscribers to Newcastle Voice on 21 April 2023 containing an article explaining the project and encouraging the community to provide feedback. An e-newsletter was distributed to the mailing list for Development eNews on 23 May 2023 containing an article explaining the project and encouraging the community to provide feedback.	Distributed to 2,504 subscribers Issued to 842 email addresses

Councillor Memo	A memo was distributed to CN Councillors on 19 April 2023, advising of the engagement and providing information on how constituents can provide feedback and comment.	N/A
Presentations	Presentation delivered to Liveable Cities Advisory Committee on 7 March 2023 Presentation delivered to Councillors at Councillor workshop on 21 March 2023	2 presentations

4. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas review from 17 April to 29 May 2023.

The community were able to provide feedback in a number of ways:

Online submission form

An online form was available on the Have Your Say webpage for community members to provide written feedback and/or upload documents and images.

N= 59 unique submissions were received from both individuals and community groups via the online submission form. Community members could provide open feedback via the webpage, as well as submit attachments and supporting documents/images.

Email submissions

N=6 submissions were received via email. These have been analysed with the online form submissions in Section 5.1.

Copies of online form and email submissions form are included in Appendix II.

Interactive map

The community could use an interactive map to identify cultural heritage locations and buildings with and without heritage conservation merit, and group those with shared history and/or built character.

In total, 363 pins were dropped on the map by 68 unique respondents.

Participants were also given the opportunity to not only log their personal opinions regarding buildings/locations, but to also agree (up vote) or disagree (down vote) with those provided by other participants.

In total, 5070 up votes and 435 down votes were recorded by participants.

Quick poll

A quick poll asked community members to determine which of ten streetscapes in the City of Newcastle have heritage value to them.

In total, 238 respondents provided feedback via the quick poll.

The ***online submission form*** identified the key themes of importance regarding heritage conservation.

The ***Social Pinpoint*** exercise provided more geographically-specific feedback on sites with heritage conservation locations/buildings.

The ***Quick Poll*** sought to understand the types of streetscapes in Newcastle which hold cultural heritage value to the community.

The detailed findings are presented in:

5.1. Key findings – Online form and email submission

5.2. Key findings – Interactive map

5.3. Key Findings – Quick Poll

De-identified copies of all submissions received and feedback provided via Social Pinpoint are included in Appendices III and IV.

5. Key Findings

5.1. Key findings – Online form and email submissions

The 65 unique submissions were received (59 were lodged via the online form on the Have Your Say webpage, and 6 via email). All submissions including supporting attachments, were analysed and the feedback was categorised into key themes. At a very high level, respondents were generally supportive of the protection of heritage conservation areas, with a net of 83% providing a comment or feedback supportive of improvements to, or maintenance of, heritage conservation in Newcastle. A net of only 17% of respondents provided feedback/comment which was in some way unsupportive of heritage conservation (highlighted in the table below).

Beyond simply a supportive or unsupportive sentiment towards heritage conservation, the key themes raised by the community were analysed and grouped into the following key themes:

Table 1: Key themes raised in online form/email submissions

Key Themes	N=65
Maintaining and preserving heritage sites is important to the region	60%
There should be more/an expansion of current heritage conservation areas	26%
The heritage sites are of value to tourism in the region	20%
Cleanliness and upkeep of heritage areas should be prioritised	17%
Heritage sites/buildings contribute to the cultural identity of the region	17%
Retain aesthetic and integrity of heritage sites	15%
Retain facade of heritage buildings, i.e., renovation and renewal should remain in keeping with existing facades	15%
The Supercars event is detrimental to heritage conservation areas/sites and should be removed	14%
Redevelopment/renewal of heritage sites will impact on the uniqueness of the area	11%
Some areas are no longer heritage sites/Should be removed from the heritage list	11%
Heritage and height restrictions must be adhered to with new developments in the area	9%
Further engagement and communication with the community regarding heritage conservation is required/welcomed	9%
Removing heritage sites from conservation zones will be detrimental to the area	6%
City of Newcastle's heritage strategy and approach to heritage conservation is not protecting existing sites	6%
Heritage rules have a negative impact on building/redevelopment	5%
Damage caused by trees/removal of trees	3%
Renewal and redevelopment need to be balanced with preserving heritage areas	3%
Retain original names/There is no benefit to renaming sites	2%
Heritage conservation is impacting pedestrian access negatively	2%
Heritage conservation should involve more than just the facade, i.e., preservation of the whole building	2%
Heritage conservation is important, but the city's resources need to be allocated to improving current infrastructure/services	2%
Many residents/ratepayers do not care about heritage sites/conservation	<1%
Other comments unrelated to HCAs	3%

Comments/feedback unsupportive of heritage conservation

Note: Some people mentioned more than one issue per individual submission.

5.1. Online submission form (Cont'd)

The four main themes raised in the online form submissions are explored in more detail below:

5.1.1 Maintaining and preserving heritage sites is important to the region

60% of the online form submissions made comment regarding the importance of maintaining and preserving heritage sites within the region. These submissions mentioned the significance they have to the region, as well as the importance they have to the history and identity of Newcastle and surrounds.

Table 2: Examples of feedback regarding the importance of maintaining and preserving heritage sites

Examples: Maintaining and preserving heritage sites is important to the region (60%)
"Newcastle does not have a good history of respecting and retaining its history. Too much has been lost, is ignored and left to rot, or is blatantly destroyed. Sophisticated cities value and maintain their heritage. This significantly enhances their tourism value and certainly their liveability"
"I appreciate the identity of all the heritage areas of Newcastle and especially the East end. Love the village vibe and the independent retailers who create strong community"
"Fragmenting HCAs could negatively impact recognised heritage. *There is significant recognised contributory heritage widely spread within the boundaries of both subject heritage conservation areas as they are currently defined. Although many buildings within the current HCA boundaries are considered non-contributory or neutral in relation to their heritage significance, development on these sites can still have a significant negative impact on the heritage in the broader area, on both individual items and on heritage streetscapes. It is therefore important to maintain HCAs as larger continuous areas to ensure that the heritage impact of any development within the area is assessed. Fragmenting the HCAs into smaller pockets or separate precincts will fail to ensure proper assessment of the potential impacts of nearby sites on any recognised heritage area or individual items"*
"I live in Newcastle East which has a unique collection of buildings of great historical and heritage value. Newcastle was settled as the second area of settlement in NSW and many of the buildings reflect the architecture and character of those early times. *This heritage must be protected as an entire area and not be detracted from by identifying individual buildings which could be demolished and replaced heaven forbid by modern high rise apartment buildings. Having such replacement buildings dotted throughout the precinct will destroy the character and ambience of the area for all time"*
"The heritage protection of Newcastle City and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs) is an essential part of preserving Newcastle's cultural and social heritage and history, giving the city an identifiable and unique identity. *There is a wealth of commercial and residential architectural styles, sites, buildings, monuments, facades, streets and open spaces within the HCAs"*

5.1. Online submission form (Cont'd)

5.1.2 There should be more/an expansion of current Heritage Conservation Areas

Over a quarter of online form submissions commented on the need for an expansion of current Heritage Conservation Areas and sites currently preserved. For these community members, there is the sentiment that too much heritage/history has been lost, and that moving forward an expansion of current heritage conservation areas will be needed.

Table 3: Examples of feedback regarding more/an expansion of current heritage conservation areas

Examples: There should be more/an expansion of current heritage conservation areas (26%)
"The current HCAs need to be maintained in their entirety. All the streets, buildings and precincts within the HCA's need the benefit of heritage controls. More than that, they should be mandatory and not watered-down. The "desired future character" of the city and surrounding areas should seek to build on, rather than diminish, the extant heritage character. Planning should seek to preserve clear evidence of historical precincts"
"Unfortunately, Newcastle has lost too much of its heritage buildings and precincts, we should ensure that we don't lose any more. *When visiting any city in the world, the most interesting and most visited areas are the "Old Town", the heritage areas that indicate the history and evolution of such cities"*
"Strong planning decisions by Council with proper consultation with those that live here and a genuine commitment to retaining history and its value to the community is imperative. *Please, build on, don't reduce, the local heritage character. Please, preserve clear evidence of historical precincts"*
"I trust NCC are not too narrow in their review of the Newcastle East heritage area. Unfortunately, there appears to be minimal recognition of First Nations People who resided on this land for tens of thousands of years before current European settlement. *And as for being fixated on only a certain era in the last 200 years, NCC should represent all heritage in the last 2 centuries including more recent additions such as the renowned contributions made by Suters architects in the areas of the housing commission buildings & the previous councils admin building.* *Moreover, moving forward NCC should broaden its mindset and celebrate heritage but also embrace change in order to allow our cities to be more liveable into the future"*

5.1. Online submission form (Cont'd)

5.1.3 The heritage sites are of value to tourism in the region

One in five online form participants believe that heritage sites throughout the region are valuable to tourism in the area. These submissions made comment on the importance of preserving sites in order to continue to add to the local tourism industry. They commented on the need to be conscious of balancing the benefits of tourism with the preservation of sites.

Table 4: Examples of feedback regarding the value of heritage sites to tourism in the region

Examples: The heritage sites are of value to tourism in the region (20%)
"Newcastle East end and Civic precinct are easily identified as being part of Newcastle history and their existence attracts people from all over Australia and the world. Without the diversity of interest, they generate Newcastle would just be another city with a coastline and harbour. Perth is a perfect example of mixing the old with the new. I believe Newcastle has the ability to be the Perth on the East Coast"
"Urban development, regeneration and rejuvenation is essential for the economic growth of Newcastle, providing new and exciting residential and commercial opportunities, improved amenities and encourages tourism, festivals and events in Newcastle City and Newcastle East. I support carefully planned developments but in keeping with current HCA and height restrictions in the Newcastle City and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas"
"The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) is the most important to promote tourists to our City. It could become a city attracting visitors, and could become similar to Fremantle. *I draw your attention to a study provided to City of Newcastle in 1997, a study which was prepared by members of the community. Titled Newcastle Old Town, (and included with this submission), the study focuses on the area from Newcastle Ocean Baths to Brown Street, to Newcastle Harbour and King Edward Park.* *The original Newcastle Old Town has an abundance of history from Aboriginal, Maritime, New Settlers and the Military. There are so many historic buildings in the area (too difficult to map them all with a comment on the online interactive map for this consultation) which must be preserved. City of Newcastle must have plaques on these buildings depicting the date of structure and its history. Heritage buildings are important to a city's identity. We will attract a variety of visitors, walking groups and individuals who can move around the area with the history of each building depicted. Learning about the past can facilitate a sense of connection and hence a sense of place"*
"The Newcastle foreshore area is world class and must be protected in its current form. *The harbour of Newcastle is a major tourist attraction to the area and will only improve and restoration continues.* *Any development in the identified area must take into consideration the affect it will have on tourism and the heritage of the area"*

5.1. Online submission form (Cont'd)

5.1.4 Cleanliness and upkeep of heritage areas should be prioritised

17% of those who provided submissions commented on the importance of maintaining existing sites and conservation areas. They cited issues with streetscaping, litter, rubbish and graffiti and called for greater attention from CN in addressing the cleanliness and upkeep of sites.

Table 5: Examples of feedback regarding the cleanliness and upkeep of heritage areas

Examples: Cleanliness and upkeep of heritage areas should be prioritised (17%)
"The heritage value of many parts of our city are of great significance however in my opinion the Council needs to place much more emphasis on the here and now, particularly in the West End. the condition of the streetscape in this area is very neglected. *The footpaths are always littered with rubbish and general filth such as pigeon excreta. Surely the Council can apply a footpath sweeping machine as do Lake Mac council and an occasional truck mounted water washer.* *The approach roads in to the city such as Hannell St where the median strips always seem in need of mowing and lots of dead weeds growing out of the concrete cracks. Can we have a campaign to remove the graffiti too"*
I value the importance of maintaining our heritage, however, I feel strongly that maintaining the overall cleanliness of the City is a huge priority. Dilapidated, empty, graffiti covered buildings and shops are a shocking eyesore. The footpaths are often poor quality so to walk around the City admiring and learning about our heritage buildings / areas is often spoilt by bins overflowing, parks not well maintained, litter everywhere on footpaths, bottles, urine and vomit often make for a very unpleasant walk around, especially with our visitors. Observing our heritage is important but more importantly to enjoy what we have, please clean up "dirty Newcastle".
"It would be great if some more love and care could be poured into the streets around Newcastle east to restore this unique area. The paving and street scaping that has taken place at Carrington and Stockton would be fitting, justified and appropriate for Newcastle east too"

5.2. Key findings – Interactive Map

At the conclusion of the engagement period, 363 pins had been dropped on locations/buildings within the region:

- Locations/buildings of heritage conservation merit ..... 274 Pins
- Locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character ..... 35 Pins
- Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit ..... 54 Pins

This section of the report seeks to analyse the locations/buildings mentioned and specific issues, suggestions and comments provided by participants.

5.2.1 Locations/buildings of heritage conservation merit

Figure 2: Study Area Map – Locations/buildings of heritage conservation merit



There were 274 individual pins dropped on locations/buildings that participants deemed to have heritage conservation merit across the Newcastle East and Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas.

Participants were given the opportunity to not only log their personal opinions regarding buildings/locations, but to also agree (up vote) or disagree (down vote) with those provided by other participants.

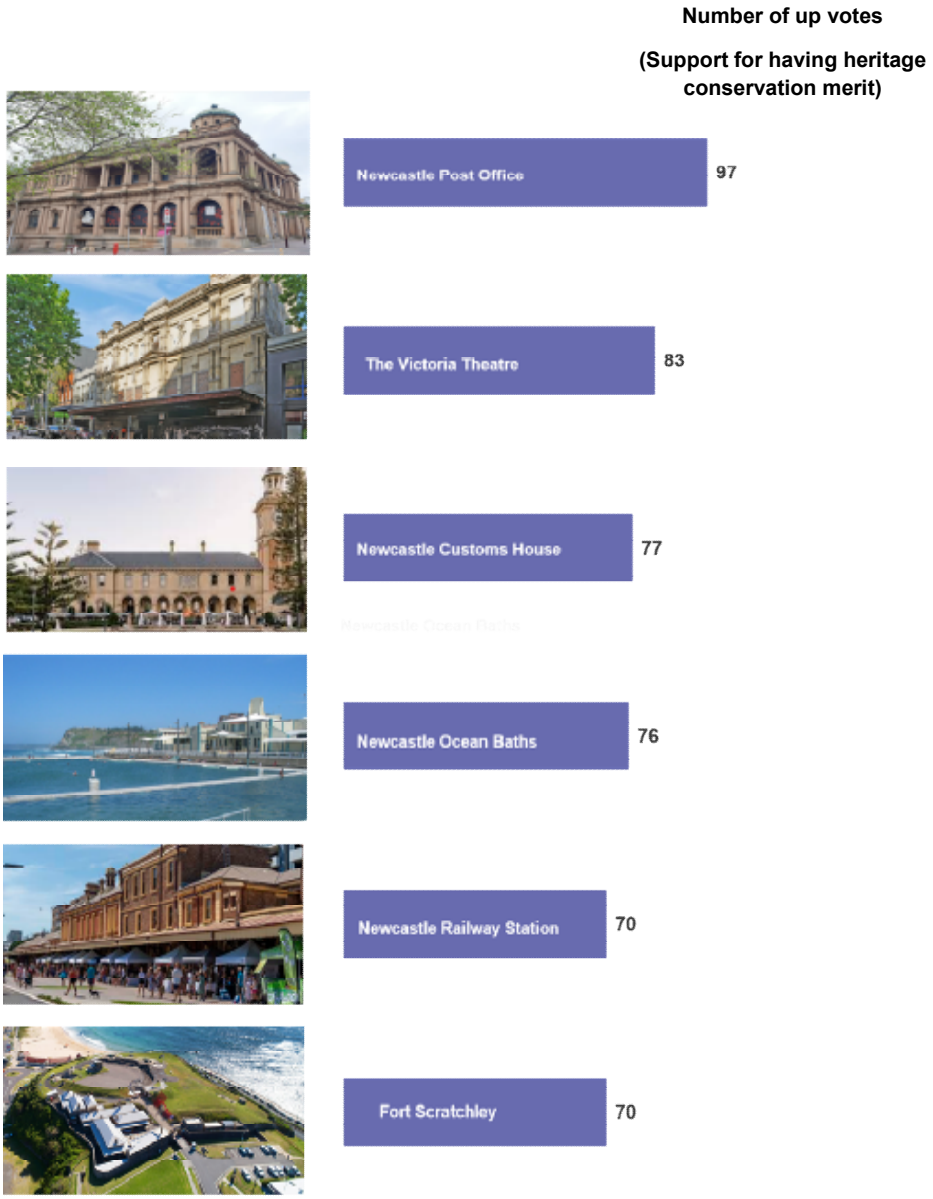
The chart on the following page highlights the buildings/locations pinned with the highest number of ‘up votes’ from participants.

5.2. Key findings – Interactive Map (Cont'd)

5.2.1 Locations/buildings of heritage conservation merit (Cont'd)

Of all locations/buildings pinned as having heritage conservation merit, the following six locations/buildings were those that registered as having the most support (up votes) from participants as sites of merit.

Figure 3: Buildings/locations in the Newcastle East and Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas pinned with the highest up votes (Count)



A detailed analysis of all sites deemed to have heritage merit and the reasons provided by participants is shown in Appendix IV.

5.2. Key findings – Interactive Map (Cont'd)

5.2.2 Locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character

Figure 4: Study Area Map– Locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character



There were fewer individual pins dropped on locations/buildings participants deemed to have shared history and/or built character across the Newcastle East and Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas. At the conclusion of the engagement process, 35 unique pins had been dropped.

Participants were also able to agree (up vote) or disagree (down vote) with the pins dropped by others.

5.2. Key findings – Interactive Map (Cont'd)

5.2.2 Locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character

The following table highlights the top locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character pinned by participants.

Table 2: Top locations/buildings with shared history and/or built character

Precinct / Address	Comment	Up Votes
Hunter Mall, Newcastle	There should be a new heritage conservation area in Newcastle's East End based on Henry Dangar's 1828 Kings Town plan.	35
Lee Wharf Buildings, Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	Not too sure of the history, but they are both obviously Wharf Buildings looking nearly identical. The hotel has maintained the look and feel of the old structure, I only hope the new owners of the other one, 'Hope Estate' do the same.	30
Birdwood Park, 502 King St, Newcastle West	Birdwood Park has history and deserves updating & maintenance.	16
Newcastle West Industrial, Newcastle West	The sympathetic restoration and reuse of the former brewery building has allowed all the essential elements to remain. Even though it is now a hotel it is still possible to see it former use. Should be given heritage listing for future protection.	13
Newcastle Civic Park, King St, Newcastle	Beautiful open space in the city centre with iconic fountain surrounded by grand old trees and gardens	13
Wheeler Place, 369 Hunter St, Newcastle	Great outdoor space surrounded by historic buildings. Could be used more for outdoor events.	12
Marketown, Parry St and Steel St, Newcastle West	Marketown supplies food, local shops & services to the nearby apartments & future developments. It could do with improvement, but is needful to provide supply to a growing local community.	10

A detailed analysis of all sites locations/buildings that were identified as having shared history and/or built character can be seen in Appendix IV.

5.2. Key findings – Interactive Map (Cont'd)

5.2.3 Locations/buildings with no heritage conservation merit

Figure 5: Study Area Map– Locations/buildings with no heritage conservation merit



There were 54 individual pins dropped on locations/buildings across the Newcastle East and Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas that participants feel have no heritage conservation merit.

Participants also had the choice to agree (up vote) or disagree (down vote) with the buildings/locations that others suggested as having no heritage merit.

The table on the following page highlights the buildings/locations pinned that participants were most likely to agree had no heritage merit.

5.2. Key findings – Interactive Map (Cont'd)

5.2.3 Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit

Table 3: Locations/buildings with no heritage conservation merit

Landmark / Address	Comment	Up Votes
33 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	This area has destroyed former heritage and currently presents nothing that can considered of heritage value.	24
Queens Wharf, 150 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Following the removal of Queens Wharf Tower there is no built heritage value left at this site. This entire area surrounding the brewery and ferry wharf needs a re-think and a revamp. Youths frequently use the pool for cooling off in summer. There may be some social/community value in this?	21
Noah's on the Beach, 29 Zaara St, Newcastle East	Although Noah's has been there a little while this whole area of Tyrrell Towers, Kingston, and the Azura buildings have absolutely no heritage value. If they do then 95% of Newcastle should also.	21
Arvia Building, 67 Watt St, Newcastle	Another new building with no heritage value.	20
Ibis Hotel, 700 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The Ibis Hotel hurts my eyes. KFC next door is not much better either!	20
Novotel, 1 King St, Newcastle	You have got to be kidding. This hotel was built in about 2015. This has no heritage value.	19
Marketown West, 136 Parry St, Newcastle West	Marketown West. Negatively impacts the surrounding area's beauty and has no architectural value. Land use can be utilised much more efficiently with a denser layout.	19
Arena Building, 75 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle	The Arena building were built in about 2018 and have absolutely no heritage value.	18
The Royal Development, 61 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle	The building was built in about 2004 and has no heritage value.	18
The Royal Development, 1 King St, Newcastle	This building was built in about 2011 and has absolutely no heritage value.	17
KFC, 684 Hunter St, Newcastle West	KFC building is invariably littered with KFC litter, grease stains & squashed food. The business should be held accountable for the footpath litter around them.	16

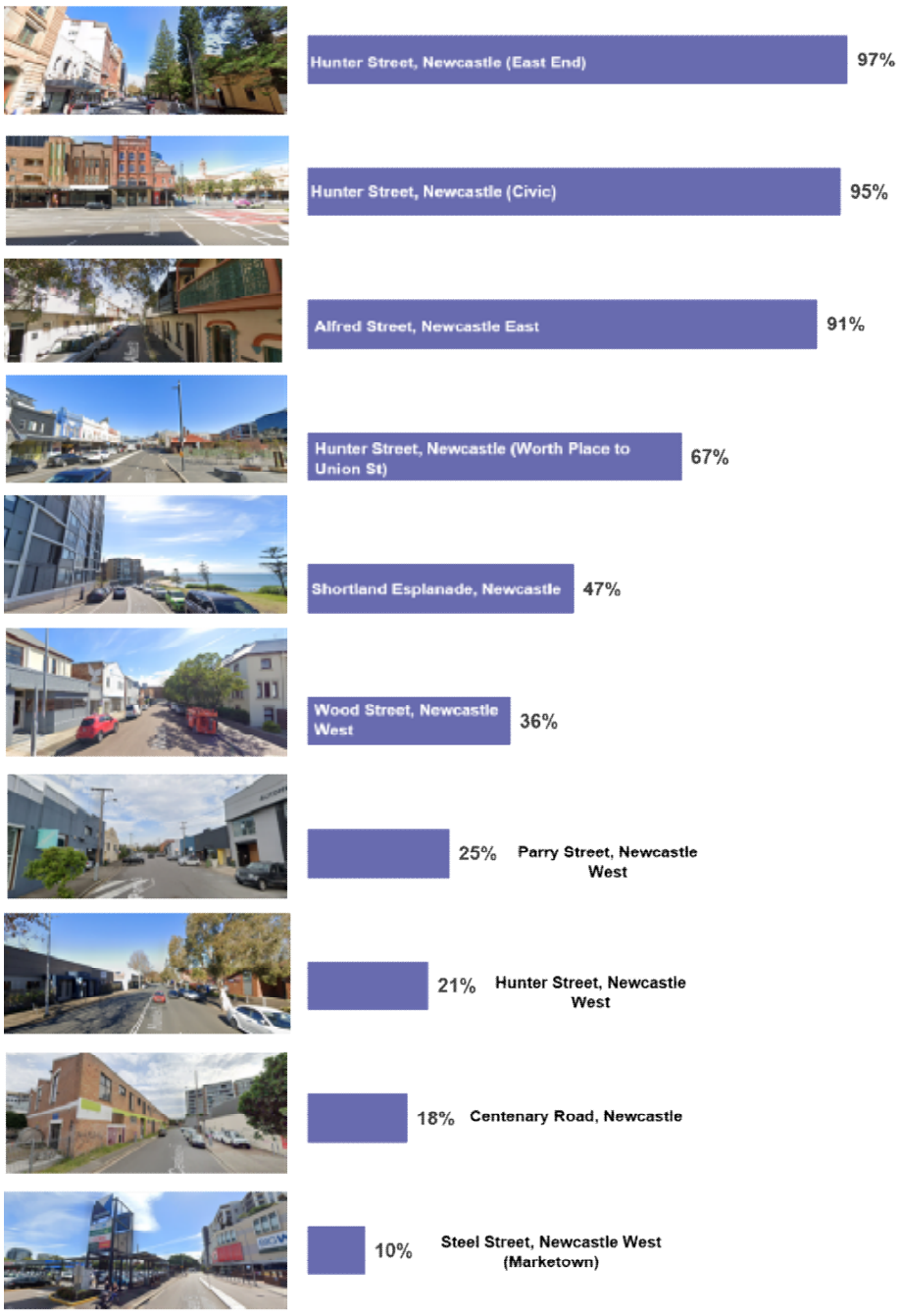
A detailed analysis of all sites/locations/buildings with no heritage value can be seen in Appendix IV.

5.3. Key findings – Quick Poll

The community were asked to review 10 images of streetscapes within the study area. Respondents were asked to select which of the prompted locations have heritage value to them. The results of the N=238 responses to the Quick Poll can be summarised by the following chart.

As shown below, the streetscapes with the highest support for having heritage value include Hunter Street (East End and Civic) and Alfred Street, Newcastle East.

Figure 6: Streetscapes with heritage value to the community (respondents could select more than one).

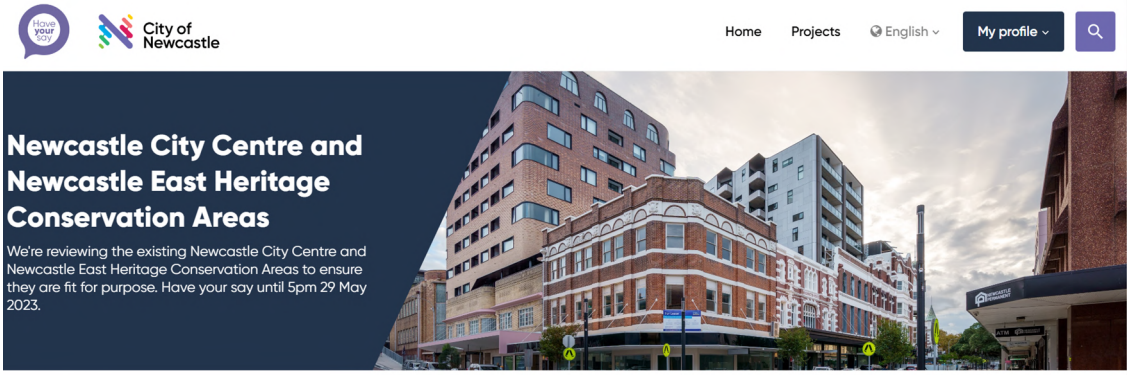


6. Next steps

Thank you to everyone who had their say. The project team will review all community feedback and use this to prepare a draft report outlining CN's recommendations for the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas. The draft report will be publicly exhibited during which the community will be able to provide further feedback. Feedback from public exhibition will then be used to inform the final report which is presented to Council for adoption in early 2024.

Appendix I – Promotional materials

Have Your Say webpage



Overview

City of Newcastle (CN) is currently undertaking a review of the existing Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas (HCAs). We aim to identify the heritage value and the merits for heritage protection in the area. The buildings, streets, and precincts of these two HCAs have experienced significant change brought about by the recent economic revitalisation of Newcastle City Centre.

CN is seeking feedback from the community about which streets, buildings and places within Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs have heritage significance and/or contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity.

We're currently in the initial stages of the review and would like feedback from the community on:

- which streets, buildings and precincts in the study area should have continued heritage protection and which don't require protection
- which buildings and places in the study area are most significant and contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity
- suggestions for grouping together and naming precincts in the study area which have a shared development history and/or built character.

Your feedback will be used to help us investigate how and where land use protections for this area could best be applied so that revitalisation of the Newcastle City Centre continues while ensuring our rich and diverse cultural heritage remains protected and conserved.

What happens after community consultation?

The project team will review all feedback received during consultation before considering any changes to the heritage planning for these areas.

Following community consultation, we will prepare a draft report outlining CN's recommendations and any proposed changes to HCA boundaries or new heritage items. The community will have further opportunities to provide feedback on the recommendations within this report before any changes are implemented.

Ways to have your say

We want to hear from all residents and businesses who have an interest in the cultural heritage of the study area. There are a number of ways for you to have your say, including:

- providing feedback via the interactive map
- answering our quick poll to identify which streetscapes have heritage value
- completing the online submission form

Document Library

Map 1 - HCAs Review Study Area
PDF (4.81 MB)

Map 2 - NLEP 2012 Heritage Map
PDF (4.50 MB)

FAQ

- What is a heritage conservation area?
- What is a heritage item?
- Which heritage conservation areas are being reviewed?
- How can I provide feedback via the interactive map?
- Can I nominate a heritage item or heritage conservation area located outside the study area?
- What is out of scope for the review?
- What if I own a heritage item or live in a heritage conservation area and need more information?

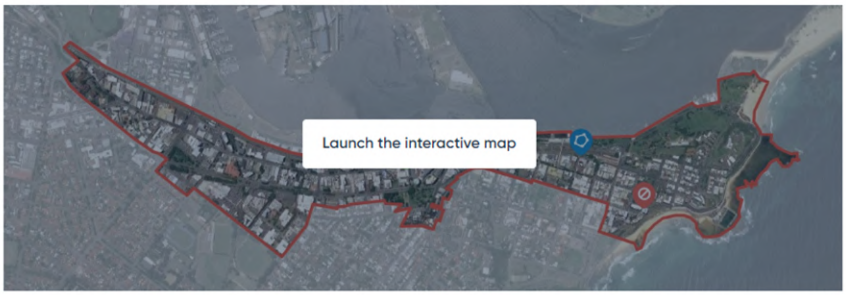
Timeline

Have Your Say webpage (Cont'd)

Feedback closes 5pm 29 May 2023.

INTERACTIVE MAP | QUICK POLL | ONLINE SUBMISSION

Click the button below to launch the map and drag pins to identify places which do or don't have heritage merit and those with shared heritage or built character.



Community Engagement (Phase 1)

17 April – 29 May 2023

Seek community feedback to identify buildings and places of heritage value in the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas.

Under Review

June 2023 – July 2023

The project team will review all community feedback and use this to prepare a draft report outlining CN's recommendations for the heritage conservation areas within the study area.

Community Engagement (Phase 2)

September – October 2023

Seek community feedback on the draft recommendations report for the heritage conservation areas within the study area.

Review and Report to Council

November – December 2023

Review all community feedback on the heritage conservation areas recommendations report. The final report will be presented to Council for endorsement.

See less

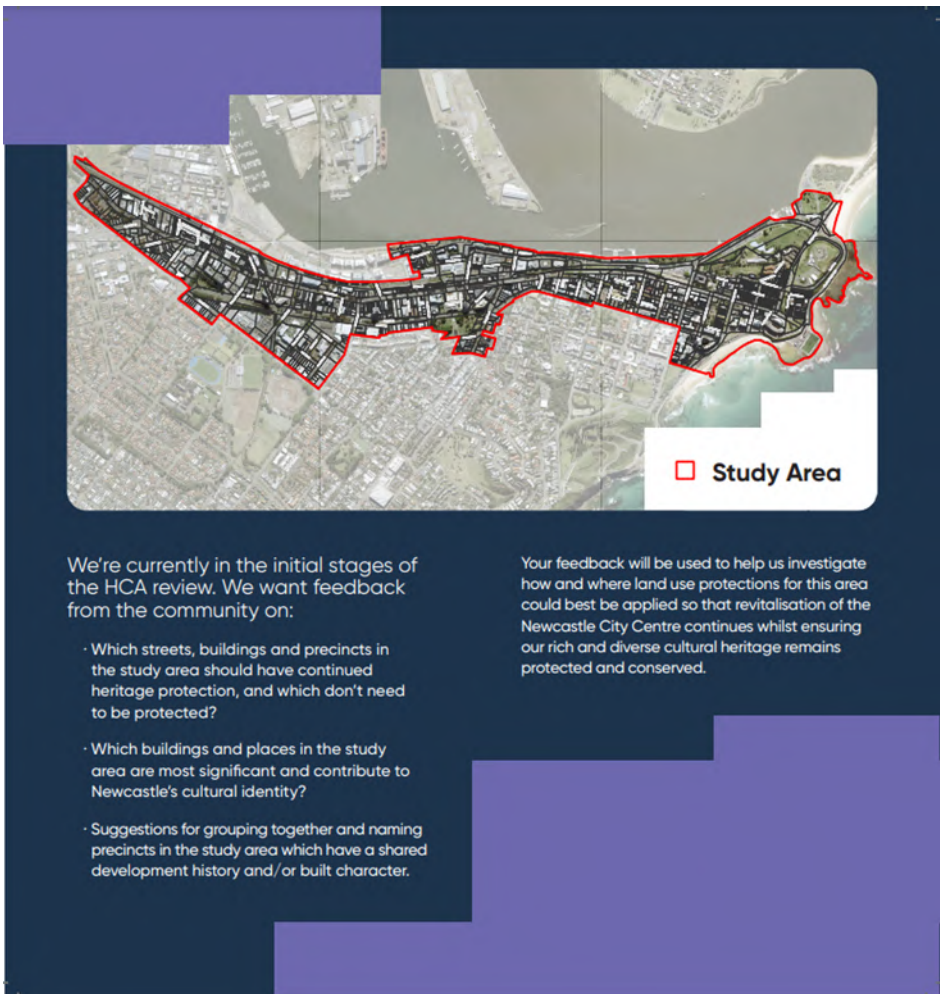
Contact Us

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

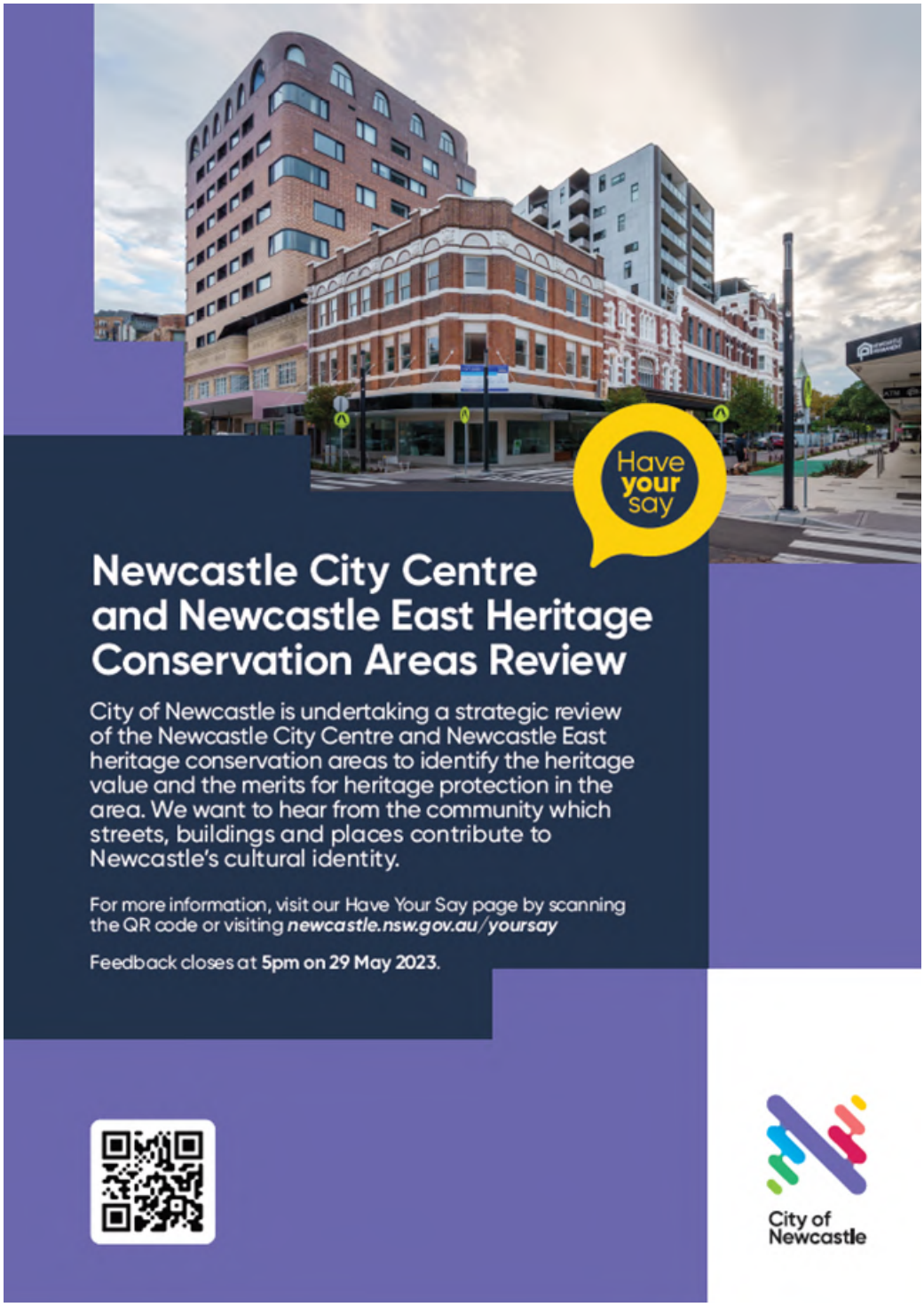
Flyer


Have your say
Newcastle City Centre & Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas Review
City of Newcastle is undertaking a strategic review of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas (HCAs) to identify the heritage value and the merits for heritage protection in the area. The buildings, streets, and precincts of these two HCAs have experienced significant change brought about by recent economic revitalisation of Newcastle City Centre.
We're seeking feedback from the community about which streets, buildings and places within these areas have heritage significance and/or contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity.
Have your say:
There are a range of ways for you to have your say, including:
• Providing feedback via our interactive map
• Completing our quick poll to identify which streetscapes have heritage value
• Completing our online form
For more information, visit our Have Your Say page by scanning the QR code or visiting newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay
Feedback closes at 5pm on 29 May 2023.
City of Newcastle

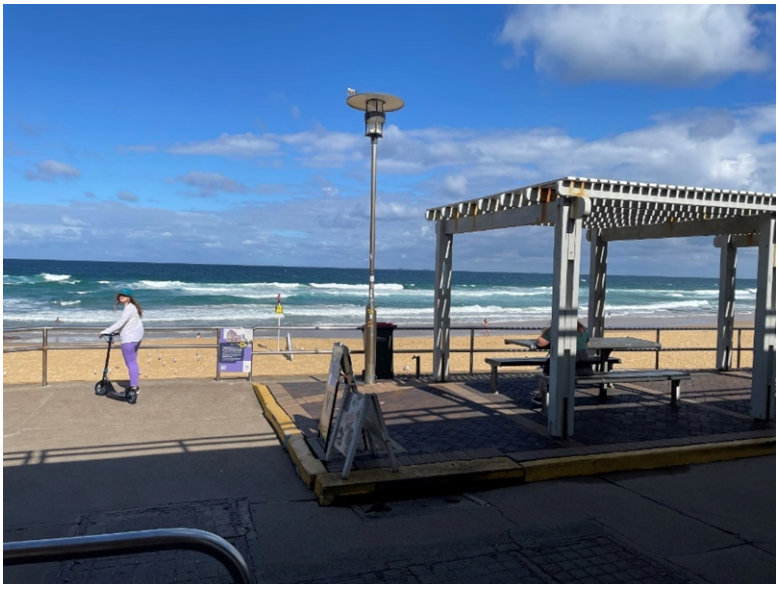
Flyer (Cont'd)


Study Area
We're currently in the initial stages of the HCA review. We want feedback from the community on:
· Which streets, buildings and precincts in the study area should have continued heritage protection, and which don't need to be protected?
· Which buildings and places in the study area are most significant and contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity?
· Suggestions for grouping together and naming precincts in the study area which have a shared development history and/or built character.
Your feedback will be used to help us investigate how and where land use protections for this area could best be applied so that revitalisation of the Newcastle City Centre continues whilst ensuring our rich and diverse cultural heritage remains protected and conserved.

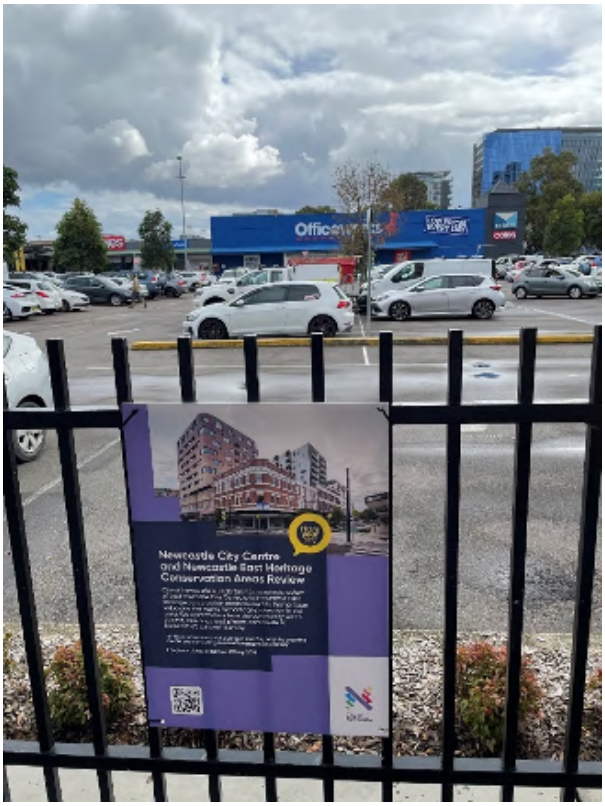
Signage


Have your say
Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas Review
City of Newcastle is undertaking a strategic review of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas to identify the heritage value and the merits for heritage protection in the area. We want to hear from the community which streets, buildings and places contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity.
For more information, visit our Have Your Say page by scanning the QR code or visiting newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay
Feedback closes at 5pm on 29 May 2023.
City of Newcastle

The corflute signs were installed at Newcastle Beach, Newcastle Interchange, Marketown Shopping Centre and Honeysuckle.



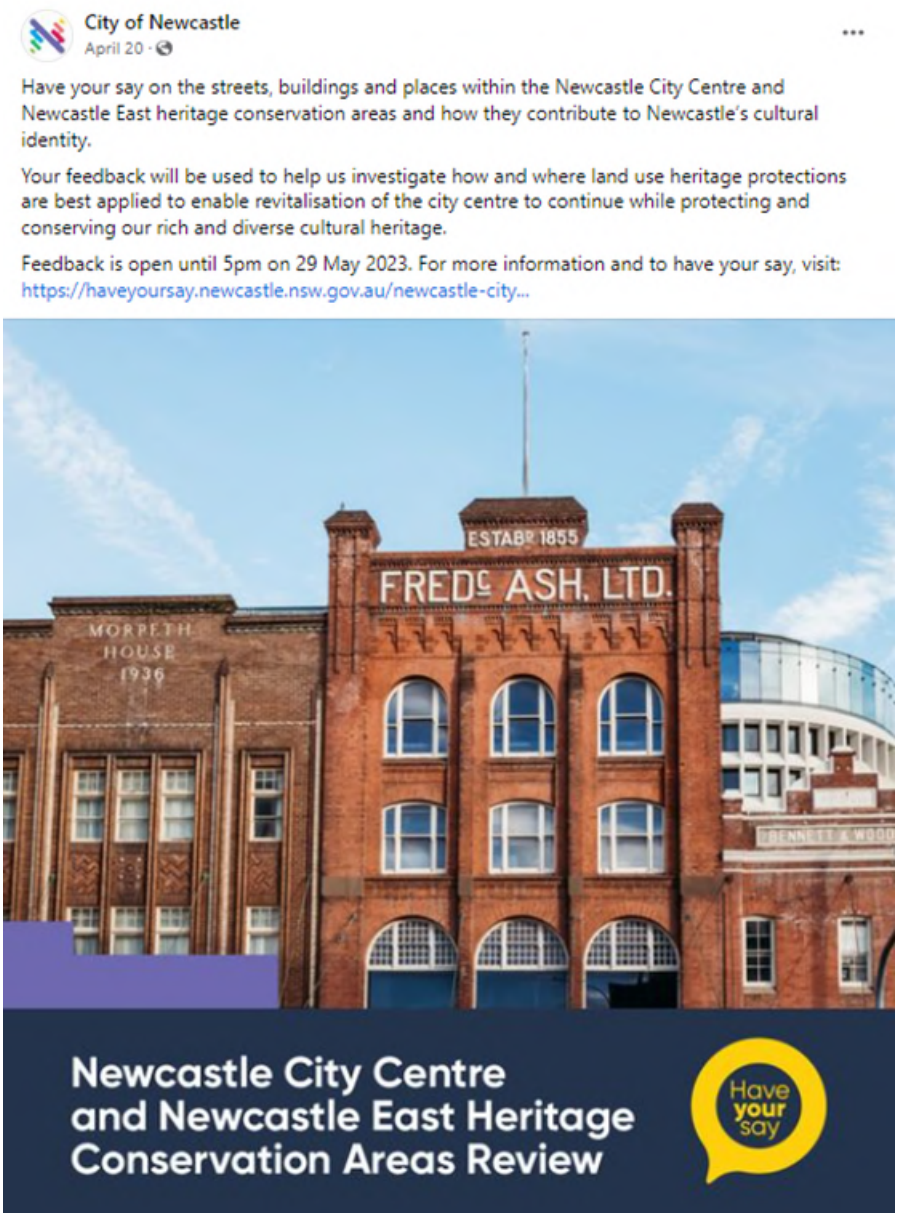






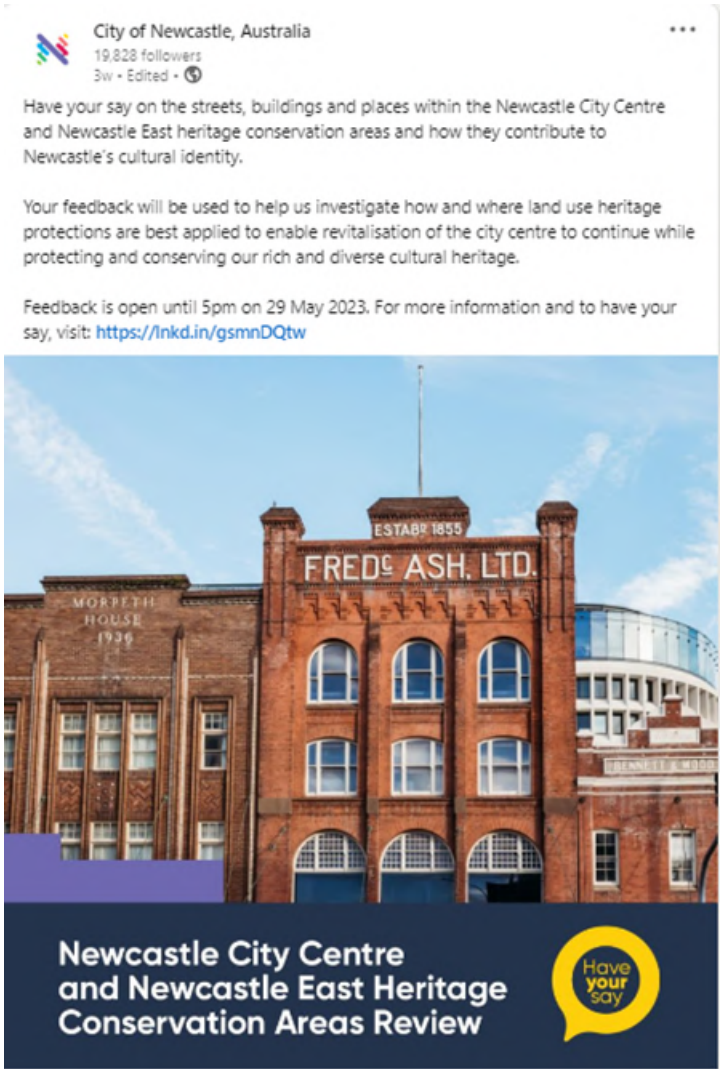
Social media

Facebook post



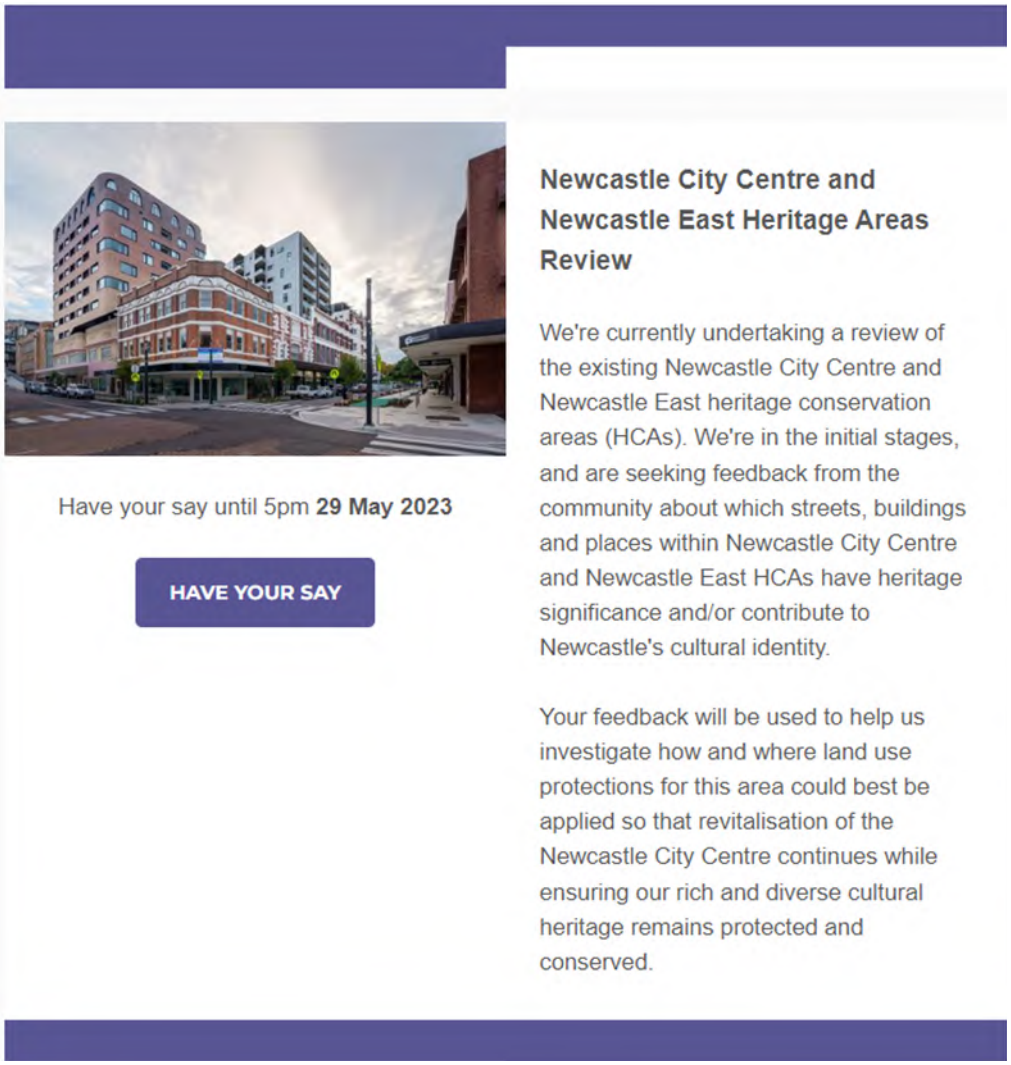
Social Media

LinkedIn post



Newsletters

Newcastle Voice



Have your say until 5pm **29 May 2023**

HAVE YOUR SAY

Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Areas Review

We're currently undertaking a review of the existing Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas (HCAs). We're in the initial stages, and are seeking feedback from the community about which streets, buildings and places within Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs have heritage significance and/or contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity.

Your feedback will be used to help us investigate how and where land use protections for this area could best be applied so that revitalisation of the Newcastle City Centre continues while ensuring our rich and diverse cultural heritage remains protected and conserved.

Newsletters

Development eNews

Review of Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas

CN are at the beginning of a staged project to review two of our eight Heritage Conservation Areas (see study area below). The buildings, streets, and precincts of this area experienced significant change with recent economic revitalisation. The review aims to identify heritage value and merits for heritage protection in this area while addressing requirements under the *EP&A Act 1979* and CN's Heritage Strategy 2020-2030.



CN will seek initial community feedback until **29 May 2023** via CN's Have Your Say page to identify:

- Buildings and places in the study area with continued heritage protection merit;
- Precincts in the study area with shared development history and/or built character;
- Potential HCA boundary adjustments for the study area; and
- Possible new heritage item listings in the study area.

CN will rely on the initial feedback to inform the review. The review aims to find a balance for the Newcastle City Centre's revitalisation to continue while enabling our rich and diverse cultural heritage to remain protected and conserved.

Have your say here!

Appendix II – Online feedback form and Quick Poll

Online feedback form



Quick Poll

Open

Please select which of the following streetscapes have heritage value to you: Required

Select as many as apply.



Wood Street, Newcastle West



Hunter Street, Newcastle West



Hunter Street, Newcastle (East End)



Hunter Street, Newcastle (Civic)

Quick Poll (Cont'd)



Hunter Street, Newcastle (Worth Place to Union St)



Parry Street, Newcastle West



Centenary Road, Newcastle



Alfred Street, Newcastle East



Steel Street, Newcastle West (Marketown)



Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle

Submit

Appendix III – Submissions

Online submissions

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage– De-identified
Newcastle City Centre Heritage Area (NCCHCA) The area north of King Street and east of Wolfe Street through to Pacific Street makes a significant contribution to Newcastle's cultural identity and heritage. It contains many heritage buildings and has a real feeling of a sense of place. It needs special attention and be identified as a named precinct. Also, the section between Wolfe and Watt Streets and south of King Street needs to be in a separate heritage conservation area. This would capture many additional significant heritage items including the Obelisk and surrounding area and make the Newcastle's heritage even richer. Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (NEHCA). This area east of Pacific Street through to the ocean is a fundamental cultural heritage area for Newcastle and so it is critical that this whole area remains in this heritage conservation area. There are many significant heritage precincts within the conservation area including the Convict Lumber Yards and Bond stores. The area has many small laneways and historic terraces that together give the whole area a very special feel. Once some of these buildings are lost or demolished they cannot be replaced and the whole area risks losing its uniqueness. Newcastle, NSW and Australia will be the lesser for it.
Newcastle East is a small area packed with character and history and is a drawcard for visitors and residents. But to keep it like this it needs preservation and a bit more love. Preservation: The facades of the existing buildings need to be maintained and newer designs only accepted if they're sympathetic and remain in keeping with existing facades. Behind these facades however there must be scope for residents to improve their houses without the restraints of heritage orders etc. A bit more love: -This is foremost a residential area and needs to be protected from expansion of hospitality facilities, especially hotels and late night/all night venues and the ravages of Supercars (think trees chopped down, unsightly pedestrian crossings etc.) -The place needs a good tidy up! There are so many cracked (dangerous) footpaths and straggly, untidy, overgrown trees. How about some work on this and also some beautification...planter boxes on footpaths, more trees. A walk around places such as Surry Hills in Sydney or Battery Point in Hobart shows areas that look like someone cares! Councils there understand the value of the tourism industry that these areas bring. Unfortunately that's not the case at the moment in Newcastle East but the area has so much potential for beautification and that would make it a real drawcard for visitors.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (NCCHCA). Hunter St from Perkins St to Pacific Park. I believe that heritage conservation with integrity means that the whole building is conserved. Removing everything but the facade in my opinion is a feeble, token attempt to address the heritage value of a building. This has been the practice thus far in Hunter St from Perkins St heading east. It changes the look, feel and aesthetic of the streetscape and the skyline with multiple levels rearing up behind the facade causing overshadowing and a feeling of oppression. I would like to see the remainder of those beautiful heritage buildings that are still intact (from Wolfe St heading east) retain their integrity and aesthetic appeal and not have to suffer this practice. It can be done by leaving the exterior but modifying and adjusting the interiors. There is a good reason why great cities such as Paris and London attract so many visitors - these visitors want to see, feel and experience a history of place and retaining the architecture in its original state is how that has been achieved in these cities. Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area east of Pacific St. This whole area is extremely valuable to Newcastle's sense of history and place. Its rich diversity and social fabric must be protected and retained as a heritage conservation area. I think that it must be the envy of many towns and cities around Australia not least of all Wollongong which unfortunately has done away with much of its heritage precincts. There are so many visitors that come to the East End to experience the unique cultural combination of the beaches and the interesting, intimate streetscape that these historic terraces and laneways have to offer. Sydney is still trying to recreate this in the CBD. However once the integrity and authenticity of a heritage area has been compromised or worse still, destroyed, there is no going back.
Seeking public opinion in identifying buildings and zones for adding to, or removal from heritage listing is valuable, however, the information gained should be then assessed by qualified heritage personnel. In addition, that process should not negate a full a professional assessment of the areas under consideration. Contributing items should also be considered such as sandstone kerb and gutter, plantings, laneways and street layout. While the removal of areas that now feature predominately new builds, e.g. Honeysuckle from a conservation zone may be valid, there may be a negative impact to adjoining heritage buildings and zones.
I have reviewed the Heritage map provided in detail and undertaken quick poll. Thank you for proving these, the opportunity to provide feedback and hopefully you receive good thoughtful and useful submissions. I value the importance of maintaining our heritage however I feel strongly that maintaining the overall cleanliness of the City is a huge priority. Dilapidated, empty, graffiti covered buildings and shops are a shocking eyesore. The footpaths are often poor quality so to walk around the City admiring and learning about our heritage buildings / areas is often spoilt by bins overflowing, parks not well maintained, litter everywhere on footpaths , bottles, urine and vomit often make for a very unpleasant walk around, especially with our visitors. Observing our heritage is important but more importantly to enjoy what we have, please clean up "dirty Newcastle".

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
I am quite puzzled by the intent of this Heritage Survey. As far as I am aware, CoN's own Heritage Strategy 2013-2017 is a document meant to protect the significant heritage architecture of Newcastle. Unfortunately, CoN has not implemented said protection. Indeed, instead of preserving our beautiful buildings, CoN has contributed to the degradation of our historical heritage by facilitating the running of an exceptionally destructive street race through some of our most historic streets. Thus I am skeptical as to why, when our historically significant buildings have already been identified by experts, CoN feels it necessary to ignore the experts and instead ask the public to choose or reject which of our beautiful buildings they might like. And why is it that my row of beautiful terraces in Church Street (a state listed heritage terrace house), originally known as Barrister's row, dating back to 1891 and its companion row on Watt Street, are excluded (among many other significant buildings in the East End) from its review? In summary I think this review is ill considered and has not been implemented in order to improve and protect our community. As such, I am vehemently against this survey and have grave doubts as to its intent.
Thank you for the opportunity to include a submission concerning the review of the Newcastle City Centre and East Heritage Conservation Areas. I have taken the liberty of including parts of Newcastle West in my comments as the area is equally relevant (and often ignored). City of Newcastle “Have Your Say” function demands very detailed feedback be provided and wide-ranging knowledge of the relevant areas and local history. It demands the use of convoluted software. I believe that to engage at the level expected by City of Newcastle is very challenging for the average ratepayer – not to be disparaging of ratepayers! - and will meaningfully diminish the level of engagement. When this happens I suggest the results then may be interpreted as lack of public interest, lack of involvement, which is not a true perception of public opinion but might suggest a widespread frustration with the process. There’s no option for comment. There needs to be special protection for low-rise, human scale pockets of heritage architecture, to ensure that there is life between the high-rise towers that are projected for the area. This should include the view from the roadways that approach and travel through the precincts. City of Newcastle does not have a good history of respecting and retaining its history. I suggest that Novocastrians in general do respect and do enjoy retention when it occurs. Too much has been consumed, lost forever, ignored and left to rot, or blatantly destroyed by neglect and inattention. The best cities value their heritage. The best cities maintain their heritage. The best cities understand that this enhances their tourism value. The best cities maintain their liveability. I want Newcastle to be one of the best cities to live in. Do you? Strong planning decisions by Council with proper consultation with those that live here and a genuine commitment to retaining history and its value to the community is imperative. Please, build on, don’t reduce, the local heritage character. Please, preserve clear evidence of historical precincts. Worth noting is that it is important that surveys and reviews distributed by City of Newcastle need to be simple and user-friendly and accessible to all ratepayers.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
Newcastle does not have a good history of respecting and retaining its history. Too much has been lost, is ignored and left to rot, or is blatantly destroyed. Sophisticated cities value and maintain their heritage. This significantly enhances their tourism value and certainly their liveability. Yes, much of the area is in a shameful state, dirty, dilapidated and neglected. Strong planning decisions by Council, a creative approach and a genuine valuing of and commitment to retaining history is imperative. The current HCAs need to be maintained in their entirety. All the streets, buildings and precincts within the HCA's need the benefit of heritage controls. More than that, they should be mandatory and not watered-down. The "desired future character" of the city and surrounding areas should seek to build on, rather than diminish, the extant heritage character. Planning should seek to preserve clear evidence of historical precincts. There needs to be special protection for low-rise, human scale pockets of heritage architecture, to ensure that there is life between the high-rise towers that are projected for the area. In conclusion, it needs to be stressed again that it is critical that surveys and reviews distributed by the City of Newcastle need to be simple.
NewWest Community Group Submission Review of Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the review of the Newcastle City Centre and East Heritage Conservation Areas. The "Have Your Say" process asks for very detailed feedback and extensive knowledge of the area and its history. It includes the use of complicated software. To participate at the level expected is very onerous and will significantly diminish the level of engagement. Unfortunately, these factors have the capacity to be interpreted as a lack of public interest, which is far from a true perception of widespread public opinion. Unlike some recent reviews, the process does at least allow for some form of open option for comment and this is acknowledged and appreciated. Newcastle does not have a good history of respecting and retaining its history. Too much has been lost, is ignored and left to rot, or is blatantly destroyed. Sophisticated cities value and maintain their heritage. This significantly enhances their tourism value and certainly their liveability. Yes, much of the area is in a shameful state, dirty, dilapidated and neglected. Strong planning decisions by Council, a creative approach and a genuine valuing of and commitment to retaining history is imperative. The current HCAs need to be maintained in their entirety. All the streets, buildings and precincts within the HCA's need the benefit of heritage controls. More than that, they should be mandatory and not watered-down. The "desired future character" of the city and surrounding areas should seek to build on, rather than diminish, the extant heritage character. Planning should seek to preserve clear evidence of historical precincts. There needs to be special protection for low-rise, human scale pockets of heritage architecture, to ensure that there is life between the high-rise towers that are projected for the area. In conclusion, it needs to be stressed again that it is critical that surveys and reviews distributed by the City of Newcastle need to be simple.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage– De-identified

I live in Newcastle East which has a unique collection of buildings of great historical and heritage value. Newcastle was settled as the second area of settlement in NSW and many of the buildings reflect the architecture and character of those early times.

This heritage must be protected as an entire area and not be detracted from by identifying individual buildings which could be demolished and replaced heaven forbid by modern high rise apartment buildings. Having such replacement buildings dotted throughout the precinct will destroy the character and ambience of the area for all time.

Newcastle East must be preserved as a complete entity and example to the world of what buildings were like in the early days of settlement.

Many buildings around us have been restored to their original appearance and character with strict adherence to heritage and height restrictions. Examples are in Scott, Bond Street and Alfred Street, modernised to some extent inside but retaining the appearance and character of the original buildings These buildings are magnificent and the Council is to be congratulated on insisting on this approach.
I strongly suggest that this policy be continued.

The Quick Poll only has Alfred Street as a n are to comment but the way to approach this is to establish a planning policy for the whole of Newcastle East with whatever safeguards are necessary to preserve its historical and heritage character. Council has a serious responsibility to take action to preserve the uniqueness of Newcastle East for the benefit of Australia and world visitors for posterity.

Council should resist any inclination to rezone to enable development detracting from the unique heritage and historical value of the entire area of Newcastle East

I write as a Newcastle seafarer with a family history that goes back not to the last century but to the century before. With a family with contributions that go to the pioneering lifesaving feats of the Port City of Newcastle and service to the nation during war. In the photographs submitted, the picture of the Customs House Restaurant is where I came from, then The Customs House nearly forty years ago on my path to the maritime industry, an approach walked by my forebears in generations past. After training in Tasmania, I came to the seaman's engagement centre, 'the pick-up', and a timber building formally in the car park at the eastern end of Customs House. Submitted is an extract from the Seaman's Journal at the time; with my father advocating for a building I went to for my first ship, the Seaman's Engagement Building is now gone. I signed articles for my first ship in the Mercantile Marine Office at the east end of Customs House.

I recently went to the site, and I could not help but think of the lived history that had passed through the venue. A maritime history many Customs House Restaurant diners would not be aware of. All those seafarers who signed on and off their Articles of Agreement. Especially those seafarers who signed their Articles and never returned to their home port. I also submit clippings of my grandfather's time as the last of the lifeboat man, the pioneers of the lifesaving movement. As a life boatman, he resided in Boatman's Row on Nobbys Road. My father was born at 36 Nobbys Road then, and in time, my father and his brothers would accept the call of the sea. My father, Duncan Kelly, joined his first ship, the BHP bulk carrier Iron Knight on 11-10-1939 at the start of the 2nd World War.

I hope this approach offers an opportunity for Australia's oldest export port to recognise that The City of Newcastle Council operates without historical memory. Newcastle is a port city with no maritime museum. In Canberra, half a billion dollars has been spent on the National War Memorial. In Sydney, the National Maritime Museum offers those who arrived by the sea a place to have their name engraved on a Welcome Wall. Newcastle, Australia's oldest export port, has a couple of flagpoles and plaques struck by BHP. My father's first to sea in 1939 was sunk in 1943; the SS Iron Knight has never been found.

I write this to advocate for Newcastle Maritime's history; I write for those friends and seafarers sailing in peace and wartime service who never sailed home. I write about the lived history of the Port City of Newcastle.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
The Convict Lumber Yard, Enterprise Park, is arguably the earliest and most historically significant site in Newcastle. The site is overgrown by trees shielding and obscuring outlines of the building that was originally on site. The sandstone foundations (currently buried approx. 1 metre below ground) are replicated by the “steel benches” above. I feel these sandstone foundations could be damaged by the tree roots and thus should be exposed to preserve them and to allow visitors to appreciate the original structures. At least the trees should probably be removed to avoid further damage.
The Convict Lumber Yard is arguably the most historically important site in East Newcastle. The steel outline of the original building on the Scott Street side is blurred, shielded and hidden by the overgrown trees on the site. The sandstone foundations, replicated by the “steel benches” on the site, buried some 1 metre below ground are possibly being ruined / destroyed by the roots of the trees on site. These foundations should possibly be exposed to allow visitors to appreciate the historic significance of the site. I am of the opinion that the true importance of the site should be revealed by the removal of the trees thus enabling clear appreciation of the heritage value of this site.
I believe Newcastle should value and preserve it heritage. From the Signal Box building, North to the river, East to Nobbys Beach, South to Church Street and West to include both sides of the Mall. This area in bound by Perkins Street, The River, The Esplanade and Hunter Street. This area includes The Convict Lumber Yard, The Railway, The Terrace Houses, The Foreshore and Magnificent buildings i.e. The Old Post Office in the Mall. For Newcastle to retain its soul these areas are a must to preserve.
I disagree with the whole block between fort drive and Scott street excluding the hotel should be heritage listed due to the buildings age and design. There is a number of recent redevelopments in the area which have been completed in uniform with the area. Furthermore, Council has approved these recent redevelopments. Shame to approve these then restrict other owners from undertaking similar works in the future. Also the fact council is considering approval of the plans for the redevelopment of the Newcastle Beach Hotel then will place heritage restrictions on the surrounding area is another contradiction
Shepherd's Hill ruins need a clean.
All the older homes in the East-end of Newcastle add considerably to the cultural heritage of the survey area and attract tourists and the film industry. I have observed the preservation of the terrace houses in Parnell Place, where the owners have modernized the interiors while restoring the facades to maintain the character of these wonderful old homes. So much history would be lost in the demolition of the survey buildings indicated in the survey in Hunter, Scott and Parry streets. My own family played a very small part in the evolution of this wonderful city. My great grandfather's Teralba quarry supplied the gravel for the streets belonging to the A.A. company and later to Newcastle Council streets. The shops the family built in the CBD have long been demolished. I applaud the work in The Mall area.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
Retain all old buildings in the area, in every street. Once gone you lose the ‘heritage’ forever. The buildings can be restored inside but leave the facades. These buildings create uniqueness and character for Newcastle. The areas are already adequately named- no need for new names. All buildings in area are significant and contribute to Newcastle’s cultural identity and character
Newcastle post office has become a pigeon coop. If we talking about heritage buildings and the revitalisation of Newcastle this is a prime example of what a joke this project actually is. Jerry Schwartz has permission now to build a monstrosity on Wharf Road, which will increase the traffic congestion along wharf Road to an unmanageable degree. The noise created along Wharf Road from the hoods that race up and down is excessive.
Unfortunately Newcastle has lost too much of its heritage buildings and precincts, we should insure that we don't lose any more. When visiting any city in the world, the most interesting and most visited areas are the "Old Town", the heritage areas that indicate the history and evolution of such Cities. We are lucky to still have interesting historical architecture remaining in the "East End". But my favourite area is the Grand Hotel precinct, luckily perhaps, this area appears to have been saved with the wonderful Terrace Houses in Watt and Church Streets being valued by the owners who are carrying out great restorations in keeping with the era's architecture. It would appear that much of these restorations are faithful, as can be expected, to the original and are hopefully being overseen by the Council's Heritage Section. I commend the council for addressing the need to maintain all these historic areas and am confident the N.C.C. will reap both financial rewards and accolades for this initiative but it must stay "on the ball" in assessing the relevance of other original buildings as they come up for re-development. The Former Newcastle Municipal Offices, now being successfully operated as the U.S.C.(Club) in Watt Street is another building which is critical to be preserved. It was the centrepiece of the colonial era, the fledgling Newcastle City Council was run from here almost 150 years ago and It should be celebrated. This important building from Newcastle's administrative past is adjacent to the other historic buildings in the Grand Hotel, Watt and Church Terraced Housing precincts, they complement each other and, I believe, should be at the forefront of an HISTORIC WALKING TOUR of this beautiful liveable city.
I find it really inappropriate that the super car event is held in the heritage precinct. A lot of the local history has been compromised (or trashed), and the streetscape has been altered with the removal of so many civic trees. Also, the event stops access for the general public to both the natural and built landscape for far too long. I think the event devalues the heritage and public access to the heritage precinct. With so much housing being built, there needs to be more soft green space, not so many hard structures for recreation. Civic plantings for softer streetscapes, shade and environmental considerations. New buildings need to be built with the view that they will last for generations, not just long enough to generate profit for the investor. Change rooms at Nobby's and Newcastle beaches and the baths essential, and should be retained. Besides being essential for bathers, they have value as social heritage.

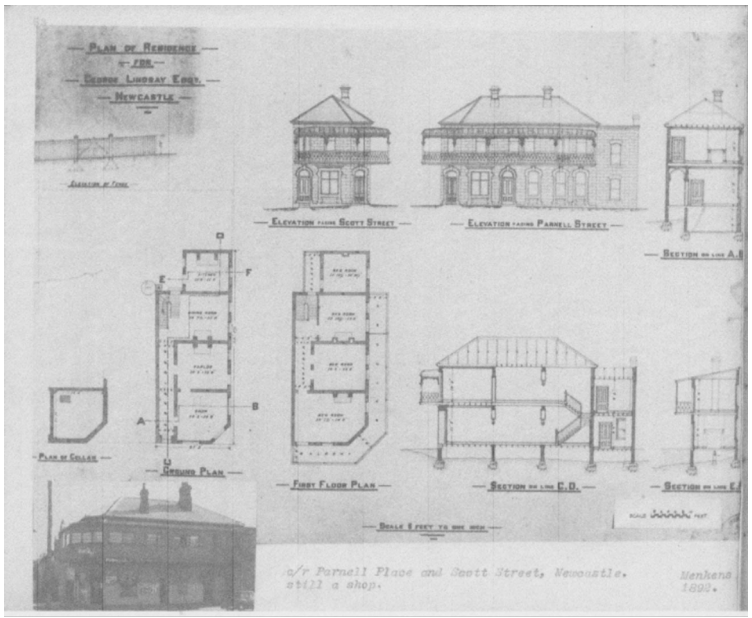
Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
I trust NCC are not too narrow in their review of the Newcastle East heritage area. Unfortunately there appears to be minimal recognition of First Nations People who resided on this land for tens of thousands of years before current European settlement. And as for being fixated on only a certain era in the last 200 years, NCC should represent all heritage in the last 2 centuries including more recent additions such as the renowned contributions made by Suters architects in the areas of the housing commission buildings & the previous councils admin building. Moreover, moving forward NCC should broaden its mindset and celebrate heritage but also embrace change in order to allow our cities to be more liveable into the future. For instance, redevelopment of the old Novocastrian Hotel should not have to conform to heritage rules from a bygone era. These are some thoughts that I hope NCC will take into consideration.
The heritage protection of Newcastle City and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs) is an essential part of preserving Newcastle's cultural and social heritage and history, giving the city an identifiable and unique identity. There is a wealth of commercial and residential architectural styles, sites, buildings, monuments, facades, streets and open spaces within the HCAs. Urban development, regeneration and rejuvenation is essential for the economic growth of Newcastle, providing new and exciting residential and commercial opportunities, improved amenities and encourages tourism, festivals and events in Newcastle City and Newcastle East. I support carefully planned developments but in keeping with current HCA and height restrictions in the Newcastle City and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas.
I write on behalf of the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) which owns 128 Parry Street, Newcastle West, within the C4 Newcastle City Centre heritage conservation area. LAHC notes that the emerging character on the northern side of Parry Street in the immediate vicinity of 128 Parry Street is multi storey residential flat buildings. As such, LAHC asks Council to consider excluding the northern side of Parry Street from the C4 Newcastle City Centre heritage conservation area as it is not, or no longer, worthy of protection as a conservation area. Thank you for your consideration.
My wife and I have recently relocated to Newcastle East, although we've had a long-standing relationship with the city and the Hunter Valley. We're still familiarising with the streets and precinct in which we now live, but we believe the area around Stephenson Place/Zaara St/Alfred St has the makings of an impressive "Bohemian Quarter" or "Artisans' Quarter", and could be easily developed and marketed as such with a bit of colourful signage, maybe a bit more street scaping to bring this potential to fruition. It reminds us very much of the Montmartre area of Paris. [Just to confirm: we do not live in this vicinity, so have no personal or pecuniary interest in advancing such a project.]
The heritage on the beautiful buildings of Newcastle and green space needs to continue. These buildings and green space bring many visitors to the area. One of the reasons we bought in this area was because of the architecture of Newcastle which preserved many different heritage styles and areas. The whole East End holds a huge amount of heritage value. The Station and parks give areas to hold outdoor entertainment, families to have picnics and enjoy time outdoors with their children.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
The Newcastle foreshore area is world class and must be protected in its current form. The harbour of Newcastle is a major tourist attraction to the area and will only improve and restoration continues. Any development in the identified area must take into consideration the affect it will have on tourism and the heritage of the area.
The map is hard to read and misleading, I would contend that Noah's on the beach should be excluded from the heritage site as improvements and redevelopment of the hotel site in the future should not be limited by way of Heritage impediments. We strive to promote and provide the best we can so visitors and locals can enjoy the unique position of Newcastle. I would also include the vacant block of land on three titles behind the Hotel and the houses on Scott street. I am most dissatisfied with the process and the proposal.
I feel the area at the corner of Steel and King st, adjacent McDonalds could be greatly improved for pedestrian use by removing some of the odd stone kerbing and allowing a level area to sweep round the corner instead of the trip hazard it presents now. I'm sure it's probably the skeletal outline of some former building kept for heritage purposes, but the awkwardness of the space, particularly when it comes to disability use, outweighs the heritage presence. The whole section could be removed along King St. (and that silly corner) and the footpath widened, leaving an inset brick or paver line delineating the former sandstone kerbs.
My wife and I live next door to the wonderful old St Philips Church, built in 1905. My parents were married there when war ended back in 1945. Although the church is now deconsecrated, I believe it is a wonderful example of the detailed craftsmanship of the period. It also complements the fine old terraces immediately to the south of it extending up to the corner of Watt Street and Church Street. We very much support its listing on Council's heritage list of our city's significant buildings.
Newcastle East end and Civic precinct are easily identified as being part of Newcastle history and their existence attracts people from all over Australia and the world. Without the diversity of interest they generate Newcastle would just be another city with a coastline and harbour. Perth is a perfect example of mixing the old with the new. I believe Newcastle has the ability to be the Perth on the East coast.
Longworth Institute building, 129 Scott Street CBC Bank, 17 Bolton Street 18 Bolton Street Court Chambers (1898), 42 Bolton Street David Cohen Co building, 44 Bolton Street Customs House Hotel, Watt Street Civic Theatre, Hunter Street 10 Baker Street, The Hill The Grand Hotel, 32 Church Street Earp Gillam Bond Store, 10 Bond Street James Fletcher Hospital, Watt Street Trades Hall (1895) TAFE, 608 Hunter Street Newcastle Technical College (1894) TAFE, 608 Hunter Street

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

I just wish to reinforce the understanding that heritage properties do not have to be architectural masterpieces, simple working class cottages are also worthy of preservation. They very effectively create the character of an area and demonstrate the how most of the population lived, and continue to live. It is important that Newcastle doesn't lose its character as in the future it will become an even more important defining asset (just as Bath, UK has a uniquely defining character).
It is also important to consider the area surrounding a heritage property, rather than treat it is an island surrounded by unsympathetic structures and activities. Miss Porter's House is a wonderful example of a heritage property that would greatly benefit from more sympathetic surroundings.
Your document stated that some properties are 'protected by the National Trust'. That is incorrect, The National Trust can list a property as being worthy of protection but does not have any power to prevent its destruction. Newcastle Council has the power of protection, not the National Trust.

I would like to see the building on the corner of Parnell Place and Scott St, and surrounding homes, added to the protected/heritage list of Newcastle. The building on the cnr of Parnell Place and Scott St was built in 1892 as the residence of George Lindsay. The building which was a cellar and shop on the ground floor and a residence on the first floor was designed by the architect Frederick Menkens and the plans appear in the book 'The Life and works of Frederick Menkens Architect. 1855-1910' by Les Redman (1956) pages 53,54.
The building is currently used as office space, but was once the very well-known Villa Franca restaurant. The building still bears that name.



Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
We were delighted and very interested to realise the significance of the Convict Lumber Yard when we purchased a property in the east end of the CBD some four years ago. We are concerned and a little at a loss to perceive the overshadowing of the steel structure delineating the shape / outline of the original building on this site by trees that are obscuring the historical nature of the building outline. We are similarly concerned about all trees obscuring the raised steel “benches” simulating the buried foundations of the building, probably encroaching and thus damaging the buried stone foundations that exist below ground. We are conversely pleased to note the reparation work done to the well a little closer to the north east on the same site. To have an extremely important historical and heritage site in what appears to be a state of neglect is somewhat concerning.
31-37 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East was built in 2006, replacing a 1970s hotel. There is no current heritage value and should be removed from the Heritage area, like all newly built buildings on Shortland Esplanade. This would cut wasted time for NCC and for occupants with DAs. It is on the site of the early convict gaol which is noted by a plaque at the front of the building which is mostly used by dogs to urinate on- maybe a better display or even a QR code link could emphasise the history of the area.
The bikes and scooters on the shared and non-shared pavements are downright dangerous. Speed and the weaving between pedestrians is an accident waiting to happen. Many older people are buying apartments in the city so they can stay independent but this is a danger.
I'm sure you will agree that the vast majority of rate payers are not interested in the heritage conversation areas. While there are a few legitimate sites such as Fort Scratchley, there are also many listed areas that are not meritorious and need to be removed as their heritage badging causes unnecessary problems. I stress again that the vast majority of rate payers are not interested and therefore do no voice their opinions on this topic. Please do not unnecessarily spend our rates on things that we do not value.
Suggest Strategic Planning Team take the opportunity to also review the need for LEP principal development standards in the Newcastle East HCA. Many other HCA's in CN's Local Government Area are not subject to Floor Space Ratio and Building Height limits but for some reason Newcastle East HCA is still subject to these provisions. Many planning applications in this part of the LGA since the 2012 LEP have also had to include LEP Clause 4.6 variations to principal development standards (often triggering the need to also be reported to Development Assessment Committee of Council) to justify development proposals due to tiny sites or existing built form not fitting with LEP principal development standards (even though they are often satisfactory from a built form, planning and heritage perspective), yet development in other HCA's are able to be considered on merit and having regard to heritage impacts without the need to also apply LEP principal development standards.
The heritage value of many parts of our city are of great significance however in my opinion the Council needs to place much more emphasis on the here and now, particularly in the West End. The condition of the streetscape in this area is very neglected. The footpaths are always littered with rubbish and general filth such as pigeon excreta. Surely the Council can apply a footpath sweeping machine as do Lake Mac council and an occasional truck mounted water washer. The approach roads in to the city such as Hannell St where the median strips always seem in need of mowing and lots of dead weeds growing out of the concrete cracks. Can we have a campaign to remove the graffiti too?

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
I think the 2012 plan should remain in place but that it should include Cooks Hill (unless this has its own conservation plan …which I think it does). I think that Union Street and Parry should also be included in the plan. In summary I think the zone should be expanded rather than shrunk in any way.
OK, let's keep the heritage listed buildings / facades. BUT let's move forward. In Newcastle West there are very few 100% clean / smart eateries. A large food court would be a good start - perhaps in the vicinity of the Interchange at Wickham. If you think about it - Hunter Street Newcastle used to be the street most referred to / talked about in Newcastle - let's bring Hunter Street Newcastle back to a street where it is 100% clean / hygienic / drug dree. Hunter Street at the moment (near the Interchange to Bank Corner) is in a state of a need for a very good steam cleaning on a regular basis - and for upgraded recycling bins.
I recently moved to Newcastle in 2021 with my partner. I grew up in Sydney and have always loved beautiful heritage buildings. Unfortunately in Sydney I found that they've become more and more scarce. It was a breath of fresh air moving to Newcastle. I love that there is a real effort to maintain the history and heritage buildings. Living in Wickham I absolutely love walking through the city and admiring all the old buildings and historical sites throughout. It is certainly something I absolutely love about our new home and am proud of. I would hate to see Newcastle City Council change its stance on respecting and maintaining the history in Newcastle. It is all too often thrown to the wayside in the interest of money and greed.
The economic revitalisation of Newcastle city centre must not see Newcastle lose its unique city and landscape. Already the developments going on have given Newcastle a much more Sydney feel with giant sky scrapers everywhere or going up. Newcastle is fast losing its laid back cruise beach town feel for a much more metropolitan/little Sydney. This is NOT what residents want. For example the development at dairy farmers corner! What a joke! Is that protecting our heritage? To put 2 30 story buildings up that look like glass sardine tins? And leave the little milk bottle because that is heritage listed! It's disgusting. We do not want a landscape like Sydney. We do not want to be a city like Sydney. We want to keep our own unique feel.
The supercars event is not consistent with the heritage values & related ambience of central Newcastle. It's bad enough that the area has been & continues to be an ongoing building site with a number of constructed high-rise buildings also being inconsistent with inherent heritage values. NCC'S so-called ecological values are sadly skewed.
Leave the rail corridor alone. No more apartments in honeysuckle. It's becoming out of control. We bought our apartment for the views. Now it's just looking at someone else in their apartment.
The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is the most significant, unique and valuable heritage area in the Newcastle LGA. It is therefore incomprehensible that the precinct is partially or full alienated for 20% of the year, every year, for Supercars, the polar opposite of what the area represents. The physical and reputational damage to the precinct is considerable. The event greatly accelerates wear and tear on the infrastructure with damage to footpaths, kerbs, roads and parklands accumulating year on year. Instead of being a destination for its unique attributes, it has become known for man proof fences and concrete barriers and decaying infrastructure. Allowing the Protection of the Environment Operations Act to be "turned off" for nine weeks every year for the entire precinct and allowing a private for profit company to do as they please in a heritage area is unforgivable. It is hard to image an event that could do more damage to the City of Newcastle's credibility on heritage preservation.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified
I have concerns that the heritage area boundary divides the buildings in the block bounded by Hunter, King, Crown and Darby from the buildings and park above the adjacent King Street embankment. The buildings and park above the embankment are placed within The Hill Conservation Area. Church Walk Park, the Moorings, Cliff Towers (above the embankment) and the buildings below (Corona, the old Kloster Dealership, Warrah House and Argyle Building to name a few) were all part of a single 1930s era development that dates to the withdrawal of the Australian Agricultural Co. from the area. The locality incorporates many of the City's finest inter-war residential and commercial buildings while incorporating parklands and streetscape characteristics, many of which survive. Dividing the area between two conservation zones means that the character of the area is potentially diluted and planning controls for the whole area as a single entity as an early commercial/residential development of significance are not in place. I believe the City should be highlighting the importance of this "King and Crown" district as a place of unique urban character and one that acts as an important urban complement the Civic Parklands, City Hall and Laman Street civic precinct.
The heritage of the CBD is what drew us to Newcastle. So many Art Deco and Art Nouveau buildings that must be preserved - vital that hideous apartment blocks do not spoil it. Thankful that a number have incorporated the existing heritage. Learn from other cities and don't let them become wind tunnels/block sunlight/spoil existing views, especially overshadowing the beach. Oh, and do take into account that Supercars is not welcome by many who live, work and own businesses in the CBC. And those of us who pay rates and would like to access the full CBD and beaches. Don't believe the spiel that it beings benefits as I hear none. Protect the heritage that is here - I am worried about how the stunning Ocean Baths will look post-revamp to be frank.
I appreciate the identity of all the heritage areas of Newcastle and especially the East end. Love the village vibe and the independent retailers who create strong community. Absolutely detest Supercars and what it does to this fragile environment. Its ridiculously out of place in a heritage area. If DNSW and NCC are insistent upon keeping, as seems to be the case, can it please be moved to a purpose built track outside this conservation area.
We live in the historic east end in one (of four) of the well-known Pembridge Terraces on Stevenson Place. They have state and local heritage conservation rights but between the owners we don't know who has responsibility for maintenance of the facade which has experienced significant cracking in recent years. We would love to better understand how this local gem can be restored and the support available to owners (already allocating funds to the upkeep of 120 plus year old houses) to do to this. The whole Newcastle east area is unique, small and to be cherished. We have already lost the memorial statue in Parnell place due to Supercars. It would be great if some more love and care could be poured into the streets around Newcastle east to restore this unique area. The paving and street scaping that has taken place at Carrington and Stockton would be fitting, justified and appropriate for Newcastle east too (more so than a huge skate park that only caters to high performance skaters-is what I think you find a lot of the sentiment would be from Newcastle east residents). It's important to remember that Newcastle east residents have predominantly chosen to pay high rates per capita, forgo parking and yards, space and generally live quite vertically all for their love of heritage buildings and the historic character of the area so keeping the area as a historic conservation area (as opposed to day a racetrack) is dear to all of our hearts. The area is looking run down, dirty and shabby and definitely in need of some care and attention to keep it special.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on planning for Newcastle into the future.

Our key concern is the site at 317 Wharf Rd. When you consider where this is on the map it is central to future planning for the city. It is central to the Civic precinct close to Town Hall, Civic Theatre, Court House and University. It is an area that should be contributing to Newcastle's cultural identity. It includes the proposed heritage site of Centennial Rd.

317 Wharf Rd is currently car parking for Rydges Hotel, but in 2016 approval was given for an 8 storey hotel complex. This approval did not adhere to Council guidelines including not allowing proper community consultation and irregularities in the notification process. At this time Newcastle Council allowed a substandard DA to slip through and be approved.

As you would know many residents have expressed their concerns about this proposal. It should also be noted again that this site is central to the Civic precinct, and is viewed by the Court and University campus.

In 2017 a submission to build an 8 storey Student Accommodation Boarding House was provided to Council on the site of 317 Wharf Rd. This approval process was undertaken by the Hunter Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRRP).

A number of residents from 335 Wharf Rd made representation to JRRP, with the outcome being that the development was deemed to be substandard and not appropriate for the site, and it was not approved.

Of note the JRRP highlighted the following key points for their decision:
1. Poor architectural standard.
2. Impact on residents in 335
3. Loss of iconic view corridor for many of the residents in 335

The proposed hotel is wrong for this site for a number of reasons:
There is little architectural merit to the proposed 8 storey hotel. In fact this proposed building has the same shape and size as the Boarding House that was not approved
This development is situated in the Civic precinct, with close proximity to the harbour, University campus, Court House and new Kingsley Hotel. It is an important area of cultural significance for Newcastle into the future.

Newcastle Council says it wants to renew and beautify the City, and to encourage residents to live in the city, yet Council planners have supported this substandard development. The current hotel has the loading zone, garbage, car parking and bike bays directly next to 335 Wharf Rd impacting our building with noise, fumes, odour and increased risk of accidents. These utilities could be relocated to the other end of the site, bordering Argyle House which is non-residential and already has garbage facilities in place.

The proposed hotel has conference rooms with outside decks right near residential apartments at 335 Wharf Rd which will lead to noise, loss of privacy and potentially smoking or vaping odours. These decks are placed some 10 metres from living rooms and bedrooms. To place an external rooftop area directly facing adjacent residential apartments is a classic example of the poor planning of this proposal. Again why aren't these amenities situated at the other end of the development?

The proposal as it stands allows no distance between 335 and 317 causing issues with shading, loss of ventilation, and significant loss of privacy. A 30 metre breeze corridor is required to improve view, shading and ventilation for 335 Wharf Rd and to mitigate foreseeable impacts of noise, odour, loss of privacy and negative mental health issues on the residents in 335.

From our apartment and many others in 335 Wharf Rd we have access to iconic views down Newcastle Harbour. The proposed hotel will cause extensive obstruction of this view. A more appealing development could ensure view corridors, and better privacy and ventilation for residents in 335 and enhance the view of the harbour from both the University and Court house campus.

(Continued from previous)

The concerns raised by residents of 335 and adjacent buildings have not at any time been considered by the developer for this hotel. The poor planning and design associated with the proposed hotel at 317 Wharf Rd will have significant negative impact on residents in adjacent buildings and will do nothing to enhance the Civic precinct.

The total lack of good planning outcomes with this hotel development is only further aggravated by the lack of any attempt by the proponent of this development to address resident concerns. We would welcome a proposal that takes into account our concerns, and that has architectural and planning excellence. This site is central to the harbour and Civic area and could be a development of cultural, environmental and social excellence.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

The Cooks Hill Community Group makes the following comments regarding the proposed review of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs).

Fragmenting HCAs could negatively impact recognised heritage.
There is significant recognised contributory heritage widely spread within the boundaries of both subject heritage conservation areas as they are currently defined. Although many buildings within the current HCA boundaries are considered non-contributory or neutral in relation to their heritage significance, development on these sites can still have a significant negative impact on the heritage in the broader area, on both individual items and on heritage streetscapes. It is therefore important to maintain HCAs as larger continuous areas to ensure that the heritage impact of any development within the area is assessed. Fragmenting the HCAs into smaller pockets or separate precincts will fail to ensure proper assessment of the potential impacts of nearby sites on any recognised heritage area or individual items.

The boundaries of the subject HCAs need to carefully consider the interface to adjoining HCAs.
Newcastle City Centre HCA shares boundaries with the Cooks Hill HCA. Any proposed changes needs to consider the potential impact on the adjoining Cooks Hill HCA.
Specific examples include:
Removing the south side of King Street west of Civic Park from the Newcastle City Centre HCA would allow potential negative impacts on neighbouring Gibson and Laman Street area in the Cooks Hill HCA which includes significant contributory heritage and “Cooks Hill Special School” (LEP listed heritage item I92).
Removing northwest side of Union St from the Newcastle City Centre HCA would allow potential negative impacts on heritage within the Cooks Hill HCA on the southeast side of Union Street which includes the “Leslieville” (LEP listed heritage item I110) and “Terraces” (LEP listed heritage items I105-7 & I109).
The same potential impacts exist at the interface of Newcastle City Centre HCA to Newcastle East HCA, The Hill HCA and Hamilton South HCA.

Need for review?
We would also ask why, given the heritage significance and contribution of every building was assessed and recorded in the Heritage Technical Manual Contributory Building Maps for the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCAs very recently in January 2020, is there currently any need to allocate resources to a comprehensive review of the contributory status of every item?

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

We refer to the above community engagement process currently underway by City of Newcastle and note that our building at 307 King Street Newcastle West has been identified as potentially a location of heritage conservation merit in the initial stages.

Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd (NGM Group, formerly known as Newcastle Permanent Building Society Limited) has taken the opportunity as owner of 307 King Street to reflect on the significance of the site and do not share the view that it merits heritage conservation.

Newcastle Permanent Building Society ('Newcastle Permanent') began almost 120 years ago as a positive alternative to the major banks and a better way for our customers to achieve home ownership. The Newcastle Permanent brand's story is one of constant innovation and evolution, with the success and wellbeing of our customers, our people and our community as our driving purpose. The recent merger with Greater Bank to create the NGM Group is testament to our ongoing drive to innovate and evolve.

Newcastle Permanent established its first headquarters at 450-454 Hunter Street, Newcastle, a building that still stands today. The organisation then moved to 192 Scott Street in the 1970's which continues to be used both as an operational branch and office. Only in 1983 did Newcastle Permanent establish offices at 307 King Street, Newcastle West.

307 King Street has not always been exclusively occupied by Newcastle Permanent, at times other entities have leased space in the building. The building has not had an active customer service role since the ground floor branch was closed in 2018.

Not since 1966 when Newcastle Permanent opened its first branch in Charlestown has the organisations focus been on 'head office' but rather on experience and service in reaching out to our community. We feel that the role Newcastle Permanent has and continues to play in the community is best embodied by our ongoing interactions through our branch network, digital services and charitable activities. Singling out 307 King Street as an individual item of heritage would be contrary to this ethos.

From an architectural standpoint NGM Group's architectural advisers have indicated to us that the 307 King Street building is not amongst the best examples of its type of architectural style and has not been mentioned in leading architectural and heritage publications. Newcastle does not lack other examples of brutalist architecture within the review area. The already heritage listed Roundhouse on King Street and Newcastle Police Station readily come to mind as stronger examples of the style.

Considering the above, relative to other recognised buildings of heritage significance in the vicinity it is our view that 307 King Street does not merit heritage conservation and there are more worthy sites around the Civic/City Centre and Newcastle East precincts that would benefit from Council's commitment to heritage conservation. We note this is consistent with previous findings and that Council's Technical Heritage Manual classifies the building as 'Non-Contributory' on the Contributory Buildings Map for the Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

Comments on this Heritage Plan proposal.

Heritage Plan proposes renaming “Alfred Lane” as “Crack Alley”. Why?
The residents of Alfred St and Stevenson Pl who adjoin Alfred Lane always just refer to Alfred La as “the lane” because it’s the only lane they have. But officially it has always been “Alfred Lane”. I have a paper Gregory’s Street Directory (2009) which shows this lane as Alfred La and, BTW, the lane between Alfred St and Scott St as Waratah La. As Council would no doubt be aware, both these lanes have long standing existing names of appropriate heritage.

So why is there a proposal to rename “Alfred La” as “Crack Alley” in the Heritage Proposal? Who proposed this name change and what is the heritage justification? Why does the Heritage plan propose to replace the Australian term “lane” with the American “alley”? A public thoroughfare for small vehicles & pedestrians is usually called a lane. There are only “lanes” in my old paper Newcastle Street Directory – not a single “alley” that I can find. Please look for yourself. If I google alley, I mostly get 10 pin bowling alleys or cafes, but no roads called alley in Newcastle.

What is the Heritage Plan’s justification for renaming an historic lane as an alley. Will all lanes in Newcastle be renamed as alleys?

Why does the Heritage plan propose to re-name a more than 100-year-old lane in Newcastle after a relatively recent American drug epidemic? “Crack cocaine first saw widespread use as a recreational drug in primarily impoverished neighborhoods in New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami in late 1984 and 1985;” (Wikipedia)

“Crack Alley” is a term used in American crime shows from the 1980s onwards, and possibly by Americans generally, denoting a particular place where people buy and/or use crack cocaine.

I have walked the lane behind Alfred St for approximately 25 years and never met anyone smoking crack cocaine in it. Although Alfred St itself, when it was poor, did have the usual suspected inner city drug addicts who did indeed lounge outside their homes on the Alfred St footpath. If I had to guess, I would say heroin, marijuana, barbiturates generally and sometimes alcohol were their drugs of choice. I’ve also walked small streets in many of the US crack cities listed by Wikipedia, they do not resemble the lane behind my home in Alfred St.

What is the Heritage Plan’s justification for renaming an historic lane after an American drug epidemic of the 1980s? What is the heritage connection?

The only times I’ve seen Alfred La referred to as “crack alley” was in a recent DA and associated Council documents. I think the term “Crack Alley” serves 2 purposes in the DA. First: “alley” in Australia usually refers to a very narrow single person space so minimizes the width of the lane therefore minimizing the effect of encroachments proposed in the DA on what was originally a lane wide enough for vehicles. However, the development itself will use the lane for truck access during building, of course. Second: “crack” evokes a dark dirty sordid dangerous place for the lane which shows any DA as an improvement.

What is the Heritage Plan’s justification for allowing a DA to rename a lane? This renaming proposal is just one example of the useless Heritage Planning in Newcastle.

I also notice that on NCC’s heritage map, Waratah Lane has been renamed Albert Lane. Although I should approve of this renaming, see my name below, what was the heritage justification for this renaming?

Remove Alfred St from “Heritage conservation streetscape”. Stop with this nonsense of presenting residents’ housing for visuals of passersby instead of maintaining their livability.

(Continued from previous)

Why? Because: There are many other streets in Newcastle East which could fit into the “heritage values” box. Just not Alfred St. The street probably has the highest population density of any Newcastle non-high-rise. To restrict its dense liveability so that its facades can be showcased to tourists, strangers & general stickybeaks is not Council’s job.

I knew Alfred St as a place full of the poor, the addicted, the tough. It was a tough street in a tough town. That is its heritage.

NCC heritage only care about the front street facades of the houses in Alfred St. But the residents live behind the façade, behind the front windows and verandahs, and in their small back yards. Residents mostly see and hear their side neighbours, rear neighbours and the lane. Yes, “lane”.

But NCC allow developments exceeding all controls to suit the new residents who want to feel the former edginess of the area, without associated drawbacks such as small houses which are not in the face of the neighbourhood. NCC’s intent of gentrifying allows any gross development as long as the front street façade remains. BTW the “Crack Alley” name proposal is an example of fake contrived edginess.

“Heritage” is used as a tool for stymying some planner-unloved developments while allowing planner-loved developments to proceed with excesses. While there continue to be development planners, there will be developments.

After having gone through the torturous process of addressing concerns with the DA for 37 Stevenson Pl, the development was approved anyway on recommendation of NCC’s “Development Planner”. This particular development grossly exceeds the FRS & is an overdevelopment of a tiny site. It is also a 3-storey development where all the neighbours are 2-storeys. It exceeds the rear building line. It maintains an encroachment into a public thoroughfare by “renovating” a private gate onto public land. It is very much in your face.

Basically all “controls” meant to make the area pleasant and livable have been ignored. The excuse given being that other properties in the area have exceeded controls & this new exceedance is not much more than the excess previously approved. Why have controls if each new excess becomes the new floor for future developments.

Leave Alfred St alone & free of the spectre of heritage conservation. Remove incorrect fake Crack Alley name from heritage plan, restore correct historical Alfred Lane name behind Alfred St.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

The *National Trust* welcomes the opportunity to participate in the community engagement and subsequent review of the *Newcastle East* and *Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Areas* (hereafter, NEHCA & CCHCA). The *National Trust of Australia (NSW)* is the state's oldest and most respected heritage organisation. We have 18,000 members and are supported by local and regional Branches who represent the views of local *National Trust* members. Since 1969, over 230 individual places in Newcastle have been listed on the *National Trust Register*. This submission has been made by our Hunter Branch.

Scope

This submission focusses on two aspects of the community engagement process:

- Our feedback to the three questions posed by CN (heritage protection, heritage significance & precincts).
- Outlining potential issues arising from adjustments to HCA boundaries.

Background: heritage significance of the HCAs

Notwithstanding the development of over 20 mixed use (apartment/office) complexes within the two HCAs since 2003, the fundamental heritage significance, shared history, and archaeology of these HCAs remains largely unchanged. That said, the character of some City Centre blocks west of Worth Place has been substantially altered due to the construction of several large floorplate *Non-Contributory* apartment towers, offices and the eastern Market Town shopping complex.

The heritage significance of **Newcastle East** is largely unaltered as apartment developments along Shortland Esplanade replaced a post-war hotel and the Royal Newcastle Hospital complex. Impacts on the residential and state heritage Coal River precinct of the **NEHCA** have been manageable.

The heritage and urban form of inner Newcastle has been rigorously examined in many studies since 1988, including the *Urban Conservation Area Guidelines for Inner Newcastle* 1996 and the Suters Architects *Newcastle City-Wide Heritage Study* 1997. It is beyond the scope of this submission to audit the current status of the HCAs against these benchmark studies. However, it is suggested that CN planners re-visit these valuable studies.

Newcastle City Centre Character

City of Newcastle's NDCP12, 6.02 provides an excellent '*summary statement of heritage significance'*, and assesses the key period of significance to be *c*1801-1940. There is no need to alter this statement based on the 'revitalisation' of the past 20 years. On the contrary, some recent buildings with design excellence - such as the Newcastle Courthouse and NUSpace - expand the character and extend the period of significance of the inner city as it undergoes renewal. The 'story of change' adds depth and meaning to Newcastle's urban landscape.

The **CCHCA** is characterized by Newcastle's eclectic assemblage of built heritage, generally strung along the long, narrow Hunter St and King St east-west axis at the foot of The Hill and the Cooks Hill ridgeline. Such is the quality and variety of this built landscape; it was famously described by urban historian Professor Peter Spearritt as an 'open air museum'. These streetscapes have the ability to tell their own stories.

The 'desired future character' of the CCHCA should seek to build on, rather than diminish, the extant heritage character. As such, planning should aim to preserve clear evidence of historical precincts, well beyond a curated selection of heritage-listed and contributory items.

(Continued from previous)

King Street. As many of the new large floorplate residential and mixed developments address Hunter St, the heritage character of King St, west of Auckland St, has deteriorated due to the prominence of large garage entries and bland rear elevations. King St is a state arterial road and has become the principal

route for traffic entering the City Centre. Visually, however, King St now presents as the 'back door' to Hunter St. It is suggested that City of Newcastle (CN) consider controls to achieve better design outcomes to the rear south-facing elevations.

National Trust Policy – *Historic Newcastle Central Business District*

Published in 2014, the National Trust recognizes that our *Historic Newcastle CBD* policy statement is due for some revision. Nonetheless, key judgements and guidelines remain relevant today including:

- The uniqueness in Australia, of Newcastle's hillside topography, with an urban landscape that sweeps up from the harbour, representing the archetypal cathedral port city.
- We urge that the low, human-scale character of the city east of Auckland St, which respects the topography of the Hill area and Christ Church Cathedral at its apex, must be protected.
- Our opposition to any proposal that would threaten key sightlines, including Dangar's 1823 historic Harbour to Cathedral axis.

This year, Newcastle quietly celebrates the 200th anniversary of surveyor Henry Dangar's intimate orthogonal east-west street grid based on dimensions set by Governor Macquarie in 1810. Known to many as 'Old Town', which extends from Newcastle Beach to Brown Street, recent developments – notably stages 1-4 of Iris Capital's *East End* project – impact key views to the Cathedral and mask the layered hillside topography. The focus of future city renewal must be pushed westward of Union Street to meet the needs of the new 'west end' Newcastle CBD centred on Stewart Avenue, the Newcastle Interchange and *Honeysuckle HQ*.

Community feedback

- *Which streets, buildings and precincts in the study area (the two HCAs) need continued heritage protection and which don't require protection?*

Response: A sub-committee of our Branch met to identify and coordinate 'pinpointing' responses across CN's online interactive map. Members agreed to individually add comments to the interactive map to make the task more manageable. We estimate that our sub-committee made more than 40 comments, including use of the 'blue border' drawing tool, to outline several precincts with a shared history and character. We also earmarked several additional built items for investigation of heritage significance.

We assess that **all the streets, buildings, and precincts with the HCA's need** the benefit of heritage controls, **other than** two Newcastle West blocks we identify below, where heritage protection is no longer a consideration. That said, we remain concerned that five heritage-listed items were removed from NLEP12 Schedule 5 due to demolition, including *The Store.* Other heritage items in Hunter St now bear the ignominious caveat 'façade only'. As the stock of heritage-listed and contributory items regularly diminishes, it becomes more important to strengthen heritage controls to protect remaining heritage and character items by prioritising adaptive reuse.

Insignificant heritage: The former City West 'car showrooms' wedge bound by Railway St-Hunter St-rail corridor has little remaining heritage significance. The few buildings mapped as Contributory 1 are earmarked for an approved apartment development ('*Aurora*'). However, future building controls across this 'wedge' need to respect the listed heritage values of the *Sacred Heart* precinct (bound by Hunter-Tudor-Parry-Selma Streets) on the opposite side of Hunter St.

(Continued from previous)

The community pinpointing commentary indicates consensus that there is little heritage significance in the *Market Town* blocks bound by King-Ravenshaw-Parry-National Park Streets, with the exclusion of the Schedule 5-listed Newcastle Gas Company Offices, its neighbour ('National Music Academy') and the depression-era Cottage Creek drain. Future development in the western half of this precinct could overshadow portions of the National Park.

- *Which buildings and places in the study area are most significant and contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity?*

Response: All remaining heritage-listed buildings and places across the two HCAs are significant and contribute to Newcastle's cultural identity. Our pinpointing comments focus on several of these. That the community has not made comment on all the Schedule 5 and SHR-listed items, is not an indicator that some items are unworthy of protection. Our pinpointing comments also recommend a number of other items worthy of investigation for heritage significance, including:

- Werrins Glaziers (1929), 878 Hunter St.
- 'Kennards Storage' warehouse (NSW Co-operative Wholesale Society, 1937), Tighe St.
- Pryors Building (1921) corner Hunter St & Stewart Ave.
- Shedden's Building (1880) 758-764 Hunter St.
- Brambles Butchery Establishment (1884), 685 Hunter St, including the rare *ETA Peanut Butter* advertisement prominent on the eastern elevation.
- 'Tonella Centre' (Producers Distributive Society), *c*1925, corner Bull and Ravenshaw St.
- NSW Government Office, Bull St.
- Star Hotel (1910), 410 King St, Devonshire Lane & Hunter St.

Further details and photographs are provided in our pinpointing posts to the interactive map.

- *Suggest grouping & naming precincts with a shared development history and/or character.*

Response: Several overlapping heritage and character precincts are readily evident across the study area. In some cases, the boundaries are less well defined. Some thematic listed items, such as bond stores and warehouses, are not confined to a single precinct, but constitute a heritage trail or thread. Most of the precincts were identified on CN's interactive mapping. East to west these precincts include:

- The **entire Newcastle East HCA**, comprising the 'Sandhills' residential precinct and the Coal River precinct (SHR).
- '**Old Town':** a well-defined area bound by the coast, Scott, Brown & Church Streets based on Henry Dangar's historic 1823 street grid. This precinct incorporates the convict settlement 1804-1823.
- Within 'Old Town' there are several overlapping thematic sub-precincts:
    - Government, banking & insurance: including several SHR items, bound by Bolton-King-Watt-Scott Streets.
    - Historic retail: Bolton to Brown St, centred on the Hunter St mall.
    - A string of warehouses near the original harbour shoreline.
- **Australian Agricultural Company** (AACo) precinct from the AACos Brown St '2,000 acre' (1824) eastern boundary to Argyle House ('Fanny's, Argyle St). This mostly interwar precinct includes the remains of the AACo railway bridge, the site of Australia's earliest railway (1830) and several prominent AACo buildings on Hunter St from Crown to Darby St.
- **Civic Precinct,** notably an interwar precinct, including SHR-items comprising the 'Civic Block' centred on Wheeler Place and the university buildings. Proceeding westward: the Hunter St interwar offices of associations, legal and financial firms. The precinct begins at Darby St and ends around Worth Place.
- **Honeysuckle Railway Workshops precinct** includes historic wharf sheds, remains of Lee Wharf (1910), the Perway Store, several workshops, the Divisional Engineers Office and the *c*1857 turntable remains.

(Continued from previous)

- **Newcastle West heritage precinct,** centred on Hunter Street, which begins at Worth Place. This long precinct includes the former Trades Hall & Technical College, Steggas Emporium, Devonshire Lane, and the Bank Corner sub-precinct. We have assigned names to coherent groups of listed and contributory buildings which add character to the streetscape, including:
    - **Steggas-Star group:** the southern side of Hunter St from Worth Place to Devonshire Lane.
    - **Steel-National Park group**: the southern side of Hunter St divided by Cottage Creek and anchored by the listed *art deco* Theatre Royal.
    - **Bank Corner group**: including the Shedden's Building, Bank of NSW and Bellevue Hotel on the north side of Hunter St, plus Bellevue and Beresford Streets.
- **West End industrial precinct**. A compromised, and less defined precinct, featuring the Castlemaine Brewery, Cambridge Hotel, Kennard's Storage warehouse, and 'Dairy Farmers Corner'. Originally, the area was split between the municipalities of Hamilton and Wickham. These items comprise the few reminders of a once-thriving industrial area.
- **Sacred Heart precinct**. Several heritage items on land owned by the Catholic Diocese and bound by Tudor-Parry-Selma-Hunter Streets. The Sacred Heart church is a local landmark.
- **Character precincts**: We have identified a number of precincts with a consistent character, that otherwise feature few listed heritage items, including:
    - **Eastern warehouse precinct.** An area bound by Union-Parry-Ravenshaw-Bull Streets featuring small interwar warehouses. The area has potential to emerge as a restaurant, creative and boutique retail precinct. The brutalist NSW Government offices are central to this precinct.
    - **Western warehouse precinct.** The compact precinct of interwar warehouses between National Park St and Stewart Ave centred on Parry St, has further potential for cafes and boutique shops.
    - **Union St** (Hunter-King St): lined by interwar buildings, this area is transforming into a small bar entertainment precinct.

Issues

The HCA review highlights a number of challenges and opportunities identified below:

- What measures are available, if any, to protect former Contributory items if the HCA boundaries are reduced and these items fall outside the HCAs?
- Listed heritage items may be impacted if they fall outside redrawn HCAs, as adjacent Contributory buildings will have little, if any protection.
- Community engagement has identified a number of **coherent groups of contributory items**, which collectively may have heritage significance. These items make a strong contribution to streetscape character, notably along Hunter St. What measures are available to recognise and protect these groupings? Arguably, these groupings collectively attain the threshold for heritage significance.
- What control measures are available to formally identify, reserve and protect 'character precincts' with the potential to emerge as boutique entertainment and creative nodes (HOB, FSR and zoning controls)?
- Do 'character' precincts have any formal status, definition or controls?
- If precincts with little heritage value are excised, the threat to remaining HCAs may increase. It seems unwise to fragment and thus weaken the CCHCA, or remove blocks, forming 'donut holes' within the HCA boundaries.
- Where HCAs share a common boundary (CCHCA shares boundaries with the Newcastle East, The Hill, Cooks Hill, and Hamilton South HCAs), boundary adjustments could endanger the adjoining HCA. For example, removing sections of King Street from the HCA pose overshadowing threats to Gibson St, Cooks Hill HCA. Removing the western end of Parry Street (warehouse character precinct) may lead to adverse impacts to Warrah Street, Hamilton South HCA.

(Continued from previous)

- What measures are in place to ensure there is 'life between the towers'? The rapid growth of tall apartment and office towers in the west end, has led to the loss of many human-scale buildings, including heritage and contributory items. In turn, this creates an urban desert of sterility, excessive shade and wind funnels. How can we ensure that islands of character remain, to provide places where apartment residents and office workers can eat, shop and connect at ground level?
- Wright Lane. Wright Lane provides access to the rear of many small offices that address the southern side of Hunter Street. The rear elevation streetscape of Wright Lane is visually interesting. Has any planning been done to ensure that the future development of the disused railway corridor capitalises on Wright Lane? There is potential to create a vibrant lifestyle precinct along Wright Lane.
- The practice of facadism continues to be adopted in preference to adaptive reuse or the retention of facades to a meaningful depth. Facadism is having a significant negative impact in Hunter Street by reducing heritage to an aesthetic veneer. In the process of approval, listed heritage and many Contributory items have been demolished. What measures can CN take to reverse this trend and protect the CCHCA?

The Hunter Branch of the National Trust seeks to remain engaged in the subsequent stages of the HCA review process. We welcome questions and further discussion regarding this submission.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

I live in Newcastle and have been a resident in its East End for over ten years. The whole area is a joy with the many heritage buildings, albeit in various states of repair. But these give a wonderful flavour of how [people have lived in our harbour City of Newcastle. Their magic is the distinct differences in style and expectation of how one might live compared to the demands for high-rise and the like–a necessity and a home to many just the same.

It is so important to preserve the nature of these heritage areas for future generations and to give colour and beauty to our city. That is what will continue to attract cruise ships, train travellers and car and bus visits to our city as well.

Several business conduct walking tours through these areas and the diversity makes for an enjoyable and wonderful learning experience. Of course the Hunter Street nearby is improving but much is left to be done. It would be terrific if our council cold continue to help improve the East E with plants and tree pavement improvements with seating to read a book and sit to discuss matters in Pacific Park and Foreshore Park. The pool is taking a long time to repair since the 1989 earthquake and is well over due for some care and attention.

Tyrrell House is where I live and it forms part of the East End landscape. We are working to help restore the heritage–listed façade of Tyrrell House and much more in due course.

The Christ Church Cathedral dominates the skyline of Newcastle, gathering pilgrims, visitors and tourists to enjoy its splendid architecture, music and arts. Down on Pacific Park sits the wonderful Tyrrell House, the home of the Diocesan Offices of the Anglican Church for over 70 years. Now at over 100 years old Tyrrell House is faced with a restoration project which will bring joy and appreciation, not only from our parishioners, but also all visitors and locals who come into the heart of Newcastle.

There is little doubt that Tyrrell House is seen by thousands of people every year due to its location in the East End with Newcastle Beach next door, the light rail terminus in Scott Street, the engaging Pacific Park with all its activities throughout each year, and, of course visitors who arrive by cruise ship in our port.

One cannot come to Newcastle without admiring the beautiful design of Tyrrell House and to learn a little of its history and place in the pantheon of the life of our city over the past 100 years. Support by council and state government would help restore Tyrrell House in a modest but also important and meaningful way.

Clearly, anything that helps to improve heritage buildings such as Tyrrell House add to the visitor landscape and your support in its restoration can only add benefit to our community, society, architecture, arts and culture.

We have spoken with the team finalising their submission and we hope to have further information on Tyrrell House from them in the next little while. We plan to publish a book about the history of Tyrrell House in 2024 to following some restoration work.

I hope this submission will encourage council to retain and support Tyrrell House and other heritage facets in the East End of the City of Newcastle.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to contribute and provide feedback to the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East HCA review. I am the owner/occupier of a unit in Newcastle East. I have owned my unit since 2010 and have resided in my unit for the past five years.

Having grown up in Newcastle I have been aware of the rich history of Newcastle and Greater Hunter Valley locations. Since residing in Newcastle East, I have seen and appreciated the historic buildings, streetscape and open public spaces in this area of the review zone. Buildings such as the Post Office, Customs House, Centennial Hotel to name a few are direct physical links to our history of late 19th and early decades of the 20th century.

The public spaces also have historical examples of infrastructure. Such as the sandstone walls and sandstone curbing on some streets. The more I look around the area the more examples of our history become evident from large details to the smaller examples many may overlook.

The review asks the community for feedback on which streets, buildings and precincts in the study area should have continued heritage protection. What buildings and places are most significant to Newcastle's cultural identity. And suggestions for naming precincts with a shared history and character.

I have read the Newcastle East Heritage Inventory Listing Sheet and other relevant publications. The work of those who have invested time and effort in the past and present to maintain the current heritage listings is very impressive and reflects a very strong and ongoing community source of pride and ongoing commitment to the preservation of our shared history in the HCAs.

In relation to listed buildings and areas currently listed I find it difficult to exclude any from their current heritage status. I also understand that progress should be undertaken to ensure the ongoing prosperity of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East areas and note the efforts to incorporate significant historic structure in the current East End developments. However, I cannot nominate either a building, infrastructure or public place to be removed from the current protection of heritage listing. I feel our cultural heritage is something to be proud of and this heritage should be safeguarded to ensure the best opportunity for our future generations to appreciate and reflect on.

I would nominate three listed building I believe are most significant in the East End.
Customs House - The building represents a direct link to our working harbour. From official government regulation of the first commercial commodity exports from the region to the present day. The exteriors and interiors of the building remain intact and reflect the cultural history of the harbour. The clock and bell still hold good time and chime even to this day.

Centennial Hotel – This Hotel would have many stories to tell if the walls could talk. Throughout its early operation it has provided locals and visitors with a place to catch up after a hard day's work. The building looks tiny beside the CML building on Hunter Street and runs through the block to Scott Street. This historic building gives a great look at time gone by.

Post Office – The Post Office still looks great even though it's in need of some attention. This historic building should maintain its heritage status and I can't really any reason it status would come in question as it was an integral part of the dissemination of postal correspondence to the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley since early 1900's. I still use it as a reference point if someone asks directions. Most locals know where it is.

I'm not going to offer any suggestions for the naming of precincts in the study are. There are very articulate and savvy people out there that will provide great submissions.

Online submissions made via CN's Have Your Say webpage – De-identified

The Carlton building has served many uses during its century long life from a high-class hotel frequented by folk visiting Newcastle for business (International wool buyers used the building to set up offices) and as a holiday destination.

Fig 1 – The Carlton – Newcastle's Leading Private Hotel



The building later became a boarding house housing up to 100 people. It is reported that some of the building's lodgers lived there for up to 50 years. It remained a boarding house until the late 1980's.

In 1928 the building was re-developed using a design by local architect Mr E.C. Sara. The redevelopment included the current facades and an enormous lounge in Roman renaissance style with Doric columns and roof beams panelled in plaster (I think the restaurant is part of that lounge). The area had a wooden floor (back in 1995 we replaced what remained of a once magnificent hardwood floor in the restaurant termites had by then had damaged the floor) it was also large enough for an orchestra to play and for dances to be held, so perhaps that lounge extended out into the garage area where tiles are still visible in unit 1 carpark.

An interesting brush with fame for the building is that from February 1942 for a period it was the home of the Australian writer Dymphna Cusack (coauthor of 'Come in Spinner' made into an ABC Drama in 1989 and also the novel 'Caddie, story of a barmaid' made into a film in 1976). The Newcastle Herald reported some years ago that Dymphna was at the Carlton on June 8 1942 when the Japanese shelled Newcastle; her diaries recalled her fear as the shells whistled overhead. Dymphna worked at the time as a teacher at Newcastle Girls High School. In latter days before the redevelopment in the early 1990's the building lay derelict for some years.

(Continued from previous)

The Carlton 1973-Fig 2



In the above photo you can see Noah's which was built in 1972 so this photo has been taken after that time and while the building was still operating as a boarding house. Note the windows have curtains and some windows are up so it is before the building fell on bad times. You can also see the Zaara Street brothel next door as well as the old building next to the brothel both were pulled down to make Noah's car park in the 1990's.

The Carlton – Fig 3



The original structure was built probably in the 1880's or early 1890's. The photo below shows a steam tram near the Carlton, these trams started running from Parnell Place in 1893. The attached photos are the earliest photographs we have of the Carlton. You can see the early building's bull nosed balconies and parapets just above the tram.

(Continued from previous)

Fig 4



The above picture was taken on the corner of Scott and Telford Streets probably in the 1890's after 1893 but before 1896 when the single steam trams were withdrawn from service. This highlights the important Heritage value of Scott Street as much of the streetscape still exists connecting the present with the 1800's. An electricity network was built in 1890 to provide public lighting, so the power poles are consistent with the period. The Newcastle Borough Council only allowed homes to connect to the grid after 1904 and then only for lighting, domestic connections for general power use did not occur until 1906, none of the photos appear to show wires connecting buildings to the grid. The ambience of the area would have been a lot different than today, note the horse manure on the road, mixed with the smell of coal tar from the trams it would have been quite an aroma. What is now the Foodworks Store can be seen on the left as well as the terraces and Scotties. The homes at Parnell place look just the same as today and the big building next to the Carlton was still there in the 1990's and pulled down to build the apartment block on the Crn. Zaara and Scott Streets opposite. The photograph below shows the early Carlton probably around 1890 as tram tracks do not seem to be visible. Clearly the 1928 renovation must have absorbed the neighbouring terrace and stepped the building out into Scott St.

(Continued from previous)

Fig 5



The building originally was tuck pointed red brick (we uncovered the original brickwork in 2006 when we repaired the ledge in Scott Street. The current facades date from 1928 and they are interesting in that the ledges had no steel reinforcing and were originally made of two mortars one outer mortar which is very impervious and the other inner mortar which was porous using a very light slag cement mix.

Fig 6



Email submissions

Email submissions – De-identified

The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) is the most important to promote tourists to our City. It could become a city attracting visitors, and could become similar to Fremantle. I draw your attention to a study provided to City of Newcastle in 1997, a study which was prepared by members of the community. Titled Newcastle Old Town, (and included with this submission), the study focuses on the area from Newcastle Ocean Baths to Brown Street, to Newcastle Harbour and King Edward Park.

The original Newcastle Old Town has an abundance of history from Aboriginal, Maritime, New Settlers and the Military. There are so many historic buildings in the area (too difficult to map them all with a comment on the online interactive map for this consultation) which must be preserved.

City of Newcastle must have plaques on these buildings depicting the date of structure and its history. Heritage buildings are important to a city's identity. We will attract a variety of visitors, walking groups and individuals who can move around the area with the history of each building depicted. Learning about the past can facilitate a sense of connection and hence a sense of place.

In this Newcastle Ease HCA, facades has become the norm – the practice of preserving a structure's façade or face, while constructing the new behind it. It is a method that compromises between complete building renovation and restoration e.g.: The Lyrique Theatre to mention one is facadism and it has been happening in this area too often. In the West, we are seeing it at Dairy Farmer's Corner.

Also worth mentioning is the complete disregard of heritage by building IN FRONT of the old, as seen in Tudor Street where the only the tip of the church's roof is visible. The approval for an additional two storeys on a building in Scott Street between Newcomen & Bolton Street has almost obliterated views of the CML building tower in Hunter Street – a historic art deco structure. I believe the building opposite Newcastle Beach on Shortland Esplanade has a height too large for this area. Context is key and needs to receive greater consideration. With the Newcastle Post Office and Victoria Theatre being refurbished, City of Newcastle Planners must make sure the Newcastle East HCA is also preserved.

It would appear that Newcastle's urban planning has been developer-driven for decades now. This is the greatest mistake any city can make. It's time for change and the views of the local community be listened to, heard and actioned. Reduce the height limits in this area to save this historical area.

Feedback: Civic Centre Historic Area. This important heritage area has an amazing collection of important historic buildings stemming from the waterfront timber buildings to the Museum buildings, Civic Station (which I managed to save with the help of the NSW Heritage Office) Civic Theatre, Civic Hotel, Fred Ash Building, Newcastle City Hall, former Newcastle City Council Administration Building, Nesca House, Baptist Tabernacle, Newcastle City Library…the list could go on. Once again, this historic area must be preserved. There are many different architectural styles concentrated here, and their architectural heritage must be protected.

LAST CHANCE FOR NEWCASTLE'S HERITAGE
Before it really is a thing of the past It's the last chance for the heritage area of Newcastle to be protected for future generations. The area is positioned between Newcastle Ocean Baths, Brown Street, King Edward Park and the Newcastle Harbour, and includes Newcastle's Aboriginal community, the original 'Old Town' history and of course the Maritime History. It's time that the City of Newcastle, the NSW State Government and the Australian Federal Government supported this area to be Heritage listed and classified on the National Estate.

Now that the David Jones Building and the former Newcastle Courthouse in Church Street have been completed, and the Newcastle Post Office and Victoria Theatre currently being refurbished, it's time for us to open our eyes and push for Newcastle Old Town to be promoted as a prime tourism destination where our heritage is appreciated and celebrated. With a similar approach adopted in Fremantle, Western Australia where heritage played a part in the area's revitalisation – Newcastle deserves to be and should be known as the best Heritage City in Australia.

(Continued from previous)

All heritage buildings in this area must have signage depicting their history so that tourists can gain the knowledge of why, when and by whom they were built, and for what purpose. The former Newcastle Post Office is being restored and will display the important Aboriginal History for all to see. When Development Control Plan 30 (DCP 30) was in place for this area, height limits were limited to eight stories and very little facadism was allowed. Unfortunately, that has changed and we're seeing more and more if this important Heritage area losing its identity. Over the last 20 years we have watched as the Newcastle Central Business District has had 'development by demand' not by design – and enough is enough. New buildings in this area must fit in with the old. And we know it can be done - where the old and new sit side by side harmoniously – this needs to be the new norm. There are quite a few architects and developers who would like to preserve the Heritage in this area, but we need the City of Newcastle Council, the Federal Government and the NSW State Government Heritage Office to support a Heritage Order being placed on this area of significance so that:

- current and future generations can appreciate the history and feel a connection to place a sense of place in the area is strengthened- historical information and stories associated with the built form and sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance area documented in place, known and shared
- Newcastle's future tourism potential can be realised, and
- Our place identity is celebrated.

Now it is the time to act before our heritage truly does become a thing of the past.

Email submissions – De-identified

I think it is excellent that you are trying to document and preserve Newcastle East and other historical buildings in the city – at least I presume that's what the "online interactive map" is for. However, I have tried and failed to comment on it; it is a bit technologically above me no doubt.

Newcastle East Residents Group (NERG) represents a large number of people who live and/or work in the Newcastle East precinct. A respect for heritage, environment and social values binds the members of the group together. We have a long history of protecting heritage items and protesting against inappropriate development on the coast and in the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (NEHCA).

We are concerned that the latest 'survey' to determine which heritage items merit preservation and which ones are not worthy of the classification, is generally flawed. Heritage value is not earned by popularity votes. There are architectural history experts in the field who apply established academic rigour when making determinations. To simply ask the public to tell CoN their 'favourite' items, or their opinion, is inherently dangerous in terms of due diligence. These determinations should be actively discussed and debated by experts, before additions or deletions are enforced. Surveys such as the one in question are subject to personal choice and are not based on expertise. Council is depending more and more on the model of public opinion to formulate policy or pursue particular agendas. This may be relevant in some fields and relevant to re-election, but NERG believes that heritage conservation/preservation/restoration should be subjected to rigorous analysis and intense scrutiny by experts in the fields of history and architecture. The 'Quick Poll' section of the Have Your Say page is particularly unsatisfactory. It basically asks people to vote on a pre-determined area of the city in which the chosen photo is not necessarily indicative of the character of the whole street or area. This is a very flawed process and NERG condemns it as a shallow and meaningless procedure. The popularity-vote model is analogous to history being written by the 'winners' with all the proven bias this entails.

The 'cherry-picked' scope of the survey's inclusions/exclusions further limits its effectiveness and rigour. For example, excluding Supercars from the survey is shocking in its arrogance, since Supercars is, and continues to be the major destructive force against heritage infrastructure in Newcastle since the earthquake in 1989. The Foreshore Management Plan has also been controversially excluded, no doubt because CoN's support of Supercars will continue to determine the usage and landscaping of all the park areas. The Bathers Way is excluded, despite having significant historic, cultural and social ties to Newcastle East and Newcastle in general. This significant conflict between heritage conservation and promotion of the city as an entertainment destination or development opportunity is 'the elephant in the room' that no-one is prepared to challenge. CoN does not acknowledge the problem, let alone address it. The fact that CoN is reviewing heritage in CCHCA and NEHCA, the two main areas of the city where developers are circling, and many large development applications have been lodged, creates a foreboding suspicion for those who wish to protect the significant heritage of Newcastle.

The exclusion of the upper end of Watt St (which falls into the state heritage-listed Government Domain precinct - James Fletcher - and also the HCAs of The Hill, Cooks Hill, Junction and the several Hamilton HCAs, increases public cynicism about the motives behind the exercise.

According to the Heritage Strategy 2013-2017, CoN's commitments to heritage were to be implemented through actions over the four years 2013 – 2017. Yet CoN supported the wholescale degradation of Newcastle East heritage by signing an agreement with Supercars to create a racetrack in the heritage conservation zone. This required the removal, destruction or inappropriate re-location of heritage items that symbolised the Newcastle East character and significance. It resulted in damage to heritage homes included those that are listed at both state and local level. The leafy, pedestrian friendly streets are no more. All mature trees were removed from the streets to make way for a 3-day car race. CoN justified the removal of more than 200 mature trees as 'renewing' the park! Removing 30+ year old trees is the antithesis of 'renewing' a park.

(Continued from previous)

All of this is at loggerheads with CoN's own documents which make claims that CoN will take action to protect and restore heritage characteristics that are so important!

Bearing in mind CoN's woeful record of heritage (and environmental) conservation, NERG is wary that the reason behind this survey is to pave the way for developers to more easily intrude into heritage conservation zones and for CoN to more easily justify its promotion of major events in the culturally and environmentally sensitive area of Newcastle East. Unlike other cities with significant heritage buildings and sites, CoN has never truly pursued the city's rich heritage assets as a sustainable tourism platform, and it should.

With CoN's support for the new development on the old David Jones site, the distinction between Newcastle East and East End has been blurred. These new developments are located in the City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (CCHCA) yet are being referred to as Newcastle east. The first stage of the mall development is called East End…the term always used for the area east of Watt Street. The latest development that has been approved is to be called East End Village, a term extensively used in the past to describe the area known as Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Precinct. This may be a deliberate strategy by CoN, since it blurs the line between the location of traditional community protest and the battle lines for fights to save our heritage buildings and the areas of development being approved by the current and previous council. The actual East End, also known as Newcastle East, needs reconfirmation and a redefinition of its own identity, led by CoN. The precinct is unique in the history of Newcastle, in the history of NSW and in the history of Australia. As such, it should be given high heritage status.

The suburb sign that designated the entrance into the suburb of Newcastle East disappeared during the Supercars reconstruction of our suburb in 2017 and has not been seen since. Is it CoN's intention to obliterate any reference to Newcastle East so that the heritage constraints that technically apply at present can be bypassed or watered down? Is CoN trying to change the public perception of the traditional boundaries that mark Newcastle East? If so, why?

Another example of CoN 'rewriting' history to suit its needs, was the removal of the tree (and plaque marking this historic event) planted by Lord Mayor Joy Cummings and Prime Minister Bob Hawke to celebrate the inauguration of the Bicentennial Foreshore Park. The Plaque has never been returned (nor has the sandstone pillar from the original courthouse which once stood in Parnell Park). The removal of the traditional 'pineapple' pavers from Watt Street during the Supercars track build, and replacing them with bitumen is yet another example of CoN's indifference to heritage. Under instructions from Supercars who wanted to maximise views of the race, CoN casually removed the Coal Monument and relocated it to the middle of Parnell Park where it cannot be seen. This was all done without ANY consultation. Here we have another example showing CoN's contemptuous disregard for the past and their willingness to sacrifice a hundred years of history for a dubious 3 day event.

These are not the actions of a council that respects heritage and they demonstrate a profound failure to apply the following from the current Heritage Strategy: Newcastle's significant heritage places are a unique historical resource and represent an asset for the continuing educational, cultural and economic enrichment of the region. Council will invest in the promotion and care of these assets as part of the City's economic and cultural development.

Without the intervention of NERG and the Trade Union Green Bans, the entire peninsula would have been bulldozed in the 60s and 70s to make way for 'new development'. What a tragic loss it would have been if civil disobedience had not prevented it!

The amount of heritage information in Newcastle East and the area identified in the scope of the survey is too vast to be captured in a simple opinion survey. A more feasible (but time consuming) process would be to take each street individually to identify and record heritage buildings/sites, and their significance to existing heritage conservation zones or the city's overall heritage. Previous inventories of heritage buildings and streets have been conducted and published. It is time to go back to previous documents and add to them to expand on current data.

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As a starting point, we suggest Architecture Newcastle, Barry Maitland and David Stafford, 1997 and the Suters Citywide Heritage Study 1997 - which looks at precincts and develops historic themes.

An updated compilation of these documents should include buildings that have since been identified as meritorious, with explanations of their features and the reasons why they must be included. It should also identify those that are non-contributory to the heritage landscape.

Why is it necessary to preserve and feature our heritage?
CoN's own Heritage Strategy 2013-2017 gives the answer. It is even more relevant today, because since adoption of the strategy, CoN has allowed a great deal more degradation of heritage structures and character.

Conserving heritage places has long been recognised for the economic and social benefits that are returned to the city, and recently, the environmental benefits in conserving buildings has been recognised outside the conservation sector. Conserving heritage buildings reduces energy usage associated with demolition, waste disposal and the manufacture of new materials and construction, and promotes sustainable development by conserving embodied energy.

The strategy goes on to say: The integrity of heritage places can be undermined by inappropriate uses, unsympathetic structures, uncoordinated landscaping and visual presentation and inadequate interpretation. Such interventions damage the fabric, aesthetics, ambiance and meaning of heritage places.

Council will protect the integrity of heritage places by ensuring consistent and sympathetic uses, physical and aesthetic treatments and interpretation.

Despite these worthy intentions, and the adoption of the policy, CoN has allowed the degradation of large areas of heritage stock which has been damaged, destroyed or compromised. This has happened in a number of ways. CoN continues to approve unsympathetic development and unsympathetic uses in Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs).

Newcastle East, for example, was damaged irrevocably by the Supercars agreement. The wholescale loss of pedestrian-friendly streets, sandstone kerbing, avenues of mature street trees, widening of roads, annexation of parkland and the 'convenient' relocation or removal of historic monuments was catastrophic. Additionally, approvals for developments that do not enhance the heritage characteristics of the HCA, or those that detract from heritage stock because of their size and bulk, have eroded the rare qualities of our heritage streets.

NERG calls upon CoN to rectify the reckless attitudes of the past, including the recent past. Instead of loosening heritage controls, we ask that they be strengthened. When CoN refuses to be governed by its own policies and strategies, then the time and effort spent on them is wasted. They become a sham.

Significant heritage sites associated with the convict period survive in the form of Macquarie pier and breakwater, the Convict Lumber Yard, Nobbys, Signal Hill within the Fort Scratchley Historic Site, the stone harbour, the convict Gaol site (Gaol Hill), and several coal shaft sites.

The underlying aboriginal heritage of the area is rich with stories and legends. Yet, aboriginal heritage in the East End and City Centre HCAs fails to be recognised by interpretive signage, monuments, endemic species planting and public art.

Other important heritage buildings/sites include Customs House, The Station, the Stationmasters House, Paymasters Cottage, several Bond Stores, the Soldiers Baths, the Ocean Baths, the Carriage sheds, Great Northern Hotel, Longworth House, the Post Office (now derelict), the Lockup, the Joy Cummings centre, Athcourt, the Seaman's Union, the Maddison Building, the United Services Club, many of the buildings along King, Hunter, Scott, Bolton, Watt, Wolfe, Perkins, Zaara, Alfred, Telford, Bond, Ocean and Beach streets, and most of the buildings along Stevenson Place, Nobbys Road and Parnell Place.

(Continued from previous)

In the City Centre there are significant heritage buildings along Hunter, Scott, King, Watt, Bolton, Newcomen, Keightley, Thorn, Wolfe, Perkins, Auckland, Steel, Bellevue, Argyle, Wood, Tighe, Merewether and Brown Streets. There are also significant heritage buildings on Workshop Way, Wheeler Place, and the Lee Wharf buildings.

Henry Dangar's 1828 street design created an enduring intimacy and human scale still evident in the layout of Newcastle today. Newcastle's human scale is unseen in any other Australian city and it is vitally important to retain it for the future.

Newcastle East (i.e. the suburb east of Watt Street) has a significantly large number of terrace row housing from the 1800s – all of which need further protection at state and local level. We know from excavations at Silk House, that many artefacts remain undiscovered.

The KFC development and the horror of digging up aboriginal relics without expertise, demonstrates the necessity for protection of sites for their potential to contain artefacts of heritage significance.

There is a need for appropriate signage to identify and acknowledge heritage sites. There are relatively few plaques or signs on heritage sites to educate visitors, students, locals and residents about particular buildings/sites and why they are significant. Suggested walking routes on signage have been left to deteriorate and need to be restored, replaced and updated. Many cities have excellent signage and marked walking routes. Newcastle should improve their performance in this important area.

In terms of the tools CoN has offered for people to have a say, the blue area tool has failed considerably. Many members tried to use it, but could not enclose the intended area. This only leaves available the individual marking tool, a time-consuming process which does not demonstrate the importance of groups of buildings, or groups of features.

Again we reiterate that the popularity of a site is no indication of its history or significance. Making a street-by-street inventory is really the only way to encapsulate Newcastle's heritage data without omissions. This could be executed in conjunction with the architecture and history faculties of the university.

There is also the possibility of using the 'Citizen Science' model wherein scientific research is conducted with participation from the general public (who are sometimes referred to as amateur/nonprofessional scientists).

Unlike the Have-Your-Say survey, 'Citizen Heritage' would focus on a small area at a time, to capture data, stories and images. It would allow for untold stories to be aired and for modern data collection/archiving.

For future generations to experience the history and stories of the past, buildings and spaces must be preserved, interpreted, and publicly marked in some way. The great burden of preserving this legacy falls on council, either by advocating for strong heritage controls or by holding private owners to account for any degradation of the city's heritage fabric.

To date, CoN has not advocated strongly for the heritage of the city. Once buildings are gone, they are gone forever. Newcastle's built history is rich but is diminishing. The unique human scale of heritage buildings should be a determining factor in new development approvals.

On a street-by-street basis, NERG believes that all of Nobbys Road and both sides of Parnell Place must be protected. The eastern side of Parnell Place must not be excised from the Heritage Conservation Zone. Due to its current inclusion, heritage was a factor in the CoN determination for the hotel redevelopment facing Parnell Park. No doubt, the developer would prefer that there are no heritage constraints. This is an example of how CoN can conserve streetscapes and social fabric through the application of heritage constraints at DA level.

(Continued from previous)

All of Beach Street, Ocean Street, Maroney Avenue, Ocean Terrace, Fort Drive and Murray Avenue should be retained in the NEHCA. The heritage boundary should encompass all the residential and Crown Land area from Shortland Esplanade back to the city.

It seems that CoN and some community members want to excise Shortland Avenue and the eastern end of Scott Street from the NEHCA. NERG strongly opposes this. If anything, the developments from No 1 Scott St up to 'Arena' apartments provide a frame for the southeastern edge of Newcastle East, in some ways like a walled city in Europe. They also generally address the beach, and not the harbour or the East End. All parts of the East End share a common history. Note also that Newcastle Beach, and Bathers Way fall within the HCA.

For similar reasons of heritage and social links to the past, King Street and Scott Street should be retained in the HCA on both the northern and southern sides of each. It is implied by this survey, by asking participants to ‘vote’ sites in or out of the heritage precinct, that CoN is looking to make it easier for developers by shrinking heritage conservation areas, with their attendant protective controls. NERG strongly opposes any loosening of current controls and asks for an extension of heritage recognition and protection for many of the streets and buildings included in the current NEHCA and CCHCA.

NERG members are unanimous in supporting the retention of all current City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Areas, with no excising of any streets. All streets located east of Watt Street in the current NEHCA must be retained.

The buildings of significance are too numerous to cite here, but there are hundreds of fine examples of architecture from the 1800s and 1900s. Some members have also suggested that the NEHCA be extended to include all streets east of Bolton Street or even further to Newcomen Street, as many identify that area as part of the East End. The added advantage of that extension would be that the Station and the grand buildings along Hunter Street (including the Post Office) would be included as part of Newcastle East. These are not major changes, and there would still be a retention of the heritage characteristics of the East End.

In conclusion we provide you with quotes from CoN documents referencing heritage in Newcastle East. These provide extensive justification for preservation of the area of NEHCA. They sum up all of the reasons why the area has special significance, and why CoN must continue to expand heritage protection, not water it down, reduce it or downgrade it in any way:

Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area Summary Statement of Heritage Significance.

The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is highly significant as a historic landscape that provides a record of the interaction between the natural environment, including the harbour and the sea, and human settlement. It contains important evidence of Aboriginal life in Newcastle East, uncovered during excavations at the Convict Lumber Yard (CLY) and historical archaeological sites. This evidence allows archaeologist to understand the human and environmental history of the precinct. Throughout its European history the area has been shaped by different activities including being the second penal settlement on the mainland after Sydney (from 1801), the site of the processing and shipping of cedar and coal (CLY), having an important coastal defence installation (Fort Scratchley Historic site), the Nobbys lighthouse and breakwater important to the story of shipping, through to the generation of electricity. The residential area is significant for its consistent streetscapes of two and three storey terrace housing dating from the mid-19th through to early 20th centuries and its housing for workers. There are also examples of single storey detached houses.

Newcastle Development Control Plan 2012 6.02 Heritage Conservation Areas 12 The social history of Newcastle East is derived from it being the site of early conservation battles in the 1970s, between developers and conservationists and there are rows of public housing that make this place a community and home for many.

(Continued from previous)

It is also an important place of recreation at facilities like the Ocean Baths, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park. Key Period of Significance – circa 1801 to 1940 Desired Future Character Statement The character of the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the late 19th and early decades of the 20th century.

The special character of Newcastle East will be preserved and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, open space, street trees and elements of visual interest and heritage significance such as the many iconic buildings located in Newcastle East, parks and open space, views and vistas, the unique steep topography and street layout, and the character of the streetscapes including street trees, buildings and the relationship of built elements.

Elements that are to be preserved include:
▪ the range of contributory and historic buildings, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets
▪ existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the integrity of laneways
▪ street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items, public stairs, lanes, parks, views and vistas
▪ the regular and homogenous urban form which reflects a regular pattern of subdivision and development, and building stock from between the 1870s and 1930, demonstrating the gradual urbanisation of a once indigenous landscape
▪ the existing appearance of Newcastle East, views outwards to the coastline and harbour, and views into the area from Foreshore Park and the Newcastle coastline and Ocean Baths.
▪ icon heritage items including the Coal River Precinct, the Nobbys headland and breakwater, Fort Scratchley Historic Site, Convict Lumber Yard and Customs House precinct, the Newcastle Ocean baths, Joy Cummings Centre and other significant groups such as the Lahey Bond Store and Stevenson Place terraces and parks and reserves, including Newcastle beach, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park.

The CoN DCP2012 justification for NEHCA plainly sets out what actions should be taken to protect the area for future generations. To date, CoN has not followed those 2012 recommendations and has often acted in contravention of its own recommendations. We call on CoN to strengthen those protections, and implement the many recommendations it has failed to initiate.

Email submissions – De-identified

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas Review.

The following has been reviewed in the preparation of this response:
• Map 1 – HCAs Review Study Area
• Map 2 – NLEP 2012 Heritage Map

State heritage considerations under the Heritage Act 1977

We have reviewed the current Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area maps and make the following comments:
• It is noted that all items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in the vicinity of the HCA precincts are currently included within the HCA areas. It is recommended that any review of the HCA areas retains items listed on the SHR within the HCA boundaries, to assist with a cohesive approach to conservation of State heritage items and their relationships to each other within the city of Newcastle and its central precinct.

• Hamilton Railway Station (I113) is included on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR #01164). It is included on the Newcastle LEP Heritage Schedule as an item of State significance and is adjacent to two Local heritage items, Sydney Junction Hotel (I114) and the Hamilton Station Hotel (I197). This group is located in close proximity to the Newcastle City Centre HCA but is currently excluded from any Heritage Conservation Area. It is recommended that a review of the HCA areas include an assessment for the appropriateness of the inclusion of the railway station and surrounding hotels, in recognition of the role of the railways in Newcastle's history.

• It is also noted that Hamilton Railway Depot and Triangle is listed on the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register, however, does not appear to be included on the LEP Heritage Schedule. Subject to further assessment, it may be appropriate to consider this site for inclusion on the LEP Heritage Schedule in conjunction with the Hamilton railway station group.

• HNSW should be further consulted should this review result in a proposal for reductions to the HCA areas that result in exclusion of items listed on the SHR.

We encourage the creation of heritage conservation areas, and the identification and listing of new heritage items, provided that the necessary due diligence, assessments and notifications have been undertaken. Council should be satisfied that this is the case before proceeding.

Local heritage considerations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

As Local heritage is protected under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and under Newcastle LEP 2012, Newcastle Council is the consent authority, and the assessment and consideration of impacts of any proposed changes on Local heritage items rests with Council.

Email submissions – De-identified

(Continued from previous)

I respond to City of Newcastle's invitation to comment upon an oncoming review of Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas with concern and suspicion regarding the motivation behind such a review.

In my career in Environmental Planning which spanned over 30 years, I am well aware of the contempt many developers carried regarding heritage conservation. Many in that industry saw heritage conservation as a strong constraint upon maximum potential profits from their development proposals. The heritage environment was nothing more than a nuisance to them and Heritage conservation effects, in their view, needed to be minimized as much as possible.

Past attempts in some Local Government areas by some elected council representatives to "review" established heritage conservation areas were sometimes motivated by developer pressure which was, unfortunately in some cases, elevated by underhand personal benefit offers. Although sometimes aware of those incentives being offered, I am not personally aware that any of my associates in local government may have been party thereto.

A great example in my lifetime was the attempted demolition of the Rocks area at Sydney Cove which, except for the intervention of a far-seeing trade union movement, would have been an invaluable heritage feature lost to future generations forever.

Protection and retention of heritage is so important to the history of Australia, to each state and to local communities. The architecture of buildings of the past compliments each precinct and so often, in an architectural sense, surpasses that of more recent architectural outcomes. Retention and enhancement of each established conservation precinct is crucial to Australian and to local history.

The heritage facades designed by skilled architects of the time (Frederick Menkens and his contemporaries) to Newcastle's CBD which has contributed to Newcastle's attractive streetscapes and date from the 1800's must not be disturbed, diminished or obliterated.

The Newcastle City Council that I experienced in my time was strongly committed to the preservation of the existing heritage-related cityscape and to the encouragement of new development which observed sympathetic site assemblage and scale.

This valuable heritage assemblage is such a great showcase of Newcastle's history – a standing display of conditions of life in the 1800's and through into the following century.

I feel uneasy about this current proposal to review heritage because City of Newcastle has not demonstrated respect for long standing heritage and planning laws in recent decisions. The encouragement of an activity prohibited under established planning legislation and its instruments into a residential and heritage precinct in Newcastle East increases my unease. The injection of the noise and air pollution of Supercars into this precinct is insupportable in planning and heritage terms.

A heritage review in itself is most appropriate in circumstances where the motive is genuinely about preservation of key elements of the city's unique city - scape and the inclusion of site and structure which enhances Newcastle's present form and past history

It must not be driven alone by perceived financial returns to the development sector or by spurious claims of "renewal".

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Email submissions – De-identified

Subject: Community Engagement – Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas Review

Thank you for your letter and invitation to provide comment and input on the review of the Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East heritage conservation areas. We commend the City on this initiative.

Specifically, the Community Engagement requests comment on three aspects of proposed changes to the heritage conservation areas (HCA).

- Which streets and precincts merit continued heritage protection,
- Suggestions for the grouping and naming of precincts, and
- Which buildings and places are significant and thus should be listed in the Local environment plan.

We note the city has seen much new development in recent times, and this may be the instigation for the current review.

Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (NCCHCA)

The current Statement of Significance for the NCCHCA is:

> *The Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area is significant on many levels. The mix of commercial, retail and civic buildings is a powerful reminder of the city's past, its economic and social history. Historic buildings provide the backdrop to a city of dramatic topography on the edge of the sea and the mouth of a harbour. The pre-1840s buildings in the city are of State significance (Rose Cottage, c1830, Newcomen Club, 1830 [sic], parts of James Fletcher Hospital) and share associations with the city's convict origins. Newcastle has a rich archaeological record of national significance, with the potential to yield information about the early convict settlement and early industrial activities. The city area is known to have been a place of contact between colonists and the indigenous population. This evidence is available in historical accounts and in the archaeological record surviving beneath the modern city. The high numbers of commercial and civic buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries gives the city a rich historic character which is notable and allows an understanding of the importance of the city as a place of commerce, governance and city building. The historical foundation of the city was the discovery and exploitation of coal with good shipping access via a safe and navigable harbour. The town's layout by Surveyor General Henry Dangar in 1828 is still visible in the city's streets, and is an element of historical value, particularly in the vicinity of Thorn, Keightley, Hunter and Market streets.*

Although the boundary of the NCCHCA takes in Newcastle West, this Statement of Significance is seemingly unrelated to this end of the city, and even to the easterly Civic Precinct. The current Statement of Significance for the Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area is largely irrelevant when considering the West End and Civic area. Newcastle DCP 6.01.02 acknowledges this by recognising '*the predominance of larger consolidated land holdings and fewer environmental and heritage constraints*' making the area '*ideally suited to become the future CBD of Newcastle*.' The City of Newcastle has also referred to the West End as having no definable or consistent heritage character. To maintain significance in the area, the DCP principles for development in this area include simply for heritage items and their settings to be protected.

(Continued from previous)

Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area (NEHCA)

The current Statement of Significance for the NEHCA is:

> *The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is highly significant as a historic landscape that provides a record of the interaction between the natural environment, including the harbour and the sea, and human settlement. It contains important evidence of Aboriginal life in Newcastle East, uncovered during excavations at the Convict Lumber Yard (CLY) and historical archaeological sites. This evidence allows archaeologists to understand the human and environmental history of the precinct. Throughout its European history the area has been shaped by different activities including being the second penal settlement on the mainland after Sydney (from 1801), the site of the processing and shipping of cedar and coal (CLY), having an important coastal defence installation (Fort Scratchley Historic Site), the Nobbys lighthouse and breakwater important to the story of shipping, through to the generation of electricity. The residential area is significant for its consistent streetscapes of two and three storey terrace housing dating from the mid-19th through to early 20th centuries and its housing for workers. There are also examples of single storey detached houses. The social history of Newcastle East is derived from it being the site of early conservation battles in the 1970s, between developers and conservationists and there are rows of public housing that make this place a community and home for many. It is also an important place of recreation at facilities like the Ocean Baths, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park.*

The current boundary of the NEHCA is considered to capture the significant areas noted in the Statement of Significance, except for the exclusion of the Pilot Station and Boat Harbour – the only surviving boat harbour of five originals in Newcastle Harbour.

Specific comment on which streets, buildings, places and precincts are worthy of heritage protection is beyond the scope of a general comment. However, our high-level observations are as follows.

1. In recognition of the varied character of Newcastle West and its individuality distinct from Newcastle City Centre, consideration should be given to either reducing the size of the NCCHCA by protracting the western end and reviewing specific West End buildings for individual heritage significance or, splitting the NCCHCA into smaller areas reflecting the historical and architectural character, e.g. City Centre, Civic Precinct, and Newcastle West. The current boundary of NCCHCA encompasses some vastly different character and the City Centre Statement of Significance seems to be unrelated to this.
2. The NEHCA boundary captures the significance of the area with the exception of the Pilot Station and Boat Harbour.
3. The nomination of individual buildings of heritage value is an enormous task that should be addressed not only by the public poll, but through a specific HCA study by a heritage consultant.
4. It is unclear what the full scope of Council's review is, beyond the community engagement. Consideration should be given to the involvement of professional heritage consultants.
5. The *Review of Heritage Conservation Areas* (2016) undertaken by City of Newcastle excluded the NCCHCA. To now base possible amendments to the boundary solely on community feedback appears superficial.

We look forward to Phase 2 of the Community Engagement for this project.

Appendix IV – Interactive Map Data

Heritage conservation merit

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
96 Hunter St, Newcastle	Newcastle Post Office has the most heritage value of any building and should be retained and maintained always	97	1
8-10 Perkins St, Newcastle	The Victoria Theatre is a heritage-listed former theatre at 8–10 Perkins Street, Newcastle, City of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. It was opened in 1876 and rebuilt during 1890–1891, and is the oldest theatre still standing in New South Wales.	83	1
1 Bond St, Newcastle	The Newcastle Customs House is a heritage listed building located on the corner of Bond and Watt Street in Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia. The building was designed in the Italianate Renaissance Revival style by New South Wales Colonial Architect, James Barnet, in 1877, with a wing added in matching materials in 1899 under the direction of Walter Liberty Vernon.[1][2] It now operates as the Customs House Hotel.	77	1
30 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Great example of ocean baths	76	4
3/97 Scott St, Newcastle	Newcastle railway station is a heritage-listed closed railway station on the Newcastle railway line at Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. It was the main railway station and terminus station prior to the curtailment of the Newcastle railway line. The current railway station structure was built in 1878 under the direction of John Whitton and was listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 2 April 1999,[2] with additional workshops and rail yards surrounding the station	70	2
Nobbys Signal Station, 1 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	Integral to history of Australia, NSW and Newcastle across multiple conflicts. Saw action in WW2.	70	2
35 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	Iconic building	68	2
Pacific Park, 1 Pacific St, Newcastle	Pacific Park - historic community meeting place -green space that connects city to beach and extremely well utilised. Large Morton Bay Tree should be heritage protected.	65	1
6 Workshop Way, Newcastle	The Honeysuckle Railway Workshops are unique pieces of classic railway architecture. There are three buildings listed with the National Trust: Locomotive Boiler Shop New Erecting Shop Blacksmith and Wheel Shop	62	1
49 Telford St, Newcastle East	Telford House/Hall - significant turn of century building and one of the most photographed.	61	2
10 Alfred St, Newcastle East	The entire area east of pacific st is a very significant heritage area. It's very unique to have a suburb like this close to the city and ocean and the ocean and is a tourism draw card.	60	5
1-3 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	classic example of early housing in the city	60	2
744 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Bank Corner - Old Bank of New South Wales, 1922. Beautiful architecture of the Era. Elevates the ambience of the area. Cnr Hunter and Bellevue St.	57	2
292 King St, Newcastle	A beautiful theatre	56	2

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
Jackson Apartments, 80 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	This area has cultural and heritage significance	56	3
5 Workshop Way, Newcastle	The Forum Gym. Not sure of the history but looks the same era and maybe function as the Museum opposite. Another lovely lo-rise brick building.	52	3
57 Watt St, Newcastle	First Council Chambers erected in 1884 than 1927 Untied Services Club, (oldest in country I think) that provided care for displaced war veterans after WW1. Essential part of Newcastle History and ongoing example of the Hunters care for vulnerable people	51	3
290 King St, Newcastle	Needs no explanation	50	1
The Plankways, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	Not much left, but illustrates beautifully what once stood in this area	49	4
Foreshore Park, 32 Wharf Rd, Newcastle East	Foreshore Park requires protection from further loss of green space and vegetation, following resumption for the Supercars Newcastle500	47	1
38 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Canoe pool has historical and social value - remember the map of the world	46	2
13A Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	one of only two remaining woodsheds in the Harbour - they both illustrate the rich history of the City	45	2
Suite 3, Level 1, 16 Telford Street, Newcastle East NSW 2300, Bond St, Newcastle	One of the last few old bond stores around	45	2
136 Tyrrell St, The Hill	The walk from Church St (the Hill) to Lower Church St (now King St) was important, linking separated parts of early Newcastle, and deserves heritage acknowledgment.	44	1
227 Hunter St, Newcastle	Momo building (used to be KFC) beautiful interior with high ceilings and large windows.	43	5
430 Hunter Street Old Civic Railway Station, Newcastle	a classic example of railway architecture showcasing the past rail connections in the city	43	3
92 Scott St, Newcastle	Convict lumber yard has heritage significance	43	5
1 Pacific St, Newcastle	Pacific Park - historic community meeting place -green space that connects city to beach and extremely well utilised. Large Morton Bay Tree should be heritage protected.	42	2
18 Bond St, Newcastle	The Paymasters cottage is intimately connected to the early maritime and work history of Newcastle. One of the few buildings left. Needs Heritage listing.	42	1
9 Newcomen St, Newcastle	City Arcade. Gorgeous arcade with lots of history. Once had swimming baths - The Newcastle Corporation Baths were constructed by Newcastle City Council and opened in 1888. The baths took advantage of a spring of fresh water which was noted on early maps and once supplied much of the town's water. Parts of the building were subsequently used as a theatre, a picture palace, a billiard saloon and a printing establishment. Now has lots of small independent businesses and artisans.	42	4

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
90 Hunter St, Newcastle	The Lock-up building - once a police station - was built in the 1860s. It has a heritage exercise yard, cells and leather-padded cell.	42	1
129 Scott St, Newcastle	Longworth House. Beautiful and very unique architecture.	41	2
Suite 1A/21 Pacific St, Newcastle	Old North Wing of RNH. Last remaining and one of the earlier buildings associated with the Royal Newcastle Hospital. While it has clearly been adapted into units, the historic, social and aesthetic significance of the building remains.	41	2
37 Union St, Cooks Hill	beautiful old forestation illustrating the rich history of the city	39	3
Level 2/426 King St, Newcastle West	Miss Porters House already National Trust protected	39	1
117 Bull St, Newcastle West	Amazing example of brutalist architecture. Deserves a heritage listing.	38	12
27 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Tramway Reserve deserves some visual reminder of the past - original gaol, then steam trams etc.	37	2
311 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Beautiful old building. Should not be replaced with such high rises as those that surround it.	37	9
T & G, 41/45 Hunter St, Newcastle	Former T&G Building. Has aesthetic, historic and associative significance.	37	1
36 Scott St, Newcastle East	The heritage buildings in the Newcastle east precinct such as Scott st and Parnell Place need to be cared for by considering safe events that do not impact heritage architecture in any way as these buildings are irreplaceable.	36	6
11 Fort Dr, Newcastle East	There are military installations dating from colonial times right up the WW2, all along the Newcastle coastline.	35	0
557 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Trades Hall and Technical College prime examples of a past era, beautiful ornate brick buildings	35	1
6 Murray Ave, Newcastle East	This whole block between fort drive and Scott Street excluding the hotel should be heritage listed due to the buildings age and design	35	8
83-89 Scott St, Newcastle	The Great Northern Hotel. Holds social, historic and aesthetic significance. May hold associative significance as well.	35	3
Newcastle Beach, Newcastle	Newcastle East needs "blue oval" heritage markers on many of its buildings, and its open spaces. The convict era, the industrial era, the changing social history. Newcastle East is Newcastle City in microcosm!	35	4
Peninsula Apartments, 66 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	Boatman's Row was built in 1890s to house crew and families of boatmen for pilot boats. These boatmen also served on the lifeboat to assist ships in distress. Strong links to harbour and maritime history.	35	1
38 Alfred St, Newcastle East	The entire precinct from Telford St to Shortland Esplanade and from Scott St down to Foreshore Park should be constrained by heritage rules.	34	5
5 Fort Dr, Newcastle East	Flagstaff Hill - one of many sites of early mining endeavours, and part of our convict heritage.	34	0
7 Bond St, Newcastle East	Important link to Newcastle rail heritage. Visible evidence of rail history, export industry. Has become a social hub for community and family gathering.	34	1
100 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	The sandstone lined boat harbour that is the Pilot Station is one of the last remaining along the southern banks of the Hunter River - others have been filled in. We need to acknowledge the seamen, merchants, traders and residents who relied on small boats and safe harbour for them.	33	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
31 Telford St, Newcastle East	Herald Fountain is a loved water feature, and deserves restoration.	33	2
3QFV+P8 Newcastle East NSW, Australia	Soldiers Baths: Believed to be the first ocean baths - distinct from pools excavated from rock and harbour pools - built in NSW. Built by James Russell &Co for Newcastle Council in the 1880s, the Soldiers' Baths were a free bathing place for the public, also used by the soldiers barracked at Fort Scratchley. Rocks piled loosely in a semi-circle are clearly visible at low tide.	33	0
55 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Jean Perret Stairs named after community activist. East End was due for demolition in 60s... community activists and Newcastle Trades Hall Council with help of unions, placed Green Bans on any demolition. Strong links to community and social activism...saved 19th century history for posterity.	33	1
7 Watt St, Newcastle	Great Northern Hotel - heritage listed - third hotel of the same name to occupy the site, since 1863. Art Deco design. Hotel ballroom was a prominent feature of Newcastle social life through the twentieth century, and was a destination for Sydney visitors who caught the 'Flyer' to Newcastle.	33	1
Camp Shortland, Pasha Way, Newcastle East	Camp Shortland has historic links to John Shortland's visit to Newcastle and his 'discovery' of coal at the foot of Flagstaff Hill. It was a camp during the depression and many people lived in harsh conditions there with their families. East End residents regularly provided food for the families in the shanty town.	33	1
100 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Pilot Station, Boat Harbour and Boat Sheds – this stone boat harbour is state listed as significant for its role in the development and protection of the harbour from 1866 to present day. It is located within the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area.	32	1
11 Fort Dr, Newcastle East	Like the Bogey Hole, the Soldiers Bathes are a heritage relic from our convict past.	32	1
17 Bolton St, Newcastle	HUNTER STREET from Watt Street to Perkins. This streetscape contains many heritage buildings that should have Heritage listing so as to maintain the complete picture of Hunter Street when you look up at the higher facades.	32	2
16 Telford St, Newcastle East	Earp Gillam Bond Store State listed, designed by Frederick Menkens and built in 1888. Architects Suters /Snell won merit certificate in Greenway Award for Conservation and a BOMA building award and Master Builders' Association of NSW Excellence in Construction Award for Renovation/Restoration of a Historic Building. Has strong ties to Newcastle maritime history and retains many of its 19th century features.	31	0
23 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Coal Monument 1909 Jubilee Coal Monument. Symbolic of coal mining industry and Australian coal exports which began in Newcastle. Money for the monument was raised by public subscription. Relocated into Parnell Park for Supercars, it no longer sits on the harbour/beach view axis.	31	1
113 King St, Newcastle	Sandstone wall is a reminder of early Newcastle, and how the steep landscape was managed as the city grew.	29	3
92 Scott St, Newcastle	Convict Stockade-Birth of industry in Australia/national importance. Strong historical connections to convict, Newcastle foundation, export industry, national growth. Rare evidence of convict industrial workplace and of convict structures thought to have been lost. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation - now rare in urban Newcastle area. Site of Newcastle's first historic archaeological excavation that unearthed convict built remains - well, forge and brick paving - in 1987.	29	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
174 King St, Newcastle	The Terraces on King St, but most of the buildings around Tower Cinemas building are distinctive and worth keeping (including Tower Cinemas itself!)	28	1
National Service Memorial, Civic Park, Cnr King St and, Auckland St, Newcastle	CIVIC PARK The whole of Civic Park as it remains now must be maintained without any chipping away at the edges. It is a history lesson in its own right. Aspects of its former life need to be signposted.	28	0
1 Laman St, Newcastle	Modernist masterpiece	27	1
521 Hunter St, Newcastle	Victorian era façades along lengthy stretches of Hunter Street deserve restoration/preservation as they add much character to the area	27	1
744 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Bank Corner building, with the triangular shape of the architecture this building stands out in design and is iconic to the area and history of Hunter Street.	27	1
Civic Park, cnr Darby St and, Laman St, Newcastle	CIVIC PARK The whole of Civic Park as it remains now must be maintained without any chipping away at the edges. It is a history lesson in its own right. Aspects of its former life need to be signposted.	26	1
15 Laman St, Cooks Hill	Newcastle Library has significant modernist influences, and Dadswell's figure group (foyer) is an impressive plea for peace.	25	1
16 Bond St, Newcastle	Coutts Sailors home. Built in 1881 and of significant historical value to the city as a reminder of Newcastle port's maritime history.	25	2
363 Hunter St, Newcastle	Former Fred Ash building. Has associative, social, aesthetic significance.	25	2
667 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Former Theatre Royal - originally opened 1924, extensively renovated in 1930 and again in 1939. Much of the 1939 fabric remains. An important West End landmark building; a rare remaining style in Newcastle.	25	1
150 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Kings Wharf was at the heart of export / import in the era of sail. The harbour began here, moved west, then north west.	24	0
25 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Tramway reserve is a historic viewpoint and tied in with the oldest part of settlement on the peninsula - it affords 270 degree views to the ocean, and also over the historic ocean baths and should not be developed on.	24	0
3 Tudor St, Newcastle West	Church facade should be returned to original	24	2
30 Bolton St, Newcastle	Newcastle Morning Herald building. The Herald and its former headquarters are an important part of Newcastle's history.	24	2
7 Bond St, Newcastle East	Depression / fresh water source that has become the "Frog pond" should be retained in any revitalisation of the Foreshore Park.	24	2
24 Bolton St, Newcastle	It is only heritage building left between two contemporary structures on this end of Bolton St near Hunter St. It would add to the close area of the post office.	23	1
519 Hunter St, Newcastle	Facades above the shops between Worth Place and Union Street look to be early 20th century (although the shop fronts at street level could be remodelled to suit the era)	23	2
155 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	The Signal Box has been a part of the Newcastle Railway Station precinct since its construction in 1936. The site itself, showcases the layout and development of the nineteenth century Victorian railway precinct.	22	0
Newcastle Beach, Newcastle	Reverend John Coutts Home. Administrator of the sailor's home.	22	3
123 Scott St, Newcastle	Former Commercial Hotel built 1888. Classic example of late 19th century architecture	21	1

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
549 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Facades should be retained and restored in any future developments	21	2
32 Union St, Newcastle West	Hangar garage. An inner city building that gives character to King St. it is one of the few of Newcastle's steel industrial buildings that remain which survived the Newcastle earthquake and is iconic to the approach into Newcastle. A contemporary parking structure would not be designed with the same sophistication. To be replaced by another faceless skyscraper. A beautiful mural and opportunity for markets / inner city gatherings under the expansive roof.	20	7
37 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Alfred St in general should be included due to its unique terraces and community.	20	1
92 Scott St, Newcastle	Stationmasters quarter	20	2
15 Laman St, Cooks Hill	Coal trains routes shaped Newcastle. The Laman St tunnel, the King St ramp, Burwood St, etc Here, the old 'gatekeeper cottage' has significant heritage value.	19	0
189 Hunter St, Newcastle	Example of early hotel with turret (similar to old David Jones building). I'm disappointed that with so many of the old buildings such as David Jones only have the facade remaining. The character of each of these buildings has been lost each time developers construct a unit block or office tower behind the facade. The view and open space from top of Perkins St to harbour is one of the few remaining vistas in Newcastle East End.	19	0
412 King St, Newcastle West	Newcastle's first hotel dating back to the 1850's	19	5
461 King St, Newcastle West	1877 Former head office of the Newcastle Gas Company.	19	2
593 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Former Hunter District Water Board building. Directly opposite the new open space next to the TAFE. Compliments the Trades Hall building on opposite side of Hunter St.	19	2
City Administration Centre, 282 King St, Newcastle	Former City Administration Centre. Built in 1977 in a brutalist style. An iconic building of Newcastle's Civic precinct.	19	0
Stokes Apartments, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	Architecture of its time. Newcastle's equivalent of Sydney's Sirius building. Should be preserved.	19	11
Unit 1/738 Hunter St, Newcastle West	A beautiful and distinctive facade along Hunter St.	19	1
15 Scott St, Newcastle East	Building on the corner of Scott and Zaara streets is a beautiful coloured old building which should be preserved - it is tied in with the colourful) history of Zaara Street.	18	0
30 Pacific St, Newcastle	The YHA is a beautiful old building with lots of character - former part of hospital grounds and gentleman's club before that.	18	0
635-641 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The Family Hotel, formerly Cardiff Arms, Cameron Family, Silk, Ducks Nuts hotel. Built in 1885. One of Newcastle's oldest pubs.	18	2
7 Bond St, Newcastle East	Frog Pond-the pond, known as the Frog Pond, was included in the Bicentennial Foreshore Park design to represent the freshwater spring that originally ran to the harbour here. The original spring has cultural ties to the Awabakal people and was the source of water used by John Shortland when he visited Newcastle while searching for convict escapees.	18	2
727 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Beautiful original terraces remain in the area. Add aesthetic value to the streetscape.	18	3

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
Peninsula Apartments, 54 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	Area western side of Zahra Street. Scot St east of Zahra St, Stevenson Place. Nobbys Road, Beach Street, Telford. Note that some or all of these are already Heritage Areas, which makes the running of the Supercars event in this area ludicrous. How do you justify defacing this area for two months each year?	18	2
33 Telford St, Newcastle East	Run of beautiful old homes with art deco style which should be preserved. Different architecture to other older buildings - whitewashed etc.	17	0
701 Hunter St, Newcastle West	A handful of remaining original buildings with historical value left in the area.	17	3
King St Before National Park St, Newcastle West	The Drill Hall built is a Type 2 Drill Hall [114' x 74'] built in August 1908 that was used extensively by the Australian Military Forces, particularly in support of the Universal Training Scheme from 1911. Although modifications and additions were made by the Army throughout its service life, the original structure and purpose is apparent. Its significance lies in the now diminished sense of community service through defence of the nation by the voluntary citizen forces.	17	4
Stokes Apartments, 16 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	The pond, known as the Frog Pond, was included in the Bicentennial Foreshore Park design to represent the freshwater spring that originally ran to the harbour here. The original spring has cultural ties to the Awabakal people and was the source of water used by John Shortland when he visited Newcastle while searching for convict escapees.	17	3
28 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Bond building viewed from the park space and the heritage houses is a historic building which should be preserved.	16	0
366 Hunter St, Newcastle	Heritage value- no high rise here	16	18
841 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Beautiful building with stained glass windows	16	3
15 Zaara St, Newcastle East	The heritage terraces and warehouses of this grid are some of the oldest Anglo-Saxon homes in the state and therefore the country - there still remains a vibrant mixed community including young families, students and more established older homeowners - less of it is transient holidaymakers. It is a key part of walking tours, and unique. Supercars is damaging old buildings (cracks etc) which survived two world wars, an earthquake and countless storms.	15	0
21 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Belmont Terrace Built 1903 Distinctive set of 7 terraces.	15	0
409 Hunter St, Newcastle	While not historical, Nuspace represents a bold new direction the city is headed towards	15	6
48A Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	Cottage Creek has been part of Newcastle Heritage from the earliest stories... Worimi, AA Coy and ever since.	15	0
515 Hunter St, Newcastle	Former Police Station.	15	4
172 King St, Newcastle	These terraces are an important part of Newcastle's history/heritage and need to be protected.	14	0
307 King St, Newcastle West	Newcastle Permanent Building Society. A prominent and well-maintained building with a deep connection to Newcastle's history.	14	12
38 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	The map of the world should be restored	13	2

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
49 Hunter St, Newcastle	Westpac/Soul Cafe building. Well-maintained building in brutalist style. Different from the buildings around it, but no less beautiful or important.	12	14
148 Parry St, Newcastle West	A cultural and community icon. The Edwards is an example of post-industrial architecture of Newcastle's West End.	11	2
3/16 Bolton St, Newcastle	This building is an important part of Newcastle's history/heritage and needs to be protected.	11	0
69 Parry St, Newcastle West	Some heritage merit	11	7
8 Tudor St, Newcastle West	The Milk Bottle Window of the former Dairy Farmers building must be protected in any future plans to develop this corner. Currently the trimming of the trees would assist in allowing citizens to see what is there.	11	4
10 Pacific St, Newcastle	Row of C19th shops...still retain old style architecture and overhanging balconies.	10	0
39 Bolton St, Newcastle	It is believed that the building that still remains at 74 King Street Newcastle is of major historic significance and possibly one of the oldest remaining domestic houses that remain in the city and should be protected and not demolished to make way for the new apartments proposed for this site. It is not understood how this building was not highlighted and overlooked in the original heritage submission?	10	0
74 King St, Newcastle	My apologies my original submission was placed over the wrong point on the map. It is believed that the building that still remains intact at 74 King Street Newcastle is of major historic significance and possibly one of the oldest remaining domestic houses that remain in the city and should be protected and not demolished to make way for the new apartments proposed for this site. It is not understood how this building was not highlighted and overlooked in the original heritage submission?	10	0
20 Scott St, Newcastle East	Highly significant row of terraces. Should have state heritage protection.	9	0
290 King St, Newcastle	This building is an important part of Newcastle's history/heritage and needs to be protected.	9	0
3 Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	The old wharf buildings are an important part of Newcastle's heritage and need to be protected.	9	0
593 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Former Hunter District Water Board building. Directly opposite the new open space next to the TAFE. Compliments the Trades Hall building on opposite side of Hunter St.	9	2
63 Scott St, Newcastle	Joy Cummings Centre...once house police station. Preserved now as community space. Social and heritage value.	9	0
88 Scott St, Newcastle	Department of Education headquarters, now residential. Links to social and architectural history.	9	0
11 Beach St, Newcastle East	Intact heritage terraces. Important heritage links to social and architectural history.	8	0
2 Ocean Terrace, Newcastle East	Ocean Terrace...unique terraces, some of them altered by inappropriate additions.	8	0
338 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Heritage merit	8	16
46 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	Boatman's row had been public housing from 1895 to 2005. When it was built it was the first public housing in Aust and the first to be built with specific requirements of a window in every room and a toilet for each house & gt; Needs to be included on State list of heritage buildings.	8	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
5 Tudor St, Newcastle West	5 Tudor Street (Nova Apartments) was built on the site of Steggles bulk store which provided hay, seeds, pet food, livestock feed, etc. Some still refer to this corner as 'Steggles Corner'. Council approved the Nova Apartments with the consent condition that a replica art deco facade be rebuilt to replace the original. The current facade is only representative rather than an exact copy. Nonetheless, the facade has heritage interpretive value - it's also a key element in the landmark corner.	8	0
50 Scott St, Newcastle East	Waratah Terrace...significant terrace housing from 1800s.	8	0
7/9 Bolton St, Newcastle	Post office...designed by Walter Liberty Vernon (also responsible for the NSW Art Gallery and Sydney's Central Station) whilst NSW Government Architect. Fine example of Edwardian Classical architecture. Now in dilapidated state requiring urgent intervention.	8	0
Level 1/9 Denison St, Newcastle West	The south side of Denison St features original sandstone kerb stones, perhaps 20 metres. This end of Denison St was once part of Hamilton. The iconic 1879 Turkish Baths were sited on the north-western corner, opposite the sandstone kerbing. The Northern Districts Co-op Housing Society building adjacent the Cambridge may have social significance. Consider progressing the public domain plan for this leafy street with a pocket park.	8	0
100 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	The Cornish Boat Dock, TS Tobruk hall (1911) and all of Nobby's Headland are outside the bounds of the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area, possibly because they sit on land managed by state agencies. This is a similar to the situation at Honeysuckle, where several government agencies own or manage the land - hence most of Honeysuckle is outside the City Centre HCA. There needs to be a mechanism of managing the historic landscape across jurisdictions and agencies.	7	0
12 Bond St, Newcastle	Bond Street has multiple beautiful old buildings on both sides with an aspect down to the harbour and Customs house and should be preserved.	7	0
154 Parry St, Newcastle West	Birdwood Park has been cut by a multilane highway which could be trenched. That would make the reserve a green space of significant size, and provide a second "civic" space, now that Council has moved there. In time the CarLovers site could become the new city admin centre. Makes sense!	7	6
22 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Never been known as Crack Alley. No idea why it appears on maps. Name is Alfred Street Lane. Should be corrected.	7	0
25 Denison St, Newcastle West	The gorgeous 1880s brick cottage 'Lawson' at 23 Denison, is currently a doctor's surgery. It is the sole remaining detached brick residence in the CBD. It may have a connection with Mr Lawson, or Lawson Street. At 25 Denison Street next door, is a large 2-storey Victorian house sub-divided into four units. The building sits behind a later shopfront. They may reach the threshold for heritage listing.	7	0
35 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Unique, ornamental timber terraces.	7	0
38 Union St, Cooks Hill	Well preserved Federation residence, which enhances to the layering of history in this pocket and softens the border between commercial and residential zones.	7	0
38 Zaara St, Newcastle East	Shop front preserves the old style it had when built. Columns on footpath to secure balcony.	7	0
41 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Coach house restored to residential home. Fine example of sensitive restoration of C19th building.	7	0
5 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Set of two terraces with commanding views down to west. Heritage significance.	7	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
6 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Significant row of terraces that once stood higher than the current road.	7	0
785 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The Quest Hotel complex of buildings is heritage listed as the former Castlemaine Brewery which began in 1876. The Brewery complex could be the centrepiece of a heritage precinct or node bounded by Hunter-Stewart-Parry-Denison, including the Cambridge Hotel and several Contributory 1 &2 items along Denison &Wood St, such as 23 Denison cottage 'Lawson' & the interwar shops 6-12 Wood St.	7	0
851 Pacific Hwy, Hamilton NSW 2303, Australia	The far western end of the CCHCA features 20 mature figs (7 northern side, 13 southern side) at this shady, and important gateway to the city centre. This area should be retained, protected and enhanced, including footpath widening, potential cycle lane, seating, and place making.	7	0
Civic Park, cnr Darby St and, Laman St, Newcastle	Civic Park has been recognized as a heritage parkland. HCA mapping within the Heritage Manual should also reflect open spaces with heritage significance, not just built items.	7	0
Shortland Park, Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle	The 1907 stone shelter now sits within the unfinished South Newcastle Beach skate park. The shelter has been restored by CN, albeit some of its setting has been lost. The National Trust has nominated this shelter, the earlies example of Newcastle's 'beach improvement' works for local heritage listing. We think the shelter is the oldest surviving item of ocean beach recreation infrastructure in Australia.	7	0
Suite 12/125 Bull St, Newcastle West	I understand that the sandstone walling at the eastern end of McDonalds formed part of the Newcastle Gas Company. As gasometer was located nearby. CN should ensure that small heritage features - walls, kerbing, signage, bridges over Cottage Creek, steps, etc are preserved. These small details add to the overall character.	7	0
The Base |, 3 Tudor St, Newcastle West	This Presbyterian Church hidden by a more recent shopfront, may have been the first (1882) Hamilton Presbyterian Church noted in Trove as celebrating its 21st birthday in 1903. The church was associated with the Presbyterian Burial Ground alongside Cottage Creek now below 710 Hunter St. Ideally, the modern facade would be removed, but the Church itself should be investigated for heritage significance. Being hidden from Hunter St doesn't detract from its significance.	7	0
Unit 1/841 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The 'Catholic Diocese' precinct bounded by Selma St, Parry St, Tudor St (western side) and Hunter St (southern side) has cultural, social, and aesthetic heritage conservation merit. Most of the precinct, including Sacred Heart cathedral and St Joseph's Convent is heritage listed (local). The former St Aloysius Girls High, Sacred Heart Primary School &Southern Cross Hall may reach the threshold of heritage significance. The tower is a local landmark. Include the houses 1-5 Selma St.	7	1
11 Scott St, Newcastle East	Turn-of-the-century terraces.	6	1
13 Telford St, Newcastle East	Examples of timber terraces with overhanging balconies. Set of three.	6	0
2A Zaara St, Newcastle East	Built for first LM of Newcastle. Significant heritage home. Heritage value has been eroded by council allowing subdivision of the original garden.	6	0
4 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Tudor-style terrace homes. Set of three.	6	0
410 King St, Newcastle	Entire building should be retained for it's significant social history.	6	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
5 Selma St, Newcastle West	These three detached inter-war houses (c1930s) - 1-3-5 Selma are the last remaining row of detached houses in the City Centre. They may be owned by the Catholic Church. They make a good heritage contribution to the CCHCA, and in particular, contribute to the adjacent heritage-listed items owned by the Catholic Diocese. All three of these houses are mapped as 'Contributory' buildings.	6	0
5 Telford St, Newcastle East	Sandhills Public Housing for aged. Good example of infill building in HCA. Social history importance.	6	0
55 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Built in 1921 Tyrrell House is on the current Local Environmental Plan as being of heritage interest, particularly its facade. Its foyer has original tiles and the high ceilings have ornate work of intricate design. Designed by the architect firm of Pitt and Merewether it sits proudly on Pacific Park looking directly along Hunter Street. It is one of the most photographed buildings in Newcastle.	6	0
64-66 Scott St, Newcastle East	Brewery warehouse now converted to Craft Beer house. Still retains old lift machinery inside.	6	0
726 Hunter St, Newcastle West	An historic steel railway bridge over Cottage Creek has been conserved and forms part of the bridge crossing for the light rail. Cottage Creek should remain within the CCHCA.	6	0
8 Tudor St, Newcastle West	The heritage-listed (local) Dairy Farmers Co-op 'Milk Bottle' clocktower IS being retained as a freestanding landmark in front of a tall mixed office/residential tower to be built by the Thirdi Group. There may be scope to trim or remove a tree, to improve sightlines to the clocktower.	6	0
86 Scott St, Newcastle East	Restored Victorian Terrace.	6	0
9 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	No 5 Shortland Esplanade features a house name 'Cowrie Hole'. This rare survivor from the 1930s, is a typical inter-war beach bungalow. Alex Galloway built two bungalows below his mansion 'Clovelly', (now demolished). The bungalow at No 5 was called 'The Studio'. Although garages have been built in front of the bungalow, its still easy to appreciate the bungalows features. Consider for heritage listing.	6	0
Christie Park, 300 King St, Newcastle	All the key features in this area are already within a heritage conservation area. There is a danger in creating new fragmented and piecemeal areas, or conversely, excising 'no heritage' donut holes from the existing CCHCA.	6	0
14 Dick St, Newcastle West	The Tonella Centre, corner Ravenshaw & Bull, began c1925 as the Producer's Distributive Society (PDS) for wholesale groceries. It was also the Allowrie Butter Factory. In the 1990s, it was the home of NSW Unions training department. It has been said the interior features large red cedar support timbers. Suters City Centre 1990s study identified this as a potential heritage item.	5	0
15 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Well-preserved terrace housing, C19th.	5	0
152 Parry St, Newcastle West	The Christadelphian House of Testimony in continual use since constructed in 1929. Original construction and significant social/religious history.	5	0
20 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Row of terrace housing. Small housing stock from C19th.	5	0
27 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Terrace housing from 1800s. Many restored, some with unsympathetic additions.	5	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
33 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Italianate terrace.	5	0
42 Union St, Newcastle West	Rare remaining example of a late 19th century warehouse, which contributes to the important intersection containing other historical buildings such as the Commonwealth Hotel, the Fire Station and the retail terrace shopfronts. Ideal to be re-purposed for a retail/commercial purpose.	5	0
502 King St, Newcastle West	Birdwood Park was the site of The Stadium, a venue for boxing, circus and entertainment. During WW2, a National Emergency Coordination centre was set to coordinate the civil defence response in case of air raids. Located adjacent the Long Tan Village, it would be ideal if more seating and paths were established to better activate the park.	5	0
506 Civic Ln, Newcastle	The remains of a c1857 railway turntable is protected in this location by a fence. Archaeological excavation spoil was backfilled. The brickwork of the Turntable Pit exposed in this exploratory excavation has verified the exact location of the c. 1857 Turntable. The Turntable is by far the most significant item of rail heritage in Honeysuckle and is a highly significant item in the history of railway development in Australia. Some years back, Council proposed a small Turntable Park.	5	0
590 Hunter St, Newcastle West	This building is an important part of Newcastle's history/heritage and needs to be protected.	5	0
650 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Remnants from the Honeysuckle (railway) Station were found are the current site of the Honeysuckle Light Rail stop.	5	0
8 Devonshire St, Newcastle West	3 Devonshire Street - a freestanding late 19th century dwelling. Part of the original streetscape and associated with an adjacent Dance Hall (demolished). Professor Allard a Phrenologist also operated his business there, and in the 80's/90's it became the iconic Kurt's Coffee Lounge. Should be retained for its visual contribution to the laneway, it's long and colourful history and as a rare example of a freestanding dwelling of it's era.	5	0
876 Hunter St, Newcastle West	878 Hunter St is the current site of Werrin's - former glass merchants. This recognized Contributory 1 building was erected in 1929, and extended in 1936. The house is still owned by a member of the Werrin family. Werrin's provided the glazing for many CBD buildings, including the listed Union Steamship Company in Watt St. Recommend investigation for heritage listing.	5	0
990 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Not a heritage matter - please consider pedestrian and cycle access from Wickham Park through to Railway Lane.	5	0
Nobbys Signal Station, 1 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	Recent sculpture exhibition highly successful. CoN wouldn't fund it so had to be funded privately. Huge crowds drawn and city not locked down as for Supercars. CoN needs to create more of these passive recreation events.	5	0
Stokes Apartments, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	Avenue of mature trees removed for Supercars needs to be replanted. The park and playground is barren now.	5	0
The Plankways, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	Site of the Zaara Street Power Station. Needs interpretive sign/monument to educate people of the past history of the site.	5	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
13A Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	This building is an important part of Newcastle's history/heritage and needs to be protected.	4	0
19/23 Steel St, Newcastle West	Like its bigger brother, Little Birdwood Park is tired and underutilised. With more apartment dwellers living in the area, there is considerable scope to revamp this park to include shady nooks, seating, and public art.	4	0
2 Scott St, Newcastle East	Historic Villa Franca building.	4	0
23 Telford St, Newcastle East	Tyrrell House. Links to Anglican Church and heritage of Newcastle East.	4	0
231 Hunter St, Newcastle	c1890, Late Victorian shop with classical detail. Contributing to history and character of this city block.	4	0
275A Hunter St, Newcastle	The Corona Building with its beautiful detailed brickwork is a building worth heritage merit. Not just for the building's detail and architecture but to its connections to the Australian Agricultural Company and its long-standing business in Newcastle. Additionally, its architect the most significant architect working in Newcastle from the 1880s Frederick Castleden (and his son Archer). The Corona Building has had many businesses including The Corona Cafe, a part of the Greek Cafe era.	4	0
30 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	The Ocean Baths pavilions (north & south), central building, and facade date from 1922 (with the facade modified in 1928). CN needs to ensure that the cultural, social and aesthetic significance of the baths is retained in accordance with the Baths Conservation Management Plan. Retention of the facade only would be a poor outcome.	4	0
31 Watt St, Newcastle	Former nurse's home, now apartments.	4	0
33 Scott St, Newcastle East	Currently an architect's office. Unique example of terrace house with innovative treatment to facade.	4	0
35 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Set of three terrace houses built by berthing master of harbour in 1885. Unique in that they were built for brothers with different sized families, reflected in the differing sizes of the terraces. Oldest terraces in Stevenson Place.	4	0
36 Scott St, Newcastle East	'Scotties' terrace/shopfront sits on an important corner site. The building was designed by Frederick Menkens.	4	0
53 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Fine example of terrace housing.	4	0
59 Parry St, Newcastle West	The entire precinct bound by King-National Park-Warrah-Stewart is largely comprised of warehouses which can be readily adapted for multiple purposes. The precinct could become the entertainment heart of the new western CBD just like the Warehouse Precinct, in Austin Texas.	4	0
904-908 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The prominent brick warehouse, part of Kennard's Storage. is accessed from Tighe St. The warehouse was designed by prominent local architects Oldham & Lees, and built in 1937 (see Reedman, Hunter Architects) for the NSW Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS). The NSW CWS was established in 1912 by 4 Hunter Valley co-operatives to overcome challenges such as price-cutting by competitors. Worthy of heritage listing on technical, historic, social & aesthetic grounds.	4	0
Hunter St &, Auckland St, Newcastle	Prominent and beautiful Inter war deco building. Designed by Emil Sodersten. Highly worthy of heritage conservation. A landmark building in the city.	4	0
1 Telford St, Newcastle East	NBC Court...adapted to a secretarial school in 50s. Social and heritage significance.	3	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
13 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Recent modern rooftop extensions, additions and renovations along Murray Ave and the northern side of Beach St are out of character and scale with neighbouring heritage properties. While the additions may have less visual impact from the front elevation (such as Fort Drive), they have a greater impact on Beach Street. The desire to grab that ocean view is understood, but no one 'owns a view'. Heritage controls in this regard need to be tightened.	3	0
13 Zaara St, Newcastle East	Significant large corner house with stone foundations.	3	0
155 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	One of a kind and has to be preserved.	3	0
16 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Single -storey miners' cottage C19th.	3	0
23 Telford St, Newcastle East	Public Housing for aged residents. Unobtrusive infill building. Social history importance.	3	0
25 Zaara St, Newcastle East	The Carlton Building dates back to the 1880's and has had a local heritage listing on its facades for many years. It's position on the Corner of Scott and Zaara makes it a iconic structure in Scott Street. In 1928 the building was re-developed using a design by local architect Mr E.C. Sara. The redevelopment included the current facades and an enormous lounge in Roman renaissance style with Doric columns and roof beams panelled in plaster. Some of this work is still visible inside Sticky Rice.	3	0
3 Wood St, Newcastle West	There are four interesting shopfronts/stores from the interwar period on the northern side of Wood St opposite the heritage-listed Quest Hotel. Little is known about these buildings - which may front older buildings at the rear. The street has appeal and could become a niche boutique shopping area.	3	0
30 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Historic wrought iron and galvanised iron shelter shed	3	0
38 Alfred St, Newcastle East	The two alleyways either side of Albert Street, feature rare & unique 'landscapes' offering glimpses of the rear elevations and outbuildings of late 19th and early 20th century buildings. Heritage and building controls need to ensure that the remaining backyard 'dunnies' are retained to provide a 'window' into a much earlier era. These lanes would have been by the 'night soil' carters.	3	2
412 King St, Newcastle West	Built in 1925, replacing an earlier Star Hotel, 'The Star' is certainly not Newcastle's oldest pub. But given its social history, community associations and aesthetic, the southern portion addressing King Street and Devonshire Lane should be heritage listed.	3	0
43 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Pembridge Terrace...row of significant terrace housing.	3	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
681B Hunter St, Newcastle West	The Cottage Bridge was once a well-known landmark that marked the western end of Newcastle, and the transition to the Maitland Road. The bridge abutments should be conserved. There is potential to improve the concrete slab over Cottage Creek on the southern side to make it an attractive open space on the pedestrian route to Marketown.	3	0
756 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The three shopfronts at 758-764 Hunter St comprise the 1880s Shedden's Building built for Alexander Shedden, a Newcastle Alderman and Mayor of Wickham. The location was initially Charlton St Wickham, at 'the Cottage Bridge'. Shedden owned a firm of builders, joiners & undertakers (handy with the cemetery nearby). The private Centennial Museum was set in the building in 1887. This item makes a strong contribution to the Bank Corner precinct, has unusual attics and may have heritage significance.	3	0
904-908 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Here's an image of the NSW Co-op Wholesale Society warehouse 1937, today's Kennards Storage. Oldham & Lees were prominent local architects responsible for several heritage listed items across Newcastle, however, this appears to be their only building of substantial scale.	3	0
Civic Park, cnr Darby St and, Laman St, Newcastle	Memorial Grove is a commemorative and reflective garden space, with multiple memorials and plaques positioned throughout.	3	0
Level 1/140 King St, Newcastle	This brick 2 story building contributes to the built character of this historical part of Newcastle. Including details such as 4 arched windows with paned glass. Sympathetic to the building height and arched windows in the buildings opposite including Central Hall and The Newcastle Wool Exchange. All of these building contribute to a shared history and built character of the narrower streets of King St.	3	0
level 1/4 Crown St, Newcastle	Warrah House, 1935, worthy of heritage merit. Built by AA Co after Company Rail Bridge was demolished in 1921. A shared history and built character with nearby buildings including the Corona Building. The entire block through Crown St has heritage merit with landscaping and 2 story building height making it a nice walkable area. Warrah House included Tatler Newsreel Theatre then Roma Theatre with many historical societal connections. Including connections to the Goumas family & cinema business.	3	0
Nobbys Rd before Wharf Rd, Newcastle East	The convict-era Macquarie Pier began at this point now marked by an circular plaque. A significant portion of Macquarie extends through the Newcastle East HCA on its route to Nobby's Headland (then an island).	3	0
The Plankways, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	Community garden...centre for growing, meeting, socialising. Important social and environmental history.	3	0
110 Maitland Rd, Wickham NSW 2293, Australia	This is the start of an embanked historic railway formation that runs through Wickham and heads toward Throsby Creek and the Carrington Bridge - hence the street name 'The Branch' (line) in Wickham. This would make an excellent walking and cycling railtrail to access Throsby Creek and the harbour.	2	0
14 Perkins St, Newcastle	The two 2 story buildings to the left of the Victoria theatre need heritage conservation. They both display facade and roofline decorative elements and the 2 story shop fronts are compatible with the height of the Victoria Theatre. Will help to maintain a historical built character down that side of Perkin St to Crown & Anchor.	2	1

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
2 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Rare single storey duplex, C19th.	2	0
20 Auckland St, Newcastle	Northumberland County Council building, designed by Frank Stone with Todd & Hay. Now Watt Space Gallery an important part of the arts and university community in Newcastle, redesigned by an alumni winning several awards.	2	0
28 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	This building, in shape, form and some internal features of the lower floors, dates from the original David Cohen Bond Store built in circa 1895. It burnt down in 1900 and was rebuilt in a lower style which remained until it was redeveloped in 1994. Whilst it is listed (1491), I believe, as the John Bull Bond Store this makes reference to a later use of the building and it should be listed as The David Cohen Bond Store. It should remain on the register as an item of heritage interest.	2	0
3 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Well-preserved terraces. Good example of C19th terrace housing. Some with basements.	2	0
30 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Typical workers' terrace housing from late 1800s.	2	0
32 National Park St, Hamilton East NSW 2303, Australia	Lovely inter-war c1934 'block of flats', possibly by Oldham & Lees. Recent renovations have altered the exterior appearance a little. but it still reads as an inter-war apartment. Some interesting deco features throughout the interior.	2	0
32 Wharf Rd, Newcastle East	Naval history	2	0
35 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	History from convict and depression era	2	0
39 Denison St, Newcastle West	'Hamilton Chrome', a fascinating skilled workshop from the 1930s which is still operating. The signage is a classic! Seemingly functionalist items also possess cultural value and charm, and reflect that Newcastle West was largely a working man's light industrial and bulky goods precinct. Much of the west end was originally either Hamilton or Wickham.	2	0
509 Hunter St, Newcastle	This building is a very important part of Newcastle's history/heritage and needs to be protected.	2	0
7 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Unusual free-standing 'terrace'.	2	0
840 Pacific Hwy, Newcastle West	The prominent 'Pryors Building 1921' sits on the key site Hunter-Stewart Ave corner in the 'new CBD.' The indigenous mural on the eastern elevation has become a loved local landmark. Well-known Mr Pryor built the three shopfronts when he left his partnership with Mr Steggles. Pryor rented the shopfronts out & built a produce store opposite the nearby brewery; S&W Miller had a popular appliance store here 1970s-c2000. Rare item of this age & quality west of Stewart Ave. Investigate heritage	2	0
The Base |, 3 Tudor St, Newcastle West	Also read - Suters Heritage Study - that it might be Methodist. But that report has it on list of potential heritage items.	2	0
21 Pacific St, Newcastle	Pacific Park is an important green open space that needs conservation. It is well utilised by the community and visitors and provides a good place between the eastern end of Hunter Street and Newcastle Beach.	1	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
22 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	Shelled by Japanese sub attack. during WW!!	1	0
282 King St, Newcastle	The Roundhouse (Crystalbrook) is now listed on the State Heritage Register. Time to update the Heritage Technical Manual mapping which shows this building as only 'Neutral'. It should be 'Brown' - of heritage significance.	1	2
427 Hunter St, Newcastle	Decorative brick 1878 corner building with a long history of merchants.	1	0
685-687 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Brambles Butchery (685 Hunter) was built in 1884 for Walter Bramble, the 'father' of the ASX-listed Brambles logistics empire. The business began as a family butchery and expanded to the carrier trade and shipping. The butchery featured NSW's largest steam-driven sausage machine. The Brambles enterprise began from this building. The western elevation features a large rare painted c1930s 'ETA Peanut Butter' advertisement in need of weather protection. Recommend heritage listing.	1	0
738 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The former Bellevue Hotel remnants at this prominent corner work because they are more than just the exterior facade, but include a meaningful portion of the hotel.	1	0
767 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Fowlers Hotel from 1909. A long-standing pub building on the corner. A remanent of the history of Hunter Street from 100+ years ago. As more and more of this infrastructure is removed from Newcastle West this would be an important conservation and has potential to become a historic pub or restaurant type venue within the multi-story hotel and upcoming apartment district.	1	0
880 Pacific Hwy, Newcastle West	Here's a photograph of Werrin's Glass Merchants. This area, originally known as Charlton Street, Wickham is one of very remaining examples of the light industrial businesses that characterized the area west of today's Stewart Avenue. The area around the Interchange was once the site of carriage makers, a Horse Bazaar, Brewery Lane, a cooperage (for beer barrels) etc.	1	0
9 Darby St, Newcastle	Site of the first purpose-built car dealership in Newcastle - built by Kloster family.	1	0
Shop 1, Level 1/517 Hunter St, Newcastle	This important group of 1880s shopfronts and terraces line the south side of Hunter St from Worth Place ('Hunter Violins', 505 Hunter) to 1 Union St. The group is anchored by the heritage-listed Stegga's Emporium (which includes the iconic 'Rockshop') comprised of 7 shopfronts built in 1884 to a Menkens design. The owners need assistance to unite the facade in a single colour scheme. Apart from the entry building to 'Sky' this row is largely intact. The group forms a heritage landscape.	1	0
103 Hunter St, Newcastle	Astoria Cafe building with its beautiful stained glass and hand painted signage still visible on the awing is one of those inner-city details that should be retained.	0	0
15 Pacific St, Newcastle	The western asphalted section of Pacific Park doesn't work well, is untidy and should be softened with plantings and street furniture. Pacific Park was the work of a notable landscape architect, but it some areas have not been maintained well. Kids and families love the solar fountain in the summer months!	0	0
158A Hunter St, Newcastle	Municipal Building worth of protection.	0	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
168 Hunter St, Newcastle	Dangar Offices, Menkens, FG Castleden / Federation Free style Significant for its association with the Dangar family. Survived the Cohen Warehouse fire. Beautiful building, very worthy of protection and adaptive reuse	0	0
17 Bolton St, Newcastle	Bookended by the former Newcastle Courthouse (SHR) and the former Railway Station (SHR), Bolton St features the finest collection of heritage and contributory buildings in Newcastle, including well known buildings faced with stonework at the iconic Bolton-Hunter intersection. A number of impressive buildings in this street are not heritage listed, but are make a string contribution. 'Refreshment' of their facades (new window treatments, entries, etc) should be avoided.	0	0
188 Hunter St, Newcastle	The School of Arts has been standing on this site for 148 years. It is an ornately detailed facade and fits well with the decorative 2 story architecture of this area.	0	0
2/110 Hunter St, Newcastle	Colonial Life Mutual Life Building is a stunning landmark building. Full of intricate detail this is a historical keeper.	0	0
22 Newcomen St, Newcastle	The suburb **Blackalls Park** and **Blackall House** in Newcomen Street are named after the same couple. Blackalls Park is named after Alderman, Newcastle Mayor and business owner Tom Blackall. Blackall House is named in recognition of Ruby Blackall's efforts to form the Newcastle Branch of the Adult Deaf Society and raise money to build their headquarters here. For 87 years Blackall House has opened its doors up to many in the community, theater, dance classes, radio shows etc	0	0
22 Wood St, Newcastle West	this area/block is really cute and should be protected. Unfortunate that the old cambo is getting the bulldoze.	0	0
220 Hunter St, Newcastle	History of this building needs further investigation. It has always been a decorative entrance to the mall, sympathetic to the decorative facade of the former David Jones Building and the Crown and Anchor diagonally. They work together well and this entire area has a shared character.	0	0
25 Alfred St, Newcastle East	Alfred Street consists of 100-year-old terrace houses, which used to be wharf workers living accommodation and are now beautifully being renovated by current owners. It's a beautiful community with strong ties to the heritage of the area.	0	0
28 King St, Newcastle	This garage/apartment building is unique, it has some art deco roof lines that make me wonder what is the history of this little historic gem.	0	0
29 Beresford St, Newcastle West	keep this and protect this	0	0
35-37 Watt St, Newcastle	Manufacturers House, State Heritage Listed, prominent corner for such beautiful Classic Revival style - should remain protected.	0	0
505 Hunter St, Newcastle	Historic 2 story shopfronts complete with awnings and decorative upper brickwork. Complimentary to Stegga's height and awnings.	0	0
539 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Beautiful decorative brickwork facade, vertical deco lines.	0	0
557 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Grouping on beautiful buildings, including a Menkens designed building. Detailed brickwork, arched windows, turret.	0	0
569 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Here is a pic of the near consistent row of heritage and contributory items stretching along Hunter St (northside) from Union St to the northern end of the Star Hotel (now Star Apartments) at Devonshire Lane. Another row can be found on the eastern side of Union St stretching to Worth Place and includes Steggas Emporium, a heritage listed landmark.	0	0

Geo Address	Heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
671 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The 99-year-old Theatre Royal. Long standing business on Hunter Street. An institution for many Novocastrians going to the theatre and movies over many decades, myself included. Designed by Charles Bohringer, very few of his art deco cinemas remain. Much of the art deco fabric remains …horizontal line exterior pattern, foyer staircase with deco grille work, stepped ceiling designs and circular wall motifs. A rare historical building with many societal connections.	0	0
687 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Depicted, is the near consistent contributory group that runs on the southern side of Hunter St from Steel St to National Park St. End closest to the camera is obviously taken from Bank corner. The tall apartment tower is set well back, and doesn't impact on the human scale streetscape shown here. These shops also bookend the Bank Corner end of Bellevue St.	0	0
7 Newcomen St, Newcastle	2 story building, facade is covered is unsympathetic signage. But this building appears quite old, it's possibly the oldest standing building on this block of Newcomen St. Would warrant further investigation.	0	0
75 Parry St, Hamilton East NSW 2303, Australia	This small precinct of warehouses backs onto Warrah St housing which falls within the Hamilton South HCA. Removal of this Parry St precinct from the HCA may adversely impact the neighbouring HCA.	0	0
809 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Little is known of these two Contributory 2-storey interwar shops with brick facades. The residential portion of the buildings at the rear of the shopfronts may be from an earlier period. Worth investigation for heritage potential.	0	0
9 Newcomen St, Newcastle	City Arcade has a fascinating history, retain this within a heritage conservation area and give it the chance to age with time and be appreciated by the community. Most things that escape demolition end up being cherished by community for their uniqueness. In 1939 this was Newcastle first shopping arcade complete with remnants of the older Victorian-era baths underneath. Where else does this exist in Australia? It has a lot of the art deco fabric intact both exterior and interior.	0	0
Suite 3, 125 Bull Street, (Entry via Dick Street), Newcastle West	Stunning building	0	0
The Plankways, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	harbour shore prior to European settlement and convict early camp site	0	0
The Plankways, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	Old railway sheds - was very important transport centre	0	0
Unit 2/31-33 Watt St, Newcastle	Union Steam Ship Company Building is already listed under LEP. A beautiful building that should remain protected.	0	0

Shared history and built character

Geo Address	Shared history and built character	Up Votes	Down Votes
13 Watt St, Newcastle	There should be a new heritage conservation area in Newcastle's East End based on Henry Dangar's 1828 Kings Town plan.	35	7
Lee Wharf, Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	Not too sure of the history, but they are both obviously Wharf Buildings looking nearly identical. The hotel has maintained the look and feel of the old structure, I only hope the new owners of the other one, 'Hope Estate' do the same.	30	1
Birdwood Park, 2 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West	Burswood Park has history and deserves updating & maintenance.	16	2
787 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The sympathetic restoration and reuse of the former brewery building has allowed all the essential elements to remain. Even though it is now a hotel it is still possible to see it former use. Should be given heritage listing for future protection.	13	1
Newcastle Civic Park, King St, Newcastle	Beautiful open space in the city centre with iconic fountain surrounded by grand old trees and gardens	13	1
Outdoor Ping Pong Table by POPP, 365 Hunter St, Newcastle	Great outdoor space surrounded by historic buildings. Could be used more for outdoor events.	12	0
136 Parry St, Newcastle West	Marketown supplies food, local shops & services to the nearby apartments & future developments. It could do with improvement, but is needful to provide supply to a growing local community.	10	1
559 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Commercial buildings of similar scale, and varying architectural eras, anchored by Devonshire Lane. A bustling little precinct has developed through the reactivation of various buildings into cafes and bars.	8	0
Christie Park, 300 King St, Newcastle	How about a new heritage conservation area which takes in the older buildings and public spaces of Civic and Honeysuckle? Lots of Newcastle institutions (Uni, art gallery, library museum, theatre, churches and Council etc.) surrounding Civic Park/Museum Park, old coal train routes linking through to the port, and beautiful buildings from Victorian and Art Deco times.	7	2
28 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	Although not a precinct as such, Newcastle's heritage-listed collection of bond stores/ warehouses collectively are of state significance. Ideally, they should be linked via a 'warehouse trail'. They include (not all within the HCAs under review): David Cohen Bond Store, Earp Gillam Bond Store (& its neighbour), Cohen's Bond Store facade (Bolton St), Hall & Sons, Bebarfalds warehouse, Ireland Bond Store & Fred Ash warehouse. They serve as constant reminders of significant mercantile trade.	6	0
22 National Park St, Newcastle West	Interesting precinct of warehouse conversions, commercial and retail. The activation of these buildings of varying 20th century ages create an inner city, industrial character adding to the 'revitalisation vibe' of the overall city.	5	0
513 Hunter St, Newcastle	These shops with the crest on top, although in poor condition, are important to Newcastle's history.	5	0

Geo Address	Shared history and built character	Up Votes	Down Votes
289 King St, Newcastle	This low density, low-rise pocket of warehouses & offices, is generally only seen from King Street. The area is bound by Auckland-Gibson-John-King Streets. Along Gibson Street it shares a border with the Cooks Hill HCA, and is lined with terraces houses on the southern side. Most of the buildings are 'contributory' to the CCHCA. Gibson St is already facing parking challenges. This is an important transition zone to Cooks Hill.	4	0
55 Stevenson Pl, Newcastle East	This area of the true EAST END has significant heritage value due to the mix of original style buildings reflecting the early years of Newcastle. This whole area should be heritage listed and should be subject to strict control of heights, FSR, and architectural form for any redevelopment, additions or modifications to the existing buildings. It is important that the uniqueness of the EAST END is not compromised by inappropriate development that does not blend with or enhance the area.	4	0
779 Hunter St, Newcastle West	There is a good, interesting and eclectic collection of heritage items (Cambridge & Quest) surrounded by several identified Contributory 1 & 2 buildings. including 1880s 'Lawson' at 23 Denison (pictured), a large Victorian house behind a shop at 25 Lawson and several interwar shops at 6-12 Wood St. Throw in 876 Hunter Werrin's Glaziers (1929) across the road from the Cambridge and Hamilton Chrome corner Denison & Parry.	4	0
246 Parry St, Newcastle West	All the buildings within this polygon form part of the glebe land of the Catholic Diocese of Newcastle & Maitland and are associated with the heritage-listed Sacred Heart Church, former St Joseph's Convent, former St Aloysius Girls High and other Contributory buildings including the Southern Cross Hall, Catholic Chancery and former Sacred Heart Primary School. The three inter-war residences 1-5 Selma make a strong contribution to the precinct. The church tower is a local landmark.	3	1
31 Beresford St, Newcastle West	Bound by Stewart Avenue-Beresford-Bellevue-Cottage Creek & Hunter Street, this node has a consistent built character and scale, including warehouses and shop-top housing. Call it the 'Bank Corner precinct'. Bellevue St is the standout - a quiet shady nook anchored by Bar Mellow, Bank Cafe & Metro Cycles, with Core Cafe on Hunter St. Beresford St has some interesting warehouses and two terraces.	3	0
42 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Despite more than two decades of significant change to Shortland Esplanade due to the development of apartment complexes, I do not think it is wise to excise this area from the Newcastle East HCA. The HCA boundary also covers the beach, baths and Canoe Pool. Historically, Newcastle East is connected with convict Newcastle, with some apartments on the Esplanade sitting on Gaol Hill. The architecture may change, the history and archaeology is the common thread across Newcastle East.	3	0
42 Union St, Newcastle West	Aldi aside, this low-rise precinct of inter-war warehouses and offices has great potential to transition to a creative cafe, boutique retail & small scale office precinct. The streets are well shaded, wide and generally quiet. The precinct is bound by Union-Parry-Ravenshaw-Bull Streets. The 'Parry Street Garage' gives an indication of what this precinct could offer. The Tonella Centre (1929) should be considered for heritage listing.	3	0

Geo Address	Shared history and built character	Up Votes	Down Votes
11 Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	For the purposes of naming precincts with a common history, and several listed heritage items, the two Lee Wharf sheds, wharf remnants, the Honeysuckle Railway Workshops (Museum, 'Wine Selectors', gym, Divisional Engineers Office) combine to form a Honeysuckle Heritage Precinct focused on industrial heritage. The Civic Railway Station (Newcastle Visitor Info Centre) is also within the area. The precinct is readily identifiable despite recent apartment developments.	2	0
528-534 Hunter St, Newcastle	This narrow strip of Hunter St legal chambers, small offices, and bridal shops have a commonality in scale and era ranging from inter-war to early 1950s. They represent the westward growth of the traditional CBD into and beyond the Civic Precinct. The narrow lots were ideal for small company offices and associations. The back-of-building streetscape viewed from Wright Lane is quite fascinating. There is potential to transform Wright Lane into something much better than a car park.	2	0
635-641 Hunter St, Newcastle West	There is a similarity in built form and shared history across the precinct bound Union-King-Steel & Hunter Streets. An emerging dining and entertainment precinct is growing along Union Street and around Devonshire Lane with 'Antojitos' on Steel St. There is further potential for cafes in Steel Street. The area was Newcastle's original Chinatown, with a Chinese Church at 3 Devonshire Lane (the building is now located in Kotara) and markets at Steel St and market gardens along Cottage Creek.	2	0
11 Queen St, Cooks Hill	This south-eastern portion of the CCHCA should not be excised from the conservation area. This area shares it outer border with The Hill HCA. Its low density, human scale buildings don't detract from Civic Park, nor hide the western slopes of The Hill. In some ways, this area serves as a buffer zone.	1	0
Union St at Hunter St, Newcastle West	Along the south side of Hunter St from Devonshire Lane to Worth Place, there is an almost intact assemblage of heritage-listed and heritage-contributory shopfronts from the Star Hotel (569 Hunter), through to Stegga's Emporium (corner Union-Hunter 513-523 Hunter). To this can be added the 1880s shopfront 505-507 Hunter (Hunter Valley Violins). This row should be reduced to a row of facades. Stegga's needs some love and attention.	1	0
10 Zaara St, Newcastle East	This entire area should be protected from development and overshadowing max height limit construction. It is a walkable charming area full of alleyways and historic areas. This is a gem of an area and always a location I take people when visiting. Combined with Fort Scratchley, Nobbys, The Ocean Baths Pavilion areas this is unique and worthy of protecting.	0	0
117 Scott St, Newcastle	The character of Bolton Street is beautiful. It is in large part to a lot of the older buildings being left intact to create a street scape full of ornate buildings such as the post office, former court chambers, The Ship Inn, Rose Cottage/Toll Cottage. Sight lines in Bolton Street terminate with historic buildings either end. It speaks to the business activity of Newcastle city over many years. Highly worthy of heritage precinct protection.	0	0
134 King St, Newcastle	'Old Town' is the name often used for the township formalised by Surveyor Dangar in 1823. Dangar's street grid is rare in Australia, being set to dimensions formed in 1810. Our city town grid is 200 years old, and pleasantly intimate. The 1804-1823 convict settlement was located within this precinct, roughly on the same grid. Some of the precinct extends to The Hill. Dangars Market Square and axis from harbour to church are key elements. Newcastle most important built items are within.	0	0

Geo Address	Shared history and built character	Up Votes	Down Votes
150 King St, Newcastle	This perimeter roughly defines the Australian Agricultural Company heritage precinct which begins at Brown St, the eastern edge of the 1824 2,000-acre grant to the AACo. This boundary constrained the growth of Newcastle for many years. The precinct includes the AACo bridge remains, site of Australia's oldest (1830) railway, Argyle House (Fanny's), and several prominent inter-war buildings built by the AACo (Warrah, Corona, etc) named after large grazing properties.	0	0
289 King St, Newcastle	This area is historically known as The Civic precinct - a name that endures. The 'Civic Block' - Civic Theatre, City Hall, NESCA House, with Wheeler Place, forms the centrepiece. There is a clear central axis from the War Memorial Library through to Civic Station. The Roundhouse now has state significant heritage. This is the administrative and cultural heart & includes the Art Gallery, NuSpace, the Courthouse, Tax Office & legal & financial offices. Western end is harder to define.	0	0
397 Hunter St, Newcastle	With the disused railway corridor, vacant land between Wright Lane and Civic Lane (formerly part of the Honeysuckle Railway depot), and the visually interesting 'back lane' streetscape of Civic Lane, there is potential to create a buzzing and intimate precinct of townhouses, a laneway market and creative spaces. It takes vision and courage to make memorable use of this space.	0	0
5 Union St, Newcastle West	The short section of Union St between Hunter and King Street, has a pleasing collection of inter-war buildings either side of the street. This small precinct is becoming an entertainment hub, and has potential for growth.	0	0
679 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The northern side of Hunter St from Steel St to National Park Street features an almost consistent streetscape of aesthetically pleasing Contributory items divided by Cottage Creek and anchored by the Theatre Royal. While the Empire Hotel lot is now vacant, the interwar facade of the Swift development has been retained. Brambles Butchery (1884) may be of heritage significance. The northern end, falls opposite Bank Corner. If we lose this west end heritage, not much is left.	0	0
684 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The area historically forms a Newcastle West heritage precinct within the NCCHCA. Much of the heritage integrity of this area has been lost to recent large floorplate developments which have a greater impact on the character of King St. It is even more important to retain those small sub-precincts and cohesive streetscapes within the west end: Bank Corner, and near consistent rows of heritage/contributory items from Worth Place-Devonshire St and Steel-National Park St, north side of Hunter St.	0	0
789 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Enclosed is a less well-defined Newcastle West industrial precinct incorporating the Castlemaine Brewery (Quest), Cambridge Hotel, Kennards Warehouse (1937), Dairy Farmers Corner and a number of warehouses in Wood, Denison and Hunter St. The area was once a colourful & thriving area shared between Wickham and Hamilton, dependent on the wharves and railway. Its even more important now to protect some reminders of that area, given development pressures.	0	0

Geo Address	Shared history and built character	Up Votes	Down Votes
National Service Memorial, Civic Park, Cnr King St and, Auckland St, Newcastle	This boundary roughly defines the Civic Precinct, largely based on the interwar Civic Block centred on Wheeler Place. Several significant heritage items are within including the Roundhouse, NESCA House, City Hall, Civic Theatre, Civic Station, Northumberland County Council, Clarendon, Bennett building, Fred Ash warehouse, and the former Blue Peter Hotel. Civic Park is also within. The western boundary is less apparent, but probaly falls around Worth Place.	0	0

Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit

Geo Address	Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
33 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	This area has destroyed former heritage and currently presents nothing that can considered of heritage value.	24	3
150 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Following the removal of Queens Wharf Tower there is no built heritage value left at this site. This entire area surrounding the brewery and ferry wharf needs a re-think and a revamp. Youths frequently use the pool for cooling off in summer. There may be some social/community value in this?	21	4
29 Zara St, Newcastle East	Although Noah's has been there a little while this whole area of Tyrrell Towers, Kingston, and the Azura buildings have absolutely no heritage value. If they do then 95% of Newcastle should also.	21	4
2/684 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The Ibis Hotel hurts my eyes. KFC next door is not much better either!	20	0
511/67 Watt St, Newcastle	Another new building with no heritage value.	20	0
5 King St, Newcastle	You have got to be kidding. This hotel was built in about 2015. This has no heritage value.	19	0
Shop 10a/136 Parry St, Newcastle West	Marketown West. Negatively impacts the surrounding area's beauty and has no architectural value. Land use can be utilised much more efficiently with a denser layout.	19	7
102/61 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle	The building was built in about 2004 and has no heritage value.	18	0
Ground Floor, 75 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle	The Arena building were built in about 2018 and have absolutely no heritage value.	18	0
1 King St, Newcastle	This building was built in about 2011 and has absolutely no heritage value.	17	0
684 Hunter St, Newcastle West	KFC building is invariably littered with KFC litter, grease stains & squashed food. The business should be held accountable for the footpath litter around them.	16	0
150 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	building is abandoned and has no value due to structural issues. whole area should have a rethink	15	2
21 Parnell Pl, Newcastle East	The hotel in this location has no heritage merit and in fact impacts on the heritage character of the park and surrounding houses - it was built and developed without regard for sensitive development in heritage areas. Any redevelopment should be require it to fit in with the character of the area.	14	5
Unit 2/1 King St, Newcastle	As before this building was built in about 2011 and has absolutely no heritage value.	13	0
777 Hunter St, Newcastle West	No Heritage merit warranted. New building with no established community engagement.	11	2
23 Scott St, Newcastle East	No heritage value.	9	0
575 Hunter St, Newcastle West	Built around 2000	9	1
11 Argyle St, Newcastle	How can this carpark have any heritage value	8	1
Shop 7 Marketown Shopping Centre Cnr National Park Street And, Parry St, Newcastle West	No heritage merit	7	2

Geo Address	Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
237 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	A blue glass box by the Harbour, built a few years ago	6	2
22 National Park St, Newcastle West	No heritage merit	5	2
54 Union St, Cooks Hill	No heritage conservation merit. Relatively new development.	5	0
55 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	No heritage value evident	5	0
982 Hunter St, Newcastle West	There is very little heritage conservation merit remaining in the area bound by the railway corridor in the north, railway street to the east, Hunter Street (northern side) to the south, and 990 Hunter St (approved site of 'Aurora Apartments'). That said, any tall redevelopment of this precinct has the potential to overshadow heritage items, and detract from the character of Wickham. Site lines to the prominent landmark tower of Sacred Heart Cathedral also need to be preserved.	4	0
7 Scott St, Newcastle East	Whilst the section buildings and streets to the north of Scott Street are a fine example of “historic” buildings and need preservation, the few historic buildings on the southern side of Scott Street are a mixed lot and look totally out of place amongst the different architectural eras. They are an eye sore. The sooner the older buildings on the southern side are demolished and replaced with medium height (say 5 to 8 stories) structures the sooner Newcastle can be recognised as a “modern city”.	3	28
700 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The buildings and large open car parks in this precinct bound by Cottage Creek-Hunter St-Kuwuni Place-Light Rail easement (Riverwalk 710 Hunter, Ibis Hotel, KFC & the Community Health Centre) have no heritage value and are wasteful of space. 'Riverwalk' is, however, built over the Cottage Creek Cemetery. There is a plan to build a walkway from Wharf Road to Hunter St alongside the creek, crossing the light rail easement.	2	0
Shop 12 Marketown Shopping Centre, 23 Steel St, Newcastle West	There is little or no heritage value in the Marketown East group bound by King-Ravenshaw-Steel-Parry, except for the Cottage Creek drainage works & bridge. However, and future redevelopment should respect adjacent heritage precincts and the National Park.	2	0
Shop 13, Marketown Shopping Centre, 23 Steel St, Newcastle West	Market Town (west) makes no contribution to the CCHCA, and could potentially be excised. The last item of heritage interest - a 100-year-old timber sewerage stack - was recently removed. However, future height controls should ensure that the National Park is not overshadowed or visually dominated.	2	0
11 Argyle St, Newcastle	New build. No architectural significance.	1	0
113 King St, Newcastle	It’s a wall without any maintenance. wasted costs that could be used elsewhere like fixing to potholes on the road it supports	1	9
37 Shortland Esplanade, Newcastle East	Just another modern apartment building that made no attempt to celebrate the heritage of the site.	1	0
5 Scott St, Newcastle East	the heritage value of this building here is questionable.	1	0
1 Merewether St, Newcastle	New build	0	0
1/466 King St, Newcastle West	New building - no heritage conservation value or merit	0	0

Geo Address	Locations/buildings of no heritage conservation merit	Up Votes	Down Votes
12 Steel St, Newcastle West	This building be uuuuuugly. No heritage conservation building or merit. This site and sites to the south that include marketown should be removed.	0	0
128 Parry St, Newcastle West	I don't understand how these units are in the conservation area...	0	0
150 Wharf Rd, Newcastle	Its a harbour. there is no conservation merit. put up a plaque.	0	4
2 Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle	Residential/hotel building to be removed	0	0
2 Stewart Ave, Newcastle West	Why is a car wash in the conservation area - suggest removing	0	0
23 Scott St, Newcastle East	Not sure when these were built but don't appear to add any heritage value to the area.	0	0
23 Steel St, Newcastle West	the entire marketown complex that extends from Ravenshaw St to Nat'l Park St should be removed. It adds no value whatsoever to Newcastle.	0	0
23 Tudor St, Newcastle West	The building on the corner here is U G L Y. Deserves no protection.	0	0
28 Denison St, Newcastle West	I don't understand why these apartments are in the conservation area. They are ugly and should be removed.	0	0
352 Hunter St, Newcastle	I don't even know how this thing was approved considering it doesn't even really respect its setting. Suggest removing.	0	0
38 Zaara St, Newcastle East	The apartment building next to the ice cream shop has no heritage conservation merit. Rendered brick. no retention or celebration of heritage.	0	0
3QF6+RP Newcastle West NSW, Australia	New building should be removed from heritage conservation area.	0	0
4 Merewether St, Newcastle	Remove- new build no value whatsoever	0	0
463A King St, Newcastle West	New building - to be removed.	0	0
62 Hunter St, Newcastle	Let’s face it, the city plan has been to depopulate the people and move the businesses to honeysuckle. having more red tape for old buildings that are not well kept means no development so a dead city. you can’t save everything, so the beautiful buildings can stay the rest needs to be modernised. this end of Newcastle is an eyesore.	0	6
621 Hunter St, Newcastle West	The buildings in this block (which the exception of the beautiful grey Victorian looking building wedged in between) offer no heritage value to the area.	0	0
738 Hunter St, Newcastle West	This building here is horrendous and has no heritage conservation value	0	0
9 Newcomen St, Newcastle	the building is run down and no longer serves any real historical value or purpose. The centre has lots of vacancies. the foot traffic is minimal and should be incorporated into a much higher density for better use of the land	0	13
Building N, Hunter St, Newcastle West	No heritage conservation merit. New build	0	0
Stokes Apartments, 15 Colliers Cl, Newcastle East	I don't really understand how these would require heritage conservation. I don't see these as significant as other buildings further south on Nobbys Road.	0	0

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Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Areas

City of Newcastle

Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area

Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012

- Conservation Area - General
- Item - General
- Item - Landscape
- Item - Archaeological

For further information on heritage item numbers please visit:
https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/development/land-use-planning/local-environmental-plans-lep

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Scale: 1:5,000 at A1

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Attachment C: Designated Low-rise Residential within Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area



Legend

Proposed Heritage Conservation Area

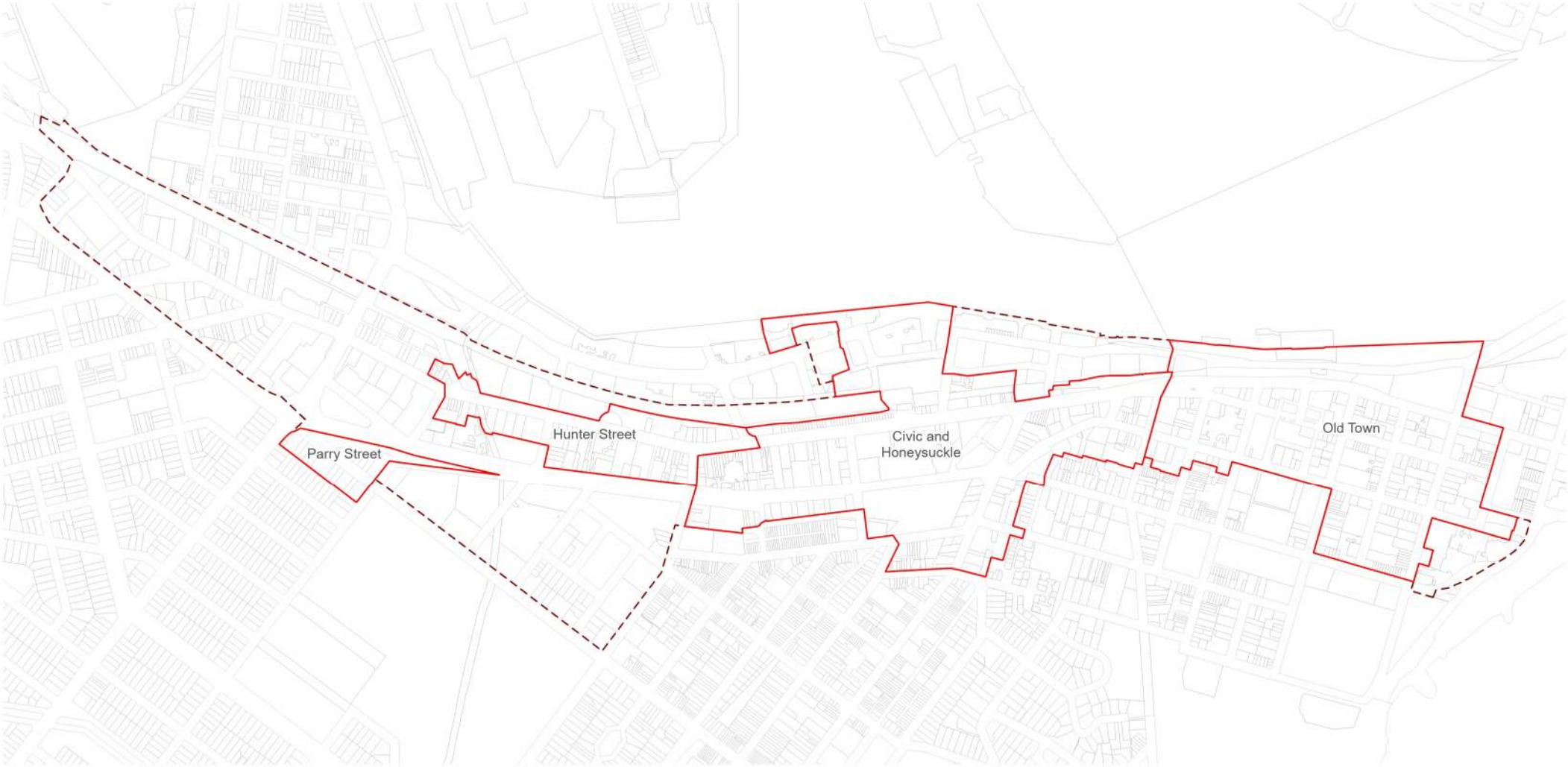
Newcastle East low-rise residential area

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Attachment D: Proposed Amendment to Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area



ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/2023 -
ADOPTION OF ADAMSTOWN PARK MASTERPLAN

8.6	**Attachment A:**	Adamstown Park Masterplan
8.6	**Attachment B:**	Adamstown Park Masterplan Public Exhibition Report

Adamstown Park Masterplan

October 2023

City of Newcastle



The following recommendations relate to specific venues and/ or facilities.

Venue arranged by Suburb	Name of facility	Recommendation
Adamstown		
Adamstown Park	Adamstown No 1	• Ground designated for staging of NPL/ WPL games • Ensure infrastructure complies with NPL standards
	Adamstown No 1 Oval Training Ground Adamstown No 2 - 5 Mandalong Oval Mandalong Oval Training Ground Myer Park No 1 - 2	Masterplan for Adamstown 2-5, Training, Mandalong Oval and Myer Park to: • Improve field layout, drainage, irrigation and lighting layout • Improve playing surfaces • Upgrade amenities for football and cricket • Review/ consider future of cycle criterium and velodrome
	Adamstown Tennis Courts	• Subject to review of city-wide tennis court provision and distribution, determine the retention, expansion or removal of tennis courts.
	Adamstown Netball Court (training)	• Confirm utilisation, and if required to be retained, improve court surface and provide access to amenities/ storage within Park for netball club/s



DESIGN NOTE

1. Parking, footpath connection and cycle way along Melville Road and Myers Lane subject to Traffic assessment and civil design.
2. Continuous 3m wide concrete shared path. Approx. 1.5km to be provided for runners.
3. Park maintenance vehicle access.
4. Trees on northern side to be small to medium size to prevent overshadowing to sport fields.
5. Flood light renewal to LED competition standard.
6. Sport and Community Multipurpose Clubroom and Amenities Building with sense of arrival/ signage.
7. Shared path connections with roads and linked with appropriate treatments and facilities.
8. Covered tiered seating.
9. Bat ball court.
10. Half basketball court.



Note: Lighting design by lighting specialist. Tree species to be considered so that they don't cast shadow over the fields.

DESIGN NOTE

11. Shared path to be located between the club room and Melville Road, subject to detailed design.
12. 4m high fencing behind the goals.
13. 1m high field fencing on both Myers Park 1 and 2 (with removable centre sections for cricket season).
14. Existing amenities building to be retained and converted to storage facility.
15. Shipping containers to be removed as part of the club room construction.
16. Field drainage to be extended 15m south west of the existing fields.
17. Fitness stations with water stations.
18. Irrigation and drainage for all fields to be investigated.
19. Existing cricket nets upgraded.
20. Existing kicking wall to be retained.
21. Extension of existing amenity building including toilets, storage and gender friendly change rooms.
22. Southern carpark and adjacent entry plaza with signage.
23. Landscape thoroughfare/ passive open space.
24. Playground.
25. Bike racks.
26. Multipurpose active court.
27. Existing tennis courts to be retained.
28. WWI Memorial relocation subject to RSL funding. Location subjection to further discussion.
29. Existing Lions Club sign to be retained.
30. Existing cluster of trees to be retained subject to arboricultural assessment.
31. Adamstown No.1 Oval to be retained and consistent with NPL/ WPL standards.
32. Synthetic training pitch subject to external funding.
33. Consolidated canteen, toilet and storage facility building.
34. Existing entry area and surrounding area to be upgraded.
35. Existing grandstand to be retained.
36. Existing toilet building to be demolished.
37. New toilet block and storage.
38. Proposed roundabout.

LEGEND

Proposed tree | Tree to be removed | Tree to be retained | Proposed mass planting

ADAMSTOWN PARK MASTERPLAN

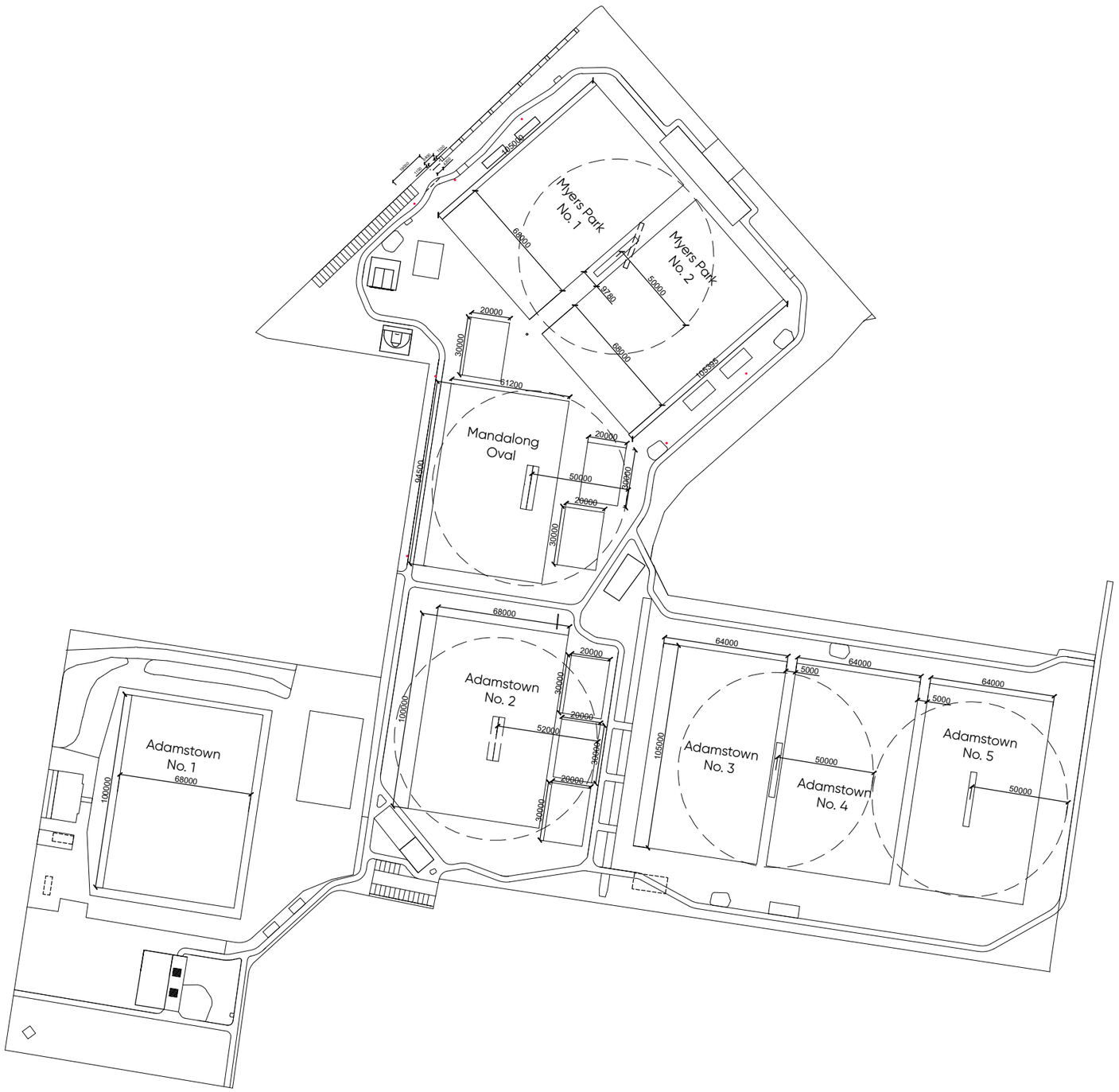
Concept Masterplan

October 2023

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City of Newcastle



SPORTS FIELDS

- 8 x Senior football fields
- 6 x Junior football/ small training fields
- 5 x Senior cricket fields

ADAMSTOWN PARK MASTERPLAN

Field Layout Plan

October 2023

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ADAMSTOWN PARK MASTERPLAN

Stage One Work - Completed

October 2023

Page 5

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City of Newcastle



Adamstown Park Masterplan

Public Exhibition Report

October 2023

Prepared by: Media, Engagement, Economy and Corporate Affairs, City of Newcastle

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Executive summary

Overview

The development of a Masterplan for Adamstown Park was one of the recommendations of the Strategic Sports Plan which was adopted by City of Newcastle (CN) in 2020. The purpose of the Masterplan is to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years. The Masterplan aims to develop a flexible multi-use precinct to meet the recreation and sporting needs of the surrounding community, and enhance the visitor experience for players, officials and spectators.

Stage 1 works carried out with grant funding awarded to Broadmeadow Magic Junior Football Club include: drainage works, fencing around Myers Park, covered tiered seating at Myers Park 1, fitness stations with water stations, a perimeter running track and a half basketball court and bat ball court.

Other key improvements identified within the Masterplan include improved field layouts, flood lighting renewal/upgrades, refurbishment of cricket nets, irrigation, new amenities and upgrades to existing amenities, a new playground and increase in trees and landscaping.

Stage 1 works were delivered in the 2022/23 financial year. All other works will be delivered in stages over a 10-year period.

What we heard

The Masterplan was placed on public exhibition from 2 November to 30 November 2022.

Overall, 55 submissions were received from individuals or groups within the community, including submissions from football and cricket sporting groups/clubs.

Summary of key themes

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on the Masterplan in the form of open text responses.

Responses were categorised into key themes, which were:

- drainage and irrigation
- general positive comments/support for the Masterplan
- fencing
- multi-purpose/active courts
- trees/plantings/landscaping
- playground/play area for kids

The community showed strong support for the Masterplan, with drainage and irrigation works being seen as a high priority. Usage of the park, particularly by sporting groups is currently limited due to poor drainage after wet weather. Other sporting and recreation improvements such as the multipurpose active court, perimeter running track, amenities, playground and trees were seen as positive inclusions in the Masterplan.

The main concern related to fencing around the park, which is seen to restrict access to the general community. Other considerations include installing a synthetic training pitch, a full sized basketball court, adding more trees/shade throughout the park and focusing more on general recreation users

rather than just the needs of sporting groups. Examples include an area for dogs, barbeque facilities and picnic areas, areas for informal play as well as landscaped gardens and a community garden.

Suggestions proposed by the community during public exhibition

Stage 1 works

The community agreed that stage 1 works should proceed, prioritising drainage improvements. However, it was suggested that fencing around Myer Park should be further investigated. Community members showed strong opposition to fencing around the park due to perceptions about restricted access and loss of a community facility. There were also concerns that fencing would reduce the size of the field available for cricket. If fencing is to proceed, the timing of this should be aligned with moving the cricket wicket.

Synthetic pitch

Multiple submissions requested converting one or more training pitches to synthetic e.g. the training pitch next to Adamstown No.1. Having a synthetic pitch would allow teams to train when turf pitches are unable to be used due to poor drainage and wet weather.

Full sized basketball court

Several comments suggested incorporating a full sized basketball court to facilitate a wider range of sports, not just football and cricket. Consider whether one of the active courts could be a full sized basketball court.

Shared path connections

Inclusion of a shared path was well received and supports general recreation usage. Entry/exit points, crossings and linkage to other paths should be considered to ensure connectivity and avoid potential conflicts. Accessibility, bicycle parking, shade, water stations and signage were also mentioned.

General and passive recreation

The Masterplan includes sporting and recreation improvements, however, it is seen to be too focused on the needs of sporting groups. There is an opportunity to incorporate further upgrades which support the needs of the general community, including bbq facilities and picnic areas, allowing areas for informal play and an area for dogs. Shade, landscaping, and a community garden could be incorporated into the playground upgrade. Further community consultation should take place to inform the designs and vision for this space.

Trees and landscaping

The community supported the addition of trees, but wanted to see even more included in the Masterplan. Increasing tree canopy and shade throughout the park should be considered, especially

in areas where sporting spectators may gather or passive recreation may take place such near the playground and along the shared path. There were concerns about the potential loss of trees due to installation of the active courts and shared path. Where possible, the location of these facilities should avoid the loss of trees. If any trees must be removed, plans for replanting should be indicated.

Relocation of WWI Memorial to Lions Club Park

Include the relocation of the WWI Memorial in the Masterplan and work closely with Merewether Hamilton Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch to facilitate relocating the memorial to Lions Club Park.

1. Background

As part of City of Newcastle's Strategic Sports Plan (SSP) 2020, a number of recommendations were made relating to Adamstown Park including developing a Masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years.

Specific recommendations from the SSP included: improvements to the field layout, drainage, irrigation, lighting layout, playing surfaces, upgrades to amenities for football and cricket, and ensuring infrastructure at Adamstown No.1 sportsground complies with NPL standards.

Broadmeadow Magic Junior Football Club were successful in receiving $1 million in grant funding for Stage 1 works under the Greater Cities and Regional Sport Facility Fund 2021/22. Works include drainage works, fencing around Myers Park, covered tiered seating at Myers Park 1, fitness stations with water stations, a perimeter running track and 2 half multipurpose active courts.

CN has developed a draft Masterplan for Adamstown Park (including Myers Park) in consultation with key sporting user groups to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with the long-term vision of the park, and that it meets the needs of all user groups. The Masterplan will be implemented in stages over a 10-year period, with approved grant funding works being implemented as Stage 1 in the2023/23 financial year.

2. Engagement objectives

To enable the community to have input into the vision and renewal of infrastructure at Adamstown Park. CN publicly displayed the Masterplan on the Have Your Say website.

The purpose of the public exhibition was to seek general feedback about the Masterplan and specific sporting and recreation improvements.

3. Engagement activities

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Masterplan from 2 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.

The community were able to provide comment on the Masterplan in a number of ways:

Online feedback form

The community were invited to have their say via an open feedback form on the Have Your Say webpage.

In total, 55 individual or community groups people provided feedback via the online feedback form.

Findings from the online form are presented in section **5. Key findings**

Other submissions

Community members were also able to provide feedback on the Masterplan by mail or email. In total, 2 respondents provided feedback via email during the public exhibition period. One other submission was received after the formal public exhibition period closed, but has still been reviewed by the project team and included in this report.

4. Communication and promotion

During the public exhibition period, a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the Masterplan and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix 1.

Channel	Description	Reach
Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. A link to this page was also added to CN's Public Exhibitions page. The page aimed to provide information and raise awareness about the proposed parking changes, and to encourage people to comment on the proposed changes.	1,559 visits
Flyers and onsite signage	Flyers were distributed to local residences and businesses surrounding the park. Onsite signage was also installed each corner of the park.	400 flyers 4 corflutes
Social media	The public exhibition was promoted via an unpaid post on CN's Facebook on 16 November 2022. There was also a paid campaign running for two weeks to boost the post's reach. The post intended to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say.	8,110 reached 622 link clicks 40 comments
Targeted stakeholder engagement	CN representatives from the Project team conducted targeted engagement with key sporting user groups as part of the development of the masterplan. The purpose was to raise awareness of the Masterplan, ensure the needs of all user groups were considered, and encourage feedback through CN's Have Your Say webpage.	n/a
Newsletters	An e-newsletter was distributed to CN's community panel on 4 November 2022.	Distributed to 2,439 people
Councillor Memo	A memo was distributed to CN Councillors on 31 October 2022, advising of the engagement and providing information on how constituents can provide feedback and comment.	n/a

5. Key findings

55 submissions were received from individuals or groups within the community. Groups that provided submissions include: Adamstown Cricket Club, Adamstown Rosebuds Junior Football Club, Adamstown Rosebuds Senior Football Club, Cricket NSW, Merewether Hamilton Adamstown RSL Sub-branch and Northern NSW Football.

Key themes

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on the Masterplan in the form of open text responses. These responses were categorised to identify recurring themes. Some responses focused on one particular aspect of the Masterplan, while other responses mentioned several aspects of the Masterplan.

Overall, the main themes were:

- drainage and irrigation
- general positive comments/support for the Masterplan
- fencing
- multi-purpose/active courts
- trees/plantings/landscaping
- playground/play area for kids

Other aspects which received 6 or more mentions include the shared pathway, facilities for dogs/off leash area, synthetic training pitches, shade and more focus on general recreation (not just sporting needs).

Table 1. Common themes regarding open feedback about the Masterplan

Theme	Number of mentions
Drainage/irrigation	21
General positive comments/support for the Masterplan	15
Fencing	13
Multi-purpose/active courts	11
Trees/plantings/landscaping	10
Playground/play area for kids	10
Shared pathway	7
Facilities for dogs/off-leash area	7
Synthetic training pitch	6
Shade	6
More focus on general recreation, not just sporting needs	6
Fitness/hydration stations	4
Position of cricket pitch/too many cricket pitches	4
Stage 1 works	4
Upgrade the velodrome/cycling track	4
Lighting	4
Amenities/toilets	4
Parking	3
Traffic congestion/road safety	3
Storage for sports equipment	3
Cricket nets	3
Covered, tiered seating	3
Seating (general)	2
Undercover BBQ area/picnic areas	2
Facilities for a wider range of sports	2
Provision for a café or restaurant	2
Footpath accessibility/safety	2
Climate actions e.g. solar power, trees	2
Provision for media/wireless access points for team meetings	1
Funding/usage of facilities	1
Retain Lions Club sign of Adamstown Park	1
Include a rotunda	1
Relocation of WWI Memorial to Adamstown Lions Club Park	1
Other	1

Drainage and irrigation

Upgrades to drainage and irrigation was the most frequently mentioned theme that came across in the feedback. It was considered to be the *highest priority* out of all improvements covered by the Masterplan, with respondents noting that there were significant impacts on the community's ability to use the sporting fields after wet weather events. Drainage issues were said to extend to all areas of the park, although there was specific mention of Adamstown No. 2 and Adamstown Park/area near the tennis courts. Examples of comments relating to drainage and irrigation are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Examples of drainage and irrigation comments

Examples of drainage/irrigation comments (N=21)
"Could I have a plan of the proposed drainage works for the whole plan. It is vitally important to get this right to make the whole plan successful…"
"As drainage is a major issue for the whole area. which you have identified. How do you propose to drain the water from the playing field area for the whole complex. Do you have a plan to show the public as to how this will be achieved? There are some great concepts here to rejuvenate a much used area by sporting associations and the community at large. But it will be pointless if the surfaces are unplayable due to wet grounds."
"Drainage is also desperately needed for Adamstown park next to the tennis courts. It is an off leash area that isn't used to it full potential because it is always under water…"
"This years soccer season was severely impacted due to the drainage issues of the field. Please consider updating for future seasons."
"The drainage is absolutely shocking and impacted kids sport too much this year…"
"Please prioritise drainage on Adamstown 2 as there seems to be destruction of underground drainage pipes in the south eastern corner of 2 near swings. Water cannot escape correctly into stormwater drain and takes weeks to dry out even with light rain…"
"…And without drainage like the last 3 seasons kids don't get on the park."
"Improved drainage near the tennis courts to allow regular mowing of the grass area."
"…I am also concerned that there is any area NOT indicated on page 7 that is also flood prone land. The area is located at and around design note 11: Playground. This area desperately needs Elevation work done."
"I strongly agree on improving the drainage system around Adamstown park because it is always muddy."

General positive comments/support for the Masterplan

Another key theme within the feedback was general support for the Masterplan, with respondents suggesting that the Masterplan will have a number of positive outcomes for the community and local sporting clubs. Examples of positive comments are shown below in Table 3.

Table 3. General positive comments/support for the Masterplan

Examples of general positive comments/support for the Masterplan (N=15)
"…On first inspection it is very impressive."
"…There are some great concepts here to rejuvenate a much used sporting area by sporting associations and the community at large…"
"The draft masterplan looks great and makes me excited as someone who lives in the area!... Overall I think this is a great investment and the sooner this is delivered the better – especially as urban density increases along Brunker Road there will be/is increased demand for nearby sporting and recreational facilities. Great work."
"…Overall, I'm very pleased at the developments. Thank you!"
"This is a great plan to upgrade this space as a multipurpose area for all locals… Well done. I'm looking forward to utilising the space."
"I believe the master plan is much needed for the current community and sporting clubs of the local area… The sooner the better for all locals! Great plan!"
"This is vital for the community and well overdue!"
"Looks like a great improvement for the community."
"Hi, I'm very much in favour of the draft Adamstown Park Sport Masterplan and can't wait to see it completed as soon as possible."

Fencing

Several community members expressed concerns about fencing around the perimeter of Myers Park, suggesting that this would restrict access to the general community who use the park for recreation purposes e.g. walking, running, dog walking. The introduction of fencing around Myers Park is seen to prioritise the needs of sporting groups over the interests of the broader community. There were also some concerns about the fencing reducing the size of the field for cricket.

On the other hand, fencing around Adamstown Park was said to improve the safety and usage of this area.

Table 4. Examples of comments relating to fencing

Examples of fencing comments (N=13)
"I find fencing the whole of Myers Park to be questionable. I hope it is not the type of fencing that currently surrounds the Adamstown school or Adamstown Oval in that unless it is being used by official sporting events etc it cannot be used by anyone at all. There are hundreds of residents who do not play sport and use this area to walk…"
"…Fencing around Myers Park – I would like to see that the fencing does not interfere with the use of the field for cricket. Having the fencing reduce the normal size of the cricket field would be a bad thing…"
"As an Adamstown local, I worry the above plan will mean plenty of people who use the park for free walking, running and having dog play time will lose this privilege due to the curated fields and likely fencing that will restrict movement. This is a huge disappointment. Most of the neighbours in this area enjoy the large space for what it is- open and unrestricted. Will the upgrade mean the public will no longer have access due to the prioritisation of sporting fields?... Will the fencing be locked?"
"…When organised sport is being played, it all works fine without the park being fenced off. Indeed, for much of the week the park is used informally, not by organised sporting events. It would be ridiculous to fence the facility, thus preventing its use for the majority of the time."
"…One thing that I'm not in favour of is the proposed 1m high fixed perimeter fence for Myers Park fields 1 and 2. I understand that it will be helpful to prevent run away balls during cricket and soccer games, but it will limit the use and space for other activities."
"…We are concerned that if the proposed 1m high permanent fencing is installed along the Melville Road part of Myer Park, before the cricket wicket is removed, that the ground will not be able to be used for junior cricket due to the significant reduction in boundary size (possibly only 30m or so). If the timing for moving the cricket wicket, as shown on the masterplan, is not part of the immediate Stage 1 works, then the fencing along the Melville Rd frontage should potentially not (be) included at this time, noting that Myer Park is often used for school cricket matches, including outside of the cricket season – so any installation of fencing could render the cricket wicket unusable by more than just the Newcastle City Cricket Club."
"… A fence (covering the WHOLE area) would also improve the use of the area as it is next to busy Glebe road. Every day people use Myers park and Adamstown no1 sports ground to exercise their dog (100s per week) because Adamstown park next to the courtyards is underwater or not safe next to the busy roads."
"…It would be great if the new playground could be fenced given the proximity to Glebe Road…"

Multipurpose/active courts

Respondents were excited about the inclusion of the multipurpose/active courts, although a number of comments mentioned the potential inclusion of a full basketball court to accommodate a wider range of sports - not just football and cricket. The main concern about the multipurpose/active courts was the potential removal of trees to accommodate the sports courts.

Table 5. Examples of comments relating to multipurpose/active courts

Examples of multipurpose/active court comments (N=10)
"…It is great to see the two new active courts…"
"… I note that trees are not proposed for removal for this area, ie the active court proposed area. If the active court requires trees for removal will the court location be changed? No trees should be removed from this area…"
"…We're a local family of three that will make a lot of use of the multipurpose courts and the fitness stations… Could both of the proposed multipurpose/active courts please include a basketball half-court and a rebound/tennis wall as indicated in the schematics on pages 15 and 17 of the plan?..."
"…I would like to propose a basketball court or two be built somewhere in the park as there are many people in the area that would like to play. The nearest public basketball courts are at market town and it would be much more convenient to have at least one basketball court at Adamstown park."
"I would like to see more sports included. A full size basketball court and tennis wall with courts on either side would be good. This allows a range of activities not just football and cricket."
"…I note that there a number of active courts proposed. We are very keen that at least one of these contain basketball hoops to allow for a half court, or better still a full basketball court. We note that the basketball courts at Marketown are a success and very well used. A court at Adamstown Park would mean an additional opportunity for kids and teenagers living in the local area…"
"…If the active court near the tennis courts/bowling club could be a full size basketball court due to the huge popularity of basketball in Newcastle at present. This is evident from the summer junior basketball teams this year having over 200 kids on a waitlist to join. There is a huge interest in basketball for all ages not just children in this area which can be encouraged through a further basketball options…"
"…Active Court – the court should be designed around the trees not the other way around. Those trees have been there for decades…the trees there provide crucial north westerly shade for the school and the park in general… to remove any due to 'danger' concerns for court users is not good enough! Another hard surface… and trees must make way?? Please re-consider this."

Trees, plantings and landscaping

Trees, plantings and landscaping was another common theme. The inclusion of more trees was strongly supported, even more so than the additional trees indicated in the Masterplan. Trees were desired for the provision of shade and habitat for wildlife as well as improving the general look and feel of the park. It was suggested that a community garden with raised garden beds and landscaped areas would increase the level of interest and appeal to general recreational users of the park. A suggestion was also made to convert existing stormwater drainage into a natural watercourse similar to Lambton Park.

Table 6. Examples of comments relating to trees, plantings and landscaping

Examples of trees/plantings/landscaping comments (N=10)
"…It looks like it will be great to improve the sporting facilities and all the new tree plantings will improve the amenity of the area…"
"…The plan didn't show whether you will be retaining the large fig trees along Glebe Road. I really hope this is the case…"
"No trees should be removed from the (active court) area. There are birds aplenty using these trees including 3 species of lorikeet, figbirds, and a peregrine falcon regularly uses these trees as an approach while hunting…"
"…I particularly like the concrete path surrounding the park, the active courts and the addition of more trees…"
"I am impressed with the plan but would like the addition of some raised garden beds with the playground area. There are a lot of units in the area with little access to community gardens."
"…I would love to see a bit more of a balance between sports and interests that other significant segments of the community have. For example, lots of shaded and landscaped areas, places for people to sit, eat, drink and to play…"
"…More trees would also be nice/essential."
"…More trees to provide shade in all areas of the park."
"…It would be beneficial to the wildlife for the trees to stay, in particular the owls that inhabit the trees on Popran Road. Tree coverage for the proposed path would also be beneficial to provide shade / sun protection for runners as well as cricket players and spectators."
"…Existing cluster of trees in SE corner – the trees in this area provide great shelter and shade, not only to the neighbouring houses and users of the park but also to fauna in the area…I am completely against the removal of any of those trees!!!!... Trees on norther side – Why must we only have small to medium trees? What shade or amenity will they provide… The masterplan diagram does not reflect existing trees located along Popran Road, Glebe Road or Chatham Street. Why is that?... Trees should be planted along the pathway divide between Adamstown No 2 field and Mandalong Oval. The more the better!... There should be more trees in the kickabout open space off Glebe Road, this is a perfect area to provide a bit of a tree wonderland, let children engage with nature…What will happen to the garden beds along the border of Glebe Road and Bryant St? Has there been any consideration to converting the existing stormwater drainage into a natural watercourse, like that of Lambton Park?? We should be doing what we can to convert these areas to a natural state where possible…"

Playground/play area for kids

Several comments mentioned the existing and/or proposed playground. The comments reflected a desire for more detail about the playground in the Masterplan, including whether the playground near Adamstown No.2 will be retained or renovated. Having a playground was said to be very important to families in the local area. Some suggestions for the new playground included fencing the playground for safety, as well as shade, equipment for all ages, a pump track and swings.

Table 7. Examples of comments relating to the playground/play area for kids

Examples of playground/play area for kids comments (N=10)
"…The playground on Glebe Road will also be great and I assume this will replace the existing playground on Adamstown No 2 Oval. It would be great if the new playground could be fenced given the proximity to Glebe Road…"
"…I am excited that you'll be building a playground near Glebe Road. Would it be possible to have some form of shade covering the playground? Also, some toddler friendly equipment would be appreciated (rather than just for older kids). The plan also does not show whether you will be retaining or renovating the small playground near Adamstown No.2. It would be great if that would at least be retained…"
"What are the details of item 11 (playground)? Myers Park is one of the largest and central community areas in Adamstown with the smallest playground. Can further details please be provided to provide feedback on?"
"…A better park for kids with pump track is needed"
"…In particular, the amount of young families crying out for a local kids park to walk to is high. Having a playground near the Glebe Road area will be perfect to grab a local coffee and improve the local experience for families of the area. One further comment would be to child safe the kids area with a fence protecting children from the nearby Glebe road future playground…"
"…The playground at the corner of Belmore Street and Popran Road should be retained. This equipment is regularly used by children whose siblings and parents are playing sport on the adjacent grounds…"
"…The swings that will be a part of the playground can they have a scoop taken out of the ground beneath them to allow for taller kids and young people to use them? Having a level ground underneath is not easy to use if you are a tall child or older person. I think all should be able to use the swings…"
"As a family with young children, we would like to see more focus on (shaded) playgrounds and less focus on sport grounds."

Shared pathway

The shared pathway was generally supported by the community. Accessibility and shade were mentioned as considerations, with one respondent commenting on the width of the path being excessive.

Table 8. Examples of comments relating to the shared pathway

Examples of shared pathway comments (N=7)
"…The walking track is a great idea…"
"Drainage is a real issue so improved services in that field in addition to improved accessibility for runners/ walkers is much needed…"
"…I particularly like the concrete path surrounding the park…"
"…Shared Pathway – a nice idea. But at what cost? Are trees being removed and assessed because of it? I strongly oppose to the width of this pathway. Three metres is excessive! And to what cost? How many trees will be removed to make way for this impermeable concrete cooking slab..."

Dogs/off-leash areas

There were multiple requests for creating a fenced off-leash area for dogs within the park. Adamstown Park is often unable to be used due to poor drainage, with dog owners instead using Myers Park or Adamstown No.1. Installing bins was also a suggestion to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners.

Table 9. Examples of comments relating to dogs/off-leash areas

Examples of facilities for dogs/off-leash area comments (N=7)
"Drainage is also desperately needed for Adamstown Park next to the tennis courts. It is an off leash area that isn't used to it full potential because it is always under water… Every day people used Myers Park and Adamstown no1 sports ground to exercise their dog (100s per week) because Adamstown park next to the courtyards is underwater or not safe next to the busy roads."
"…As the nearby off-leash dog area near the train line is not able to be used between 9am – 5pm, it would be great if at least part of the park could be used as an off-leash dog area during the daytime hours. Perhaps even during school hours (while the kids are safely in school)?..."
"…Also why not create a proper dog park section? People like to walk their dogs here, even though rangers patrol the place, it should have a nice little dog exercise area for sure."
"The plan sounds great but you've forgotten all about the dogs. Dogs are more important to our well-being that sport is actually…"
"Fenced in dog area in one of the areas. It's inconvenient that we have to go to Lambton for this and not our local area."
"Please make sure there are bins installed for the disposal of dog poo." The parks are currently utilised by people and their dogs (which is fine) but there is commonly dog poo left in picked up or they leave the bags of dog poo behind, particularly near the Myers Park toilet block. If there were dog poo bins off Melville Rd and near the Myers Park toilet block, it might give people somewhere to dispose of the dog poo / encourage them to pick it up?? We are often having to clean dog poo off the field before junior sport."

Synthetic training pitch

Multiple responses suggested the inclusion of a synthetic pitch. This would allow access to fields during turf ground closures. Examples of comments are shown below.

Table 10. Examples of comments relating to synthetic training pitch

Examples of synthetic training pitch comments (N=6)
"Adamstown Rosebud SFC are raising funds to in order to convert the Adamstown Oval No 1 training pitch into a synthetic training pitch. This has been on the clubs wish list for a few years. The large number of training sessions that were cancelled this season is evidence that this is needed. We have drawn up an initial proposal and we have in-principle support from Council to fund-raise and apply for grants. We would appreciate id this could be included in the overall plan…"
"…Warm up area adjacent no 1 Adamstown should be considered for synthetic…I strongly suggest the pitch be replaced with synthetic. The last year is a prime example of where LMCC speers point facility was not large enough to accommodate teams due to inclement weather. NCC desperately needs and must have a similar facility. Or upgrade some existing field around the area. Football is the largest participation sport and yet there is no investment in a facility similar to speers point. The land available as part of this masterplan could easily accommodate a speers point facility in the heart of Newcastle."
"I am Secretary of Adamstown Cricket Club, our club are happy for a new synthetic pitch to be installed at Myers Park. I have heard suggestions that some are suggesting a turf pitch. We do NOT want a turf pitch. There wouldn't be enough room for one between two soccer fields to start with and secondly we don't have the equipment to maintain a turf pitch. We much prefer a new synthetic wicket. Thanks."
"Cricket NSW have suggested some changes with the following feedback from Football: Broadmeadow Magic Youth FC do not agree to turf wickets between the 2 Myer Park fields. Adamstown JFC do not agree to a synthetic wicket on Adamstown No2 field. They are ok with turf wickets being established between Adamstown No2 & 3. Both clubs are ok if cricket wish to convert pitch on Mandalong oval to synthetic…"
"…Suggested inclusion to Masterplan: feasibility study/investigation conducted to replace 1 or more ovals (Adamstown 2 – 5) with a fenced artificial pitch to allow hire and usage during turf ground closures…"

Shade

Although many of the comments suggesting more trees were related to shade, people also wanted to see shaded areas in the playground and for spectators.

Table 11. Examples of comments relating to shade

Examples of shade comments (N=6)
"…Would it be possible to have some form of shade covering the playground?..."
"…I would love to see... lots of shaded and landscaped areas, places for people to sit, eat, drink and play. I'm so happy to see the playground will be upgraded, will it also be shaded, with places for people to sit around it?…"
"…More trees to provide shade in all areas of the park…"
"… Tree coverage for the proposed path would also be beneficial to provide shade / sun protection for runners as well as cricket players and spectators."

More focus on general recreation

Several respondents commented on the fact that many people use the park for walking, running, children playing, and just enjoying the open space. It is important to balance the interests of sporting users with those of the general community who use the park for other purposes within the Masterplan.

Table 12. Examples of comments relating to more focus on general recreation

Examples of more focus on general recreation, not just sporting needs comments (N=6)
"…This area should be left open for all to use. Certainly to be used by sporting clubs but also by all the local residents who have used it for many years to simply play with children or grandchildren or walk dogs on leads etc."
"Really great to see Adamstown Park up for development, however, the master plan is very sports focused and not at all community-minded (beyond sports) …I would love to see a bit more of a balance between sports and interests that other significant segments of the community have…BBQ areas; picnic areas; landscaped gardens, maybe even a pond etc. These are the kinds of environments and amenities that bring people together and accommodate larger interests. Plans for a permanent café or restaurant would also be fabulous."
"…The park is a fantastic asset and provides the community (not just sporting groups) with open space to walk, run, train, play with the kids and just breathe and relax which is so important in the modern world…"

Feedback from cricket groups/users

Feedback from the cricket community has been analysed with feedback from the general community above. However, as cricket groups/users have specific requirements, their feedback has been summarised below:

Overall support/positive comments

- Feedback recognising the importance of the Adamstown Park facilities for the local cricket region and compliance with Cricket's standards.
- Cricket in general will benefit from all of the proposed upgrades and there is an opportunity to future-proof Myer Park for both football and cricket.

Access

- Comment that whilst football has done a great job securing funding for upgrades to Myer Park, it must be retained as a community facility that can be used by any group, year-round.
- Ensuring cricket access will increase the appeal of hosting junior representative matches and female representative cricket, bringing teams of players from across the state who spend money in the local area.

Stage 1 works

- Overall concern regarding staging of works and potential impacts on users. Concern that if 1m high fencing is installed along the Melville Road part of Myer Park before the cricket wicket is removed, the ground will not be able to be used for junior cricket due to the significant reduction in boundary size.
- If moving the cricket wicket is not part of the immediate Stage 1 works, then fencing should not be included at this time, noting that Myer Park is often used for school cricket matches and outside of the cricket season, impacting on a range of users.
- If moving the cricket wicket is part of Stage 1 works, moving the lighting towers also needs to be considered during Stage 1 given that it will impact on boundary size.

Turf/field surfaces

- Suggestion to relocate Mandalong turf to Myer Park to benefit from amenities building and larger playing surface. Replace Mandalong with synthetic turf. Adamstown No. 3 and 4 to be converted to turf, benefitting from amenities and larger playing surface. Adamstown No. 2 and 5 to stay the same wicket type.
- Opportunity to scale Myer Park, Adamstown No.3 and 4 from a synthetic wicket to an open-age regional turf facility.
- A synthetic pitch at Myers Park is supported, but not a turf pitch. A turf pitch is not supported due to limited space between the two soccer fields and lack of equipment to maintain a turf pitch.

Cricket nets

- Re-orientation of the cricket nets may result in conflict between users due to proposed walkway/cycleway and football/soccer usage. Instead, the location of cricket nets should be switched with the soccer warm up field to the east of Mandalong Oval. This would also allow for future expansion and upgrade of cricket nets.
- Nets being 4-6 lanes would be beneficial.

Storage shed

- A storage shed/building attached to the cricket nets (replacing the shipping container) would be useful to store wicket curation equipment such as a roller, mower etc and would assist cricket in applying for grants for capital works equipment.

Drainage and irrigation

- Installation of drainage and irrigation across all fields/areas

Amenities

- Proposed relocation of amenities/storage to service cricket/Football pitches at Mandalong Oval.
- Existing amenities at Adamstown No. 2 should be enhanced to be female friendly and provide accessible toilets.
- It is important that the new facilities at Myer Park are available for all users year round. Upgrades are much needed. The availability of quality amenities/change rooms is limited compared to other areas such as Lake Macquarie and Sydney.

Lighting

- Consider appropriate field lighting for Adamstown No. 3 and 4 to enable twilight cricket to be played. Potential to also enable twilight training at proposed synthetic and turf nets on No.3 and 4.
- Current lighting posts are in line with the pitch on Myer which effects the straight boundary size for senior cricket.
- The addition of the new pavilion being built on the Northern end and current position of southern end post will reduce the boundary and may limit usage of the ground to junior cricket only.

Environmental sustainability

- Where possible, consider environmentally sustainable measures such as water harvesting and solar panels/lights and batteries to store captured energy.

Feedback from football groups/users

Feedback from the football community has also been analysed with that of the general community above. Given the detailed nature of their feedback, it has been summarised below:

Overall support/positive comments

- Comment that the Masterplan for Adamstown Park is a fantastic step forward to improve the much-used community facility, and support for all inclusions in the concept design.
- General support and expression of gratitude for the recent upgrades to lighting at Adamstown No.2.

Synthetic training pitch

- A football group is raising funds to convert Adamstown No.1 training pitch into a synthetic pitch and have in principle support from CN to seek fundraising and grant opportunities. The group have requested to have this included in the Masterplan.
- Comment that there are no synthetic pitch facilities in the Newcastle LGA and all Newcastle clubs have to use Speers Point at an added expense when other training facilities are not available.
- Suggestion to incorporate a feasibility study/investigation for replacing 1 or more ovals (Adamstown No.2 – 5) with a fenced artificial pitch to allow hire and usage during turf ground closures. Several clubs support the conversion of the pitch on Mandalong Oval to synthetic. However, one club does not agree to a synthetic wicket on Adamstown No.2 field.

Turf wickets

- Broadmeadow Magic do not support turf wickets between the two Myer Park fields. Adamstown Rosebuds support turf wickets being established between Adamstown No.2 and 3.

Drainage and irrigation

- Comments reiterating the importance of drainage and irrigation upgrades on Adamstown No. 2 – 5. Further investigation is needed into the south-eastern corner of Adamstown No.2 (road and playground swing) which regularly holds water despite a stormwater drain being situated a few metres away.
- Comment that the roadway along Popran Road in the same location is almost permanently holding water. Possible that a combination of gutter damage, gutter drain to stormwater blockage and possible cracked sub-terrain pipes (due to tree roots) is preventing full drainage in this corner.
- Improved drainage between Adamstown No.1 training fields, eastern Adamstown No.2 fence lines (container area) and Adamstown Public School needs to be improved as significant amounts of water is collected here even after light rain.

Amenities

- Comment seeking confirmation on whether the plan for the new toilets on Adamstown No.3 – 5 will include changerooms. The group would like to see changerooms included, whether they are new or current changerooms refurbished.

Feedback regarding Lions Club Park

One submission commented on the intention to relocate the WWI Memorial outside the Brunker Road Medical Practice to Adamstown Lions Club Park, subject to approval from CN and/or the Crown Lands Office. It was requested to that CN considers the relocation of the memorial in the Masterplan, addressing any issues related to drainage, irrigation and lighting within Lions Club Park, and assistance in project managing the relocation of the memorial.

Other Submissions

The 3 submissions received via email are summarised below.

One email submission sought clarification on whether the Masterplan was sports focused or whether it covered other general uses and purposes of Adamstown Park, echoing the feedback of some community members via the online feedback form. The submission suggested an accessible and inclusive all ages space for all community members to gather and provided example photos of barbecue facilities and an undercover picnic area, accessible playground, community garden, nature play area, table tennis table, giant chess and seating.

Another submission commented on the joy of seeing the park being used for general recreation by walkers (with or without dogs), children and families playing, flying kites, informal games of cricket and touch football, and school sport activities. There were concerns about fencing in two of the soccer fields along Melville Road and that this would restrict public access when the grounds are not used for formal sport/soccer for the majority of the time. There was also a note that the southern side of the park has several unfenced playing fields which are seen to be acceptable for organised soccer games. Soccer clubs are said to already have a large part of Adamstown/Myer Park fenced in and another park along Darling Street, removing public access from these places. It was commented that all fields should be left unfenced.

The other submission commented on limited availability of parking for sports participants, coaches, referees and supporters. Popran Road and other surrounding roads were said to become very busy from mid-mornings on Saturdays and Sundays with Adamstown Bowling Club patrons also looking for parking. Traffic and pedestrian safety were also of concern. It was suggested that parking along Popran and Melville Roads should be changed from parallel to 90 degree parking to increase the number of spaces available, and allow people to watch from their car e.g. spectators with limited mobility, wet weather etc. Adding signs to prevent people from practising golf on the fields was also requested.

Appendix 1 – Promotional materials

Have your say webpage

City of Newcastle

Select Language



THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Adamstown Park Sports Masterplan

Thanks for having your say on the draft Masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure at Adamstown Park over the next 10-15 years. We're reviewing your feedback and will report back soon.

Overview

As part of the CN Strategic Sports Plan (SSP) 2020, a number of recommendations were made relating to Adamstown Park including developing a masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years.

Specific recommendations from the SSP included: improvements to the field layout, drainage, irrigation, lighting layout, playing surfaces, upgrades to amenities for football and cricket, and ensuring infrastructure at Adamstown No.1 sportsground complies with NPL standards.

Broadmeadow Magic Junior Football Club has been successful in receiving $1 million in grant funding for Stage 1 works under the Greater Cities and Regional Sport Facility Fund 2021/22.

Why develop a draft Masterplan for Adamstown Park?

CN has prepared a draft Masterplan for Adamstown Park (including Myers Park) with initial consultation with key sporting user groups to ensure that the proposed works are consistent with the long term vision of the park and meet the needs of all user groups. The Masterplan will be implemented in stages over a 10 year period, with approved grant funding works being implemented as Stage 1 in the next financial year.

What's included in the draft Masterplan?

The draft Masterplan aims to develop a staged and flexible multi-use precinct to meet the recreation and sporting needs of the surrounding community, and enhance the visitor experience for players, officials and spectators.

Key sporting improvements include:

- Improved field layout to increase the number of FIFA standard soccer fields from 2 to 4
- Flood lighting renewal/upgrades
- Refurbishment of cricket nets
- Improved irrigation and drainage
- New toilet amenities to service Adamstown No.3, No.4 and No.5 sports grounds
- Extension of the existing amenity building including toilets and gender neutral change rooms
- Consolidated canteen, toilet and storage facility at Adamstown No.1 sports ground
- Sport and Community Multipurpose clubroom and amenities building at Myers Park

Key recreation improvements include:

- A continuous 3m wide concrete path with approx. 1.5km to be provided for walkers/runners
- 3 fitness stations with water stations
- Multi-purpose active court near Myers Lane
- A new playground and multipurpose active court near Glebe Road
- An increase in trees and landscaping throughout the whole park

Stage 1 works being carried out with grant funding at Myers Park include:

- Drainage works
- Fencing around Myers Park
- Covered tiered seating at Myers Park 1
- Fitness stations with water stations
- Perimeter running track
- Multipurpose Active Court

Note: Stage 1 works are subject to grant funding requirements and deadlines, and will commence as soon as practical.

Thanks for having your say!

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on the draft Adamstown Park Masterplan. We're currently reviewing your feedback and will report back soon.

Adamstown Park Masterplan

- Adamstown Park Sports Masterplan
- Adamstown Park Sports Masterplan Summary
- Adamstown Park Sports Masterplan FAQs

Supporting Documents

- Strategic Sports Plan (PDF)

Project timeline

November 2022
Public Exhibition - Draft Masterplan
The draft Adamstown Park Sports Masterplan is now on public exhibition for community feedback.

December – Early 2023
Review feedback from Public Exhibition
The project team will review your feedback and provide a report to Council.

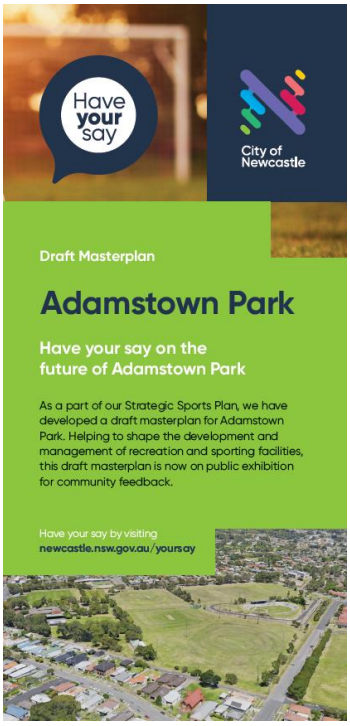
Early 2023
Report to Council to adopt Masterplan
The final Masterplan will go to Council in early 2023 for adoption.

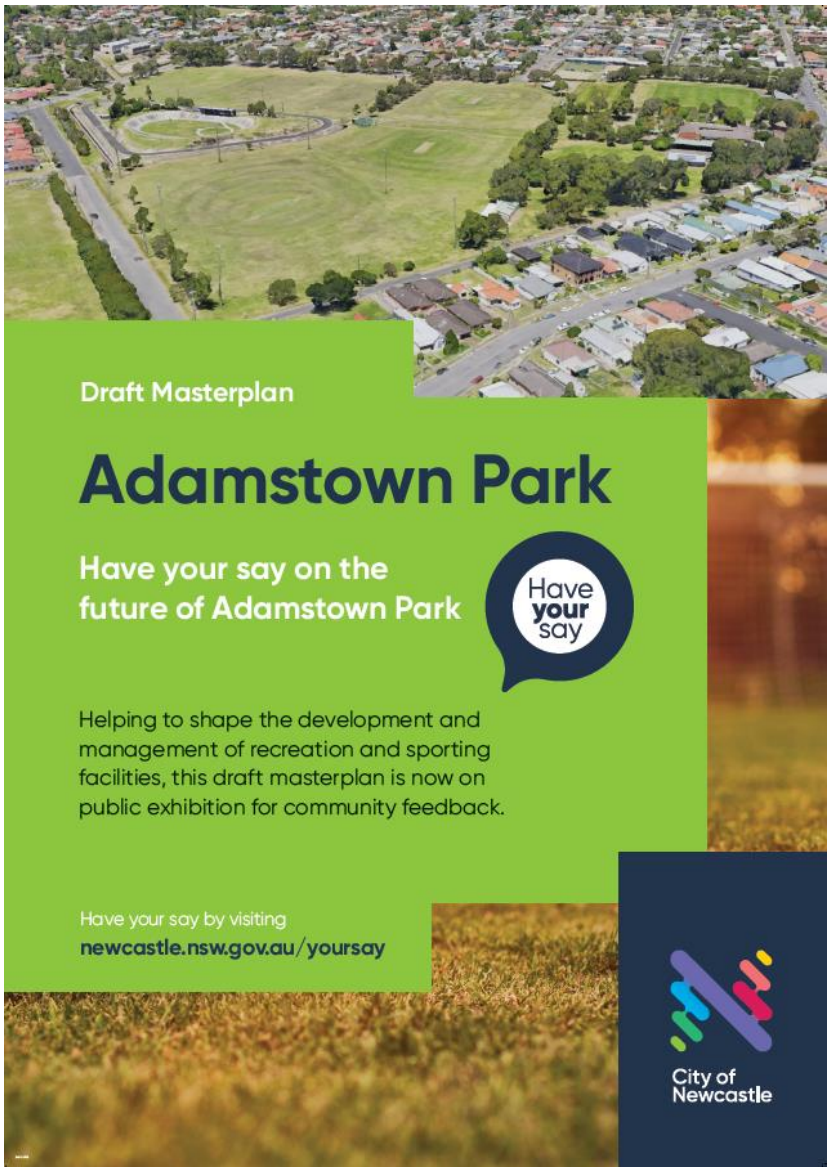
Expand timeline

Contact us

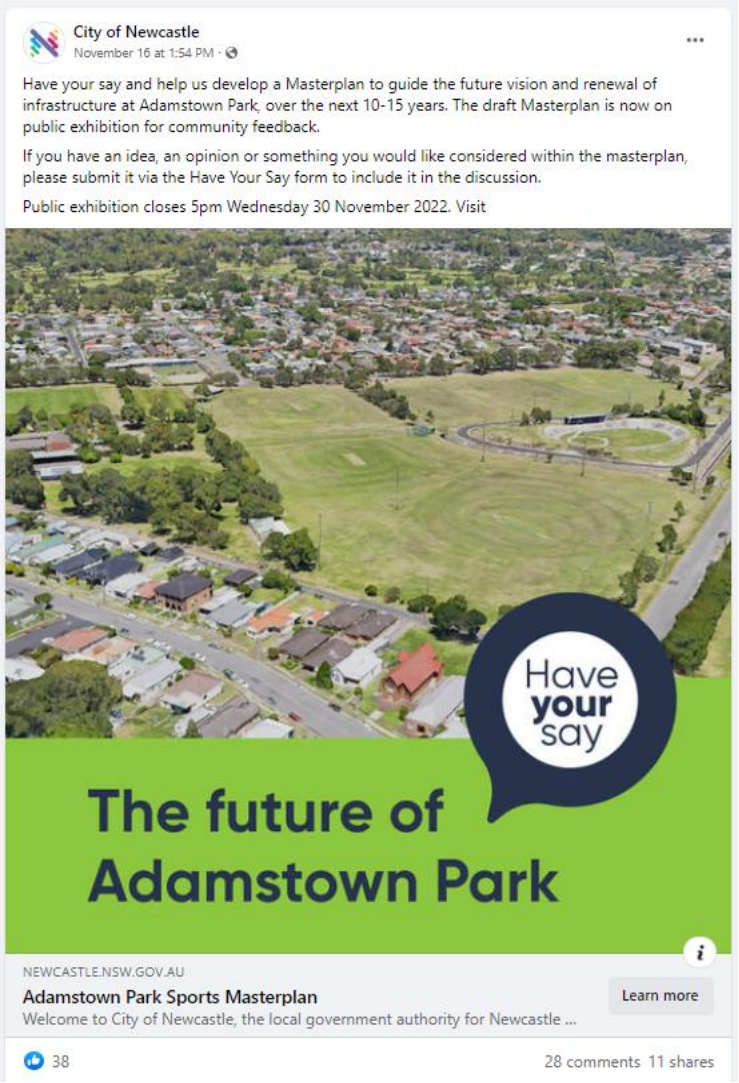
Engagement team
Phone: 02 4974 2000
Email: engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Flyer and onsite signage





Social media



Newsletter



Adamstown Park Sports Masterplan

The draft Masterplan for Adamstown Park has been developed to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years.

The Masterplan includes improvements to field layout, drainage, irrigation, lighting, playing surfaces, upgrades to amenities for football and cricket, and ensuring infrastructure complies with NPL standards.

Have your say on the draft Masterplan until 5pm on Wednesday **30 November 2022**.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Appendix 2 – Open feedback/comments

Please provide your comments/feedback on the Adamstown Park Masterplan
[redacted] are raising funds to in order to convert the Adamstown Oval No 1 training pitch into a synthetic training pitch. This has been on the clubs wish list for a few years. The large number of training sessions that were cancelled this season is evidence that this is needed. We have drawn up an initial proposal and we have in-principle support from Council to fund-raise and apply for grants. We would appreciate if this could be included in the overall plan. We would be very pleased to have an opportunity to discuss this with Council. We would be looking to implement this within the next 5 years (subject to funding). We believe this would be beneficial to the entire football community. At present, there is no artificial pitch facility in the Newcastle government area. When training facilities are not available, all Newcastle clubs have no alternative other than to go to the Speers Point Facility (which also generates an added expense). We have a business plan that we believe can be implemented (with NCC support) which will benefit all involved. At this stage, we do have letters of support from the Council to raise funds for this endeavour. Please contact [redacted] on [redacted] if you wish to discuss. [redacted]
Could I have a plan of the proposed drainage works for the whole plan. It is vitally important to get this right to make the whole plan successful. One first inspection it is very impressive.
This is vital for the community and well overdue!
As drainage is a major issue for the whole area. which you have identified. How do you propose to drain the water from the playing field area for the whole complex. Do you have a plan to show the public as to how this will be achieved? There are some great concepts here to rejuvenate a much used area by sporting associations and the community at large. But it will be pointless if the surfaces are unplayable due to wet grounds.
Rotate the cricket pitch on Adamstown No.5 and have fields 4 & 5 rotate as well to not have a cricket pitch in the playing field. It would be better to improve drainage and irrigation on Mandalong, Adamstown 3, 4 & 5 to get more use of the fields rather than focusing on Myer Parks fencing. Fitness and hydration stations and seating stands only appear to be at Myer Park - spread the stations & stands around the whole area rather than just focusing on Myer Park. The proposed kicking wall will just have lots of balls kicked over into the school yard.



Drainage is also desperately needed for Adamstown park next to the tennis courts. It is an off leash area that isn't used to it full potential because it is always under water. A fence (covering the WHOLE area) would also improve use of the area as it is next to busy Glebe road. Every day people use Myers park and Adamstown no1 sports ground to exercise their dog (100s per week) because Adamstown park next to the courtyards is underwater or not safe next to the busy roads

The draft masterplan looks great and makes me excited as someone who lives in the area! It looks like it will be great to improve the sporting facilities and all the new tree plantings will improve the amenity of the area. It is great to see the two new active courts. The playground on Glebe Road will also be great and I assume this will replace the existing playground on Adamstown No 2 Oval. It would be great if the new playground could be fenced given the proximity to Glebe Road. Overall I think this is a great investment and the sooner this is delivered the better - especially as urban density increases along Brunker Road there will be/is increased demand for nearby sporting and recreational facilities. Great work.

I'm excited about this development. The plan didn't show whether you will be retaining the large fig trees along Glebe Road. I really hope this is the case.
I am excited that you'll be building a playground near Glebe Road. Would it be possible to have some form of shade covering the playground? Also, some toddler friendly equipment would be appreciated (rather than just for older kids).

The plan also does not show whether you will be retaining or renovating the small playground near Adamstown No.2. It would be great if that would at least be retained.

As the nearby off-leash dog area near the train line is not able to be used between 9am - 5pm, it would be great if at least part of the park could be used as an off-leash dog area during the daytime hours. Perhaps even during school hours (while the kids are safely in school)?

Overall, I'm very pleased at the developments. Thank you!

Please see the attached document regarding my objections to elements of the draft masterplan.

Comments on Draft Masterplan for Adamstown & Myers Park:

With regard to the Draft Masterplan to place fencing around Myers Park I would like to raise my objection. This is against the spirit of having an open parcel of land for use by the general community and not the exclusive use of limited number of sporting groups. I am a nearby resident who enjoys using the park and I can recall plans in the early 1990's by the Broadmeadow Magic club to seize control of Myers Park with fencing and grandstands with the "promise" that the gate would be unlocked for those wanting to use the park. I recall the Development Application for this plan had been somewhat sneakily lodged in the weeks prior to Christmas, however, the local community became aware of the plans and meetings were held with local aldermen to hear the community objections to those plans. The park is a fantastic asset and provides the community (not just sporting groups) with open space to walk, run, train, play with the kids and just breathe and relax which is so important in the modern world. Personally I walk regularly in the park and just having some open space around you provides a wonderful feeling of mind clearing and stress relief. I note in recent times there is an increasing number of ugly Containers being placed (possibly illegally) in the park by sporting groups and this should cease. Fencing in and restricting the use of the park to a few specialty groups would be a great loss the city of Newcastle.
I strongly agree on improving the drainage system around Adamstown park because it is always muddy. I would like to propose a basketball court or two to be built somewhere in the park as there are many people in the area that would like to play. The nearest public basketball courts are at market town and it would be much more convenient to have at least one basketball court at Adamstown park.
I live on Gosford Road behind Myers lane, near to the corner of the school/park. I note that trees are not proposed for removal for this area, ie the active court proposed area. If the active court requires trees for removal will the court location be changed? No trees should be removed from this area. There are birds aplenty using these trees including 3 species of lorikeet, figbirds, and a peregrine falcon regularly uses these trees as an approach while hunting. Why is there a plan to put a fence around it all? Is this going to stop access to locals who want to go for a walk? I dont see the point in a fence if it will remain open access, as it should. A fence gives a feeling of non-safety, as things need to be fenced to 'protect people' for some reason. Its also a waste of money, as people will just jump the fence if you are locking out locals who want to go for a walk - is the ideas to restrict locals walking to the asphalt running/walking track around the perimeter? If so this a bad idea as people like to feel the soft grass under their feet. Also why not create a proper dog park section? People like to walk their dogs here, even though rangers patrol the place, it should have a nice little dog exercise area for sure.
I find fencing the whole of Myers Park to be questionable. I hope it is not the type of fencing that currently surrounds the Adamstown school or Adamstown Oval in that unless it is being used by official sporting events etc it cannot be used by anyone at all. There are hundreds of residents who do not play sport and use this area to walk. Many are not young and do not wish to be bowled over by runners joggers etc on a dedicated exercise park. This area should be left open for all to use. Certainly to be used by sporting clubs but also by all the local residents who have used it for many years to simply play with children or grandchildren or walk dogs on leads etc.
Hi Thankyou for the opportunity to provide feedback. Comments are as follows - Adamstown Junior football Club have a very large female focused sides. The current amenities proposed are great but should be accelerated into stage 1 for Adamstown no 2. - field lighting upgrade accelerate. Teams currently train in virtual darkness on number 2 - why so many cricket pitches. I have never witnessed 5 games of cricket played at the same time. 2 at best. There is no need to have a cricket pitch in the middle of no 2 Adamstown and mandalong. - drainage needs to be reviewed to western side of no 2 Adamstown. - seating to no 2 Adamstown western side should be considered - warm up area adjacent no 1 Adamstown should be considered for synthetic - is no 1 Adamstown pitch being upgraded? Along with specialist maintenance of the pitch similar to Maitland cooks hill square ground for example? - inclusive of amenities upgrade provide much needed storage that can be utilised and kept separate. Soccer gear takes significant space for a large club and these spaces need to be kept separate from summer cricket users

- Adamstown club house at no 2 existing should be completely upgraded when designing the extension or expansion of the existing club house. Provision for media/wireless access points etc should be available for teams meetings etc. - Adamstown no 1 is fenced currently. I strongly suggest the pitch be replaced with synthetic. The last year is a prime example of where LMCC speers point facility was not larger enough to accommodate teams due to inclement weather. NCC desperately needs and must have a similar facility. Or upgrade some existing field around the area. Football is the largest participation sport and yet there is no investment in a facility similar to speers point. The land available as part of this master plan could easily accommodate a speers point facility in the heart of Newcastle.
Refurbishment of cricket nets - would be great to see a 6 net set up where 3 nets can be locked with access to these nets for cricket clubs and the remaining 3 nets always open for public use. Fencing around Myers Park - I would like to see that the fencing does not interfere with the use of the field for cricket. Having the fencing reduce the normal size of the cricket field would be a bad thing. I would also like to see the inclusion of a dedicated BBQ area in Myers Park area with an undercover area.
I would like to see more sports included. A full size basketball court and tennis wall with courts on either side would be good. This allows a range of activities not just football and cricket.
What are the details of item 11 (playground)? Myers Park is one of the largest and central community areas in Adamstown with the smallest playground. Can further details please be provided to provide feedback on?
Drainage is a real issue so improved services in that field in addition to improved accessibility for runners/ walkers is much needed. Improved parking facilities with designated car spots out of the mud would be great. Play equipment would be fantastic in addition to seating/ wet weather cover for sporting spectators.
This years soccer season was severely impacted due to the drainage issues of the field. Please consider updating for future seasons
The drainage is absolutely shocking and impacted kids sport too much this year. A better park for kids with pump track is needed
As an Adamstown local, I worry the above plan will mean plenty of people who use the park for free walking, running and having dog play time will lose this privilege due to the curated fields and likely fencing that will restrict movement. This is a huge disappointment. Most of the neighbours in this area enjoy the large space for what it is- open and unrestricted. Will the upgrade mean the public will no longer have access due to the prioritisation of sporting fields? Is there plans for dog friendly spaces? Will the fencing be locked?
It would be great to have a rotunda like king Edward park near the tennis courts. Please retain the lions club sign of Adamstown Park opposite the 7 eleven it's park of the history of the park. My children's equipment near the tennis courts made of natural products not plastic. The coffee caravan draws lots of families this would be a welcome addition. More trees to provide shade in all areas of the park. Retain the velodrome this is part of Adamstown history. Improved drainage near the tennis courts to allow regular mowing of the grass area.
This is an great plan to upgrade this space as a multipurpose area for all locals. I particularly like the concrete path surrounding the park, the active courts and the addition of more trees. Well done. I'm looking forward to utilising the space.
I believe the master plan is much needed for the current community and sporting clubs of the local area. In particular, the amount of young families crying out for a local kids park to walk to is high. Having a playground near the Glebe Road area will be perfect to grab a local coffee and improve the local experience for families of the area. One further comment would be to child safe the kids area with a fence protecting children from the nearby Glebe road future playground. The sooner the better for all locals! Great plan!
See attached letter

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Adamstown Park draft masterplan.

As stated in your Climate Action Plan, we are entering a critical decade for action on climate change, and whilst I can appreciate the importance of the 10yr strategic sport plan. Surely Newcastle Council can be brave enough to incorporate climate actions with every move they make and not just the token tree or efficient lighting. but MORE…. WE NEED MORE!!!!!!!!!!

Its great that they are installing energy efficient lights. Will the new sports buildings have solar?

Trees:

Your plans show a 'token' few extra trees here or there but for such a large mass of grounds just short of 2500 square metres… there is not brave or daring out of the box thinking…you are appeasing the sporting clubs/participants etc... BUT… this could be where we **Adamstown** and by extension Newcastle **showcase** our capabilities, forethought and collaboration to provide amenity and recreation to the community whilst also incorporating a fantastic abundance of greenery - a **action** towards climate change and more habitat for wildlife. Why not hit two birds with one stone?

Masterplan Considerations as per design note numbering:

(3) Existing cluster of trees in SE corner - The trees in this area provide great shelter and shade, not only to the neighbouring houses and users of the park but also to fauna in the area. Why is there a sudden need to assess these trees?? because you want to construct a concrete pathway for recreational use? This is insanity… If there is any question to their stability of these trees. have your council tree office inspect and manage them NOT remove them to make way for a concrete bike path.…I am completely against the removal of any of those trees!!!!

(6) Shared Pathway - A nice idea. But at what cost? Are trees being removed and assessed because of it? I strongly oppose to the width of this pathway. Three metres is excessive! And to what cost? How many trees will be removed to make way for this impermeable. concrete cooking slab.

(10) Active Court - The court should be designed around the trees not the other way around. Those trees have been there for decades…The trees there provide crucial north westerly shade for the school and the park in general…to remove any due to 'danger' concerns for court users is not good enough! Another hard surface… and trees must make way?? Please re-consider this.

(35) Trees on northern side - Why must we only have small to medium trees? What shade or amenity will they provide? Is this another 'liability' avoidance?

The masterplan diagram does not reflect existing trees located along Popran Road, Glebe Road or Chatham Street. Why is that?

For parents watching on the side lines of these sporting fields and for children resting in between breaks, there is nothing more hellish than being crucified by the sun with NO shade anywhere to be found.

Trees should be planted along the pathway divide between Adamstown No 2 field and Mandalong Oval. The more the better! We should be planting now while the climate is still hospitable to do so.

There should be more trees in the kickabout open space off Glebe Road, this is a perfect area to provide a bit of a tree wonderland, let children engage with nature. there are no conflicting sporting limitations… so why not! What will happen to the garden beds along the border of Glebe Road and Bryant St? Has there been any consideration to converting the existing stormwater drainage into a natural watercourse, like that of Lambton Park?? We should be doing what we can to convert these areas to a natural state where possible… **CANT WE BE INVENTIVE AND COURAGEOUS??** Come on Newcastle Council!!!! – you have this opportunity, and you are providing the status quo….
I live in Melville Road, in the little group of houses from Chatham Road to the School grounds, and across the road from Myers Park. I am unable to come in to Council to see whatever exhibit is there, and would have expected to be able to see it online? However I read that stage 1 plans to fence the park. This would be terrible. At present the public walks and runs through/across/around the park for exercise, recreation and just to 'get out in the fresh air'. It is lovely to walk in an area that is open and away from passing traffic. Merewether High students use the park under teacher supervision, presumably for PE lessons. When organised sport is being played, it all works fine without the park being fenced off. Indeed, for much of the week the park is used informally, not by organised sporting events. It would be ridiculous to fence the facility, thus preventing its use for the majority of the time.
I am impressed with the plan but would like the addition of some raised garden beds with the playground area. There are a lot of units in the area with little access to community gardens
Please prioritize drainage on Adamstown 2 as there seems to be destruction of underground drainage pipes in the south eastern corner of 2 near swings. water cannot escape correctly into stormwater drain and takes weeks to dry out with even light rain. Drainage on eastern side of adamstown 2 (near containers and primary school) floods with run off from adamstown 1 training field and settles for longer periods than it naturally should. Lighting on Number 2 needs to be fixed asap with only 1 working light pole for the entire field.
As a family with young children, we would like to see more focus on (shaded) playgrounds and less focus on sport grounds
Really great to see Adamstown Park up for development, however, the master plan is very sports focused and not at all community-minded (beyond sports). Why would Adamstown Sports Park need so many ovals? Even now, only a maximum of 2 are ever being used at the same time. I imagine then the updated spaces will continue to be empty, and that would have been such a lost opportunity. I would love to see a bit more of a balance between sports and interests that other significant segments of the community have. For example, lots of shaded and landscaped areas, places for people to sit, eat, drink and to play. I'm so happy to see the playground will be upgraded, will it also be shaded, with places for people to sit around it? BBQ areas; picnic areas; landscaped gardens, maybe even a pond etc. These are the kinds of environments and amenities that bring people together and accommodate larger interests. Plans for a permanent cafe or restaurant would also be fabulous.
Looks like a great improvement for the community.
The walking track is a great idea. But the main priority should be toilets and drainage, for the amount of people at these grounds in the weekend and using single toilets in the change room is beyond reasonable. And without adequate drainage like the last 3 seasons kids don't get on the park
Hello Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Masterplan for Adamstown Park. I note there are a number of active courts proposed. We are very keen that at least one of these contain basketball hoops to allow for a half court, or better still a full basketball court. We note that the basketball courts at Marketown are a success and very well used. A court at Adamstown Park would mean an additional opportunity for kids and teenagers living in the local area. Kind Regards [redacted]
Could consideration be made for a footpath around the complex encompassing Popran Rd, Chatham Rd & Mellville Rd.? There is an enormous amount of foot traffic when these ovals are in use & due to the uneven & unlevel nature of the verges & nature strip most attendees (and locals) tend to walk along the road as a flatter / safer option especially Popran Rd. All these roads are busy and walking on/along them

especially while events are on is quite dangerous. In addition these routes are used frequently by school children & parents from the schools based around the park again opting to walk along the flatter road surface due to the difficulty of using prams etc on uneven ground.
I am [redacted], our club are happy for a new synthetic pitch to be installed at Myers Park. I have heard suggestions that some are suggesting a turf pitch. We do NOT want a turf pitch. There wouldn't be enough room for one between two soccer fields to start with and secondly we don't have the equipment to maintain a turf pitch. We much prefer a new synthetic wicket. Thanks.
I would like to express my thoughts as we own & live in house number [redacted] Myers Lane. As there is only 2 houses in this street who face Myers park we would appreciate if the covered tiered seating featured in plans for Myers Park 1 could be reconsidered and not placed directly in front of our homes. On weekends when soccer is on it is not so busy to really need that much seating in my opinion unless it's an older grade playing & people who are watching generally bring their own chairs anyway. If a grandstand/tiered seating needs to be placed can I suggest putting it up a little further in front of the empty church carpark or not at all as it changes the park feel and will probably just get graffitied on like the velodrome is covered.. hoping you can take this into consideration, thank you.
Thank you for the invitation to comment. My apologies if I have overlooked the detail but I note that Broadmeadow magic has secured the funding for stage 1 not council, does that mean that stage 1 facilities will be limited to the club ie within the proposed fencing of Myer park or will they be available for broader public use 24 hrs/day. if it is the former what investment will council be doing on publicly available land and, I speculate, does it relate to any lease arrangements? If it's the latter thank you drainage works and a multipurpose court (especially one that includes basketball) would improve this asset.
As a resident that lives at [redacted] Popran Road, I do not want the current toilet block (19) moved closer to my house (16) as the current toilet block (19) already attracts people to hang around it at all hours of the night, even when locked. The main bedroom of my home is at the front of the house which would basically be opposite the proposed toilet block. This would cause greater noise disturbance and generate unpleasant smells that could impact mine and my family's health daily. Currently the toilet block is opposite residences with car spaces at the front of their property, which provides an additional buffer from the noise and smells. It would be beneficial to the wild life for the trees to stay, in particularly the owls that inhabit the trees on Popran Road. Tree coverage for the proposed path would also be beneficial to provide shade / sun protection for runners as well as cricket players and spectators.
Hello, living opposite of Adamstown park on Popran Road, I don't believe there is a need to install toilet blocks Infront of an entire complex of units and other residential houses whom enjoy watching and supporting the sports activities. This would block as many people's views as possible when the ideal masterplan would be to block as few people's views as possible. A suggestion would be opposite Chatham Street where there are no houses or units, or near the school.
Upgrade the velodrome/cycling track
The plan sounds great but you've forgotten about all the dogs. Dogs are more important to our well-being than sport is actually. Sport bring communities together , dogs teach true unconditional love. I hope the fitness equipment has some hanging poles. More trees would also be nice/essential.
Plan sounds good and agree with drainage and lighting. In relation to the 1.5km running/walking track this s a good idea, but I'm not fussed on concrete as a suitable surface for running? Either smooth grass surface or a rubberised track, similar to the one at Newcastle West. Some fitness stations would also be good for use by all the community.
Hi, I'm very much in favour of the draft Adamstown Park Sport Masterplan and can't wait to see it completed as soon as possible. We're a local family of three that will make a lot of use of the multipurpose courts and the fitness stations. I have two requests: 1. Could both of the proposed multipurpose/active courts please include a basketball half-court and a rebound/tennis wall as indicated in the schematics on pages 15 and 17 of the plan? 2. Could the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Chatham and Darling Sts and Melville Rd please

be built as soon as possible? Parked cars on Chatham St limit visibility when approaching the intersection along Darling St, and there is a traffic dome on Melville Rd that is quite hazardous for all traffic, but cyclists and motorcyclists in particular, as the intersection is poorly lit and it is difficult to see at night. Finally, one thing that I'm not in favour of is the proposed 1m high fixed perimeter fence for Myers Park fields 1 and 2. I understand that it will be helpful to prevent run away balls during cricket and soccer games, but it will limit the use of the space for other activities. Thanks, [redacted]
Fenced in dog area in one of the areas. It's inconvenient that we have to go to Lambton for this and not our local area.
Northern NSW Football agree with this masterplan. Cricket NSW have suggested some changes with the following feedback from Football: Broadmeadow Magic Youth FC do not agree to turf wickets between the 2 Myer Park fields. Adamstown JFC do not agree to a synthetic wicket on Adamstown No2 field. They are ok with turf wickets being established between Adamstown No2 & 3. Both clubs are ok if cricket wish to convert pitch on Mandalong oval to synthetic. Please confirm the plan for the new toilets on Adamstown Ovals No3-5. Will this include changerooms. Would be beneficial to have changerooms whether new or current changerooms to be refurbished.
Please refer to the attached Submission from Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch ADAMSTOWN PARK SPORTS MASTERPLAN On behalf of the Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch (MHA), we would like to be registered as an interested party to the proposed Masterplan to guide the future vision and renewal of infrastructure over the next 10-15 years. Our interest relates to the small parcel of land situate Cnr Glebe Road and Bryant Street Adamstown (referred to as Lions Club Park). In the meantime, we would like the City of Newcastle to take into account the following comments. MHA has previously discussed the relocation of the WWI Memorial Adamstown with Council and it still remains the intention of the Sub-Branch to relocate it from outside the Brunker Road Medical Practice, 282 Brunker Road Adamstown to Adamstown Lions Club Park Cnr Glebe Road and Bryant Street, if approved. The Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch amalgamated with the Merewether-Hamilton RSL Sub-Branch on 1 January 2018. One of the major concerns of the Sub-Branch is that the Memorial sits on privately owned land as a result of the former Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch being sold to the owners of the Medical Practice. Currently, we are only Leaseholders of the small parcel of land on which the WWI Memorial stands, and bearing in mind current development in the area, we are relying on the goodwill of future owners to grant access to the Memorial in the hope that they do not include that section in any possible future developments. Our current lease with the owners of the land is for five (5) years with about three (3) years to run before expiry. At MHA General Meeting on 11 October 2022, members voted to form a Committee to oversee the relocation of the Memorial prior to the Lease expiring. The Sub-Branch has conducted Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services at the site for the Adamstown Community and intends to continue these importance days of national remembrance. The Anzac Day Service, in particular, hosts approximately 1000 community members and sees road closures in Brunker Road to ensure the safety of attendees and participants of the Service. The relocation of the Memorial to the park would alleviate traffic management problems for the City of Newcastle and Police, who necessarily are heavily involved for months leading up to the day and on the day with Traffic Management Control and strategies. The new site would eliminate, to a certain degree, the provision of heavy vehicle management for potential terrorist attacks on attendees. It is a massive exercise for the Sub-Branch, Council and Police, who naturally, consider that community safety is paramount.

MHA will be seeking permission from the City of Newcastle or Crown Lands Office for the relocation of the Memorial. Quotes, plans and other necessary steps will be undertaken to progress the relocation which will then be attached to a submission to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to be considered for funding of the project. We again ask that you take all of the above into consideration and we look forward to input into the proposed Masterplan, and any drainage, irrigation and lighting issues relating to that small area of land. As has been the case in previous Commemorative restoration works, we would be seeking assistance from Council in project managing the relocation of the WWI Memorial.
Hi, looking at the Draft Concept Masterplan page 15 on the Masterplan I am wanting to know more information on what design note 28 is detailing: "Shared path connections with roads and linked with appropriate treatments and facilities." Especially indicated at Glebe road next to the bowling club, what are the appropriate treatments and facilities? I am also concerned that there is any area NOT indicated on page 7 that is also flood prone land. The area is located at and around design note 11: Playground. This area desperately needs Elevation work done.
Please consider incorporating the velodrome into plans. The development including improved access to cycling facilities would be fantastic. Ideas include access to toilets to velodrome, lighting to include velodrome, improvement increase of the criterium track to connect to walking running path
Please make sure there are bins installed for the disposal of dog poo. The parks are currently utilised by people and their dogs (which is fine) but there is commonly dog poo left in picked up or they leave the bags of dog poo behind, particularly near the Myers Park toilet block. If there were dog poo bins off Melville Rd and and near the Myers Park toilet block, it might give people somewhere to dispose of the dog poo / encourage them to pick it up?? We are often having to clean dog poo off the field before junior sport.
Dear CN, We support all 35 design concept inclusions (as stated in the draft masterplan summary) and thank City of Newcastle for already upgrading the lighting at Adamstown No 2 in the past week. We would like to highlight some that we think need to be completed as early as possible in order to address some key issues identified by recent seasons weather conditions. Please find our detailed draft master-plan feedback attached. Dear City of Newcastle, The Committee of [redacted] think the drafting of a masterplan for Adamstown Park is a fantastic step forward to further improve the much-used community facility. We support all 35 design concept inclusions (as stated in the draft masterplan summary) and thank City of Newcastle for already upgrading the lighting at Adamstown No 2 in the past week. We would like to highlight some that we think need to be completed as early as possible in order to address some key issues identified by recent seasons weather conditions: 1. **Concept 2: Improved irrigation and drainage on Adamstown 2 – 5:** a. This needs to be considered a MUST in any upgrade concept, not just investigated. b. Investigation needs to be made as to why the **south eastern corner of Adamstown 2** (road and playground swing) is constantly holding water given a storm water drain is situated meters away. c. The roadway along Popran road in the same location is almost permanently holding water. d. It seems that a combination of gutter damage, gutter drain to storm water blockage and possible cracked sub terrain pipes (due to tree roots) is preventing full drainage of water in this corner. e. Improved drainage between Adamstown 1 training fields, Eastern Adamstown 2 fence lines (containers area) and Adamstown Public school needs to be improved as water collection is significant in these areas after even light rain.

Suggested Inclusion to Masterplan: • Feasibility study / Investigation conducted to replace 1 or more ovals (Adamstown 2 – 5) with a fenced artificial pitch to allow hire and usage during turf ground closures.
You don't seem to be doing the one thing I'd love to see, that is restoration of the public velodrome.
-This location will great for holding international music festival - facilitate the NSW &QLD soccer computations held yearly. - facilitate the soccer academic (to form high profile soccer players)
on 29th of October 2022, I was at Myer Park in Adamstown as I had my cricket game. I parked my car in the carpark outside the ground and thought it was safe to go through. Then, My car got stuck in the mud, you know, bog and as I was trying to get out again, it got stuck and my wheels were turning, turning and turning and my car got stuck right on the rims. My friend [redacted] came along with a shovel to try and remove most of the dirt but had no luck at all. After that I rang NRMA but they could not help as they advised me to get a tow truck. I rang the tow truck and had to wait a few hours for them to help me get the car out of the mud and the tow truck cost me $350. So I really would like to see the carpark area really improve at Myer Park as I don't want to get the car stuck in the bog again and a warning for the people that want to go there and don't have 4WD to not park in there. I have attached the images.
[redacted] and I reside in Belmore Street Adamstown in close proximity to the grounds mentioned in the Master Plan. WE have a strong objection to public space being handed to a member only club which restricts access to the public. particularly when Broadmeadow Magic already has a fenced and gated ground. As do other soccer clubs in the area, 1. Many years ago Broadmeadow Magic attempted to have the public grounds enclosed. This was opposed by the community and did not proceed. Broadmeadow Magic already have an enclosed ground in Curley Road Broadmeadow. Why do the need a second enclosed ground? This is a giveaway of a public asset to a private organisation. 2. Adamstown Rosebuds enclosed ground is constantly have people jump the fence to use the facilities. 3. Drainage issues on Popran Road have not been addressed. Water is constantly lying in the gutter at the western end of Popran Road. 4. When will floodlights be turned off. The disrupt the lives of residents shining into their homes. 5. There is no mention of where the cricket nets will be located. Will this be an afterthought? These nets a regularly used. 6. Yes remove the netball courts from Adamstown Park but retain a couple of rings for girls to use for practice shots. As currently occurs. 7. The entrance on the corner of Belmore Street and Popran Road to the car park is poorly located. cars are double parking in this location and combined with the extreme increase in traffic flow due to the activities at the Adamstown Bowling Club this is dangerous situation. 8. The playground at the corner of Belmore Street and Popran Road should be retained. This equipment is regularly used by children whose siblings and parents are playing sport on the adjacent grounds. 9. There is no Traffic Management Plan for the area. With sport and the increased traffic flow due to the activities of the Adamstown Bowling Club quiet streets have now become inundated with high levels of traffic flow.
Hi There Sorry this is late. We live very close to here and are very happy with the overall changes in the draft plan. Just want to know if the drains around the ovals will receive further attention as they seem to easily build up with leaves and grass growing in the gutters especially near the velodrome entrance area. These blockages pool water around parking areas. Can the kick ball wall have concrete slabs at the base so that tennis practise can also take place here whilst waiting a turn for use of the half tennis court? The swings that will be a part of the playground can they have a scoop taken out of the ground beneath them to allow for taller kids and young people to use them? Having a level ground underneath is not easy to use if you are a tall child or older person. I think all should be able to use the swings. If the active court near the tennis courts/bowling club could be a full size basketball court due to the huge popularity of basketball in Newcastle at present. This is evident from the summer junior basketball teams this year having over 200 kids on a waitlist to join. There is a huge interest in basketball for all ages not just children in this area which can be encouraged through a further basketball options. The fitness stations are most welcome as long as different height bars are included for arm full body

weight pull ups for all ages and sizes. Thanks for your consideration. Looking forward to the changes occurring very soon!!
Please find enclosed the Cricket' Community's consolidated feedback to the proposed Masterplan.

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/23 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT COUNCIL PROPERTY LEASE & LICENCE POLICY

8.9	**Attachment A:**	DRAFT COUNCIL PROPERTY LEASE & LICENCE POLICY

Draft Council Property Lease and Licence Policy

October 2023

newcastle.nsw.gov.au

City of Newcastle

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Part A Preliminary

1 Introduction

1.1 City of Newcastle (CN) own a wide range of land and buildings ("Council Property") which help meet the diverse needs of its residents.

1.2 This Policy sets out the way Council Property will be leased and licenced by individuals, organisations and businesses. It determines lease and licence terms, responsibilities, financial obligations, as well as the process for entering into new Leases and Licences.

2 Purpose

2.1 This Policy outlines CN's management of Leases and Licences and provides CN with a framework to support the financially sustainable, equitable, fair and transparent management of Council Property, and establishes the terms for entering into Leases and Licences.

2.2 The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Establish processes for the management of Council Property that are transparent, and decisions are based on clear policies and procedures that align to relevant legislation.
- Provide Council Property for delivery of social, cultural, recreational, educational, environmental and other services which afford community benefits, and also for commercial return.
- Establish the types of non-binding and binding agreements CN will enter into, and when.
- Establish the framework for optimal use and utilisation of Council Property, that meets the communities needs and provides equitable access and affordability.
- Ensure that CN undertakes strategic assessment of Council Property for optimal future use, and that resulting Leases and Licences reflect the objectives of Council Property.
- Provide a clear process for CN's consideration of any proposed Lease or Licence including:
  - Specify how CN will deal with different proposals, based on Categories of Lessees and their business operating models.
  - Set the key terms of a Lease or Licence including such things as the Premises, length of term, rent and rent reviews and responsibilities of each party.
  - Establish the method for assessing market rent, the rent payable and determining any In-Kind Subsidy CN is providing.
- Clearly show the roles and responsibilities of CN and lessee
- Outline how owner's consent for any proposed works, grant applications and any funding being sought from CN will be considered.
- Show the approval process for any proposed Lease or Licence or other requests of CN from Lessees.

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3 Scope

3.1 This Policy applies to all new Leases and Licences For the avoidance of doubt, this Policy will not apply to existing Leases or Licences (including any option terms) until such time as they are being considered for renewal or renegotiation.

3.2 This policy applies to CN's Community and Operational Land and Crown Land managed by CN. It applies to both land and buildings and deals with:

- Leases and Licences of CN land (land only) where the Lessee has erected or will erect their own building and associated assets.
- Leases and Licences of CN land (no building or associated assets).
- Leases and Licences of CN land including building and associated assets.
- Leases and Licences of part or all of building and associated assets only.
- Licences of land which gives the licensee occupation of land and/or premises for a set term and may specify times that the permitted use can be undertaken in the Premises (even if the lessor reserves the rights to access and use).

3.3 This Policy does not apply to:

- Leases or Licences administered under the *Roads Act 1993*, excepting for s.149;
- Licences for a short-term, casual purpose as prescribed by the *Local Government* (General) *Regulation 2005* (s.116);
- Surf Clubs;
- Bowling Clubs;
- Community Centres and Halls;
- Tennis Clubs (except for commercial operations utilising CN tennis courts for Financial Gain);
- Hire of CN's bookable facilities for occasional or short-term use or non-exclusive use, that have separate charges set out in CN's published Schedule of Fees and charges. Where a Bookable Facility is referenced in this Policy, it is for context and information purposes, however Bookable Facilities will be managed outside of this Policy;
- Leases or Licences between CN and Transport for NSW, which will be dealt with under the *Land Acquisition* (Just Terms) *Act*; and
- Property which CN Leases or Licences as a Lessee for operational purposes.

3.4 This Policy does not preclude CN from dealing with any Lease or Licence not covered by the Policy, so long as it complies with any legislated requirements. In such cases, this Policy will guide the principals of the Lease or Licence.

4 Principles

4.1 CN commits itself to the following:

a) **Accountability and transparency** - A framework for transparency and a system of accountability in property planning;

b) **Strategic Planning** - making informed decisions for long term financial sustainability;

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c) **Risk Management** - The appropriate management of risk to people, service and property;

d) **Legislative Compliance** - Compliance with state and federal legislation pertaining to leasing and licensing on Community and Crown Land;

e) **Alignment with Council strategies** – The Policy aligns with Open and Collaborative Leadership priorities outlined in the Newcastle 2040.

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Part B Policy Guidelines

5 Leasing and Licensing of Council Property

5.1 Council Property and Legislation

5.1.1 Entering into Leases and Licences for Council Property must be in accordance with the relevant legislation.

5.1.2 The proposed use of the Council Property must be compatible with the permitted uses in the relevant current Local Environmental Plan.

5.1.3 The leasing and licencing of Community Land is governed by the *Local Government Act (1993)*.

5.1.4 The leasing and licencing of Crown Land where CN is the Crown Land Manager is governed by the *Crown Land Management Act* (2016).

5.1.5 Where a Lease or Licence is on Community Land, then the proposed use must meet the purposes of the reservation and be in accordance with an express authorisation in the relevant adopted Plan of Management (POM) (public utilities, pipes, conduits and other connections for public utilities, including ancillary works excepted).

5.1.6 Any Lease or Licence on Community Land greater than 5 years (including any period of options to renew) must be publicly tendered unless the Lessee is a Not for Profit. All proposed Leases and Licences must be publicly exhibited for 28 days, and entering into a Lease or Licence will be subject to any resolution of submissions. CN may elect to run a public tender at its discretion where there is no legislative requirement.

5.1.7 Leases and Licences over Community Land cannot be longer than twenty-one (21) years (including any period of any options to renew). Where a proposed Contract exceeds 21 years, an application to the Minister for consent must be made by CN.

5.2 Property Types

5.2.1 CN provide Council Property for Community Groups for the contribution to the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of the community.

5.2.2 Council Property includes commercial buildings (or areas of multi-use buildings) to generate a financial return.

5.2.3 A multi-use Council Property may contain Leases and Licences that are for a Community Group and for a commercial return, determined by the type of proposed use by the Community Group, and in line with this Policy.

5.2.4 Lessees' lease or licence Council Property on an "as is" basis and must make their own enquiries for obtaining development consent for the proposed use, and the suitability of the Council Property for operating the proposed use.

5.3 Agreement Types

5.3.1 CN will enter into different contractual agreements depending on the proposed use and utilisation, any proposed capital works and/or financial contributions by CN and any conditions precedent that may need to be met by all parties prior to a Lease or Licence being entered into.

5.3.2 A **Heads of Agreement** (HoA) sets out the key terms and conditions to be agreed between all parties, that will be incorporated into a Lease or Licence, Agreement for Lease or Licence, or Funding Deed and may contain special conditions. A HoA is non-binding.

5.3.3 An **Agreement for Lease or Licence** (AFL) creates a binding obligation on all parties to enter into a Lease or Licence on agreed terms, subject to agreed conditions being completed.

5.3.4 An AFL documents each party's rights and obligations and sets down all the requirements that have to be satisfied prior to the terms of the actual Lease or Licence taking effect.

5.3.5 An AFL is often used when:

- the Lessee needs to obtain consent, say for a particular use of the premises;
- the premises are being purpose-built for the Lessee; or
- an existing building is being renovated before the Lessee moves in.

5.3.6 A **Lease** enables exclusive use of Council Property for a specified term and permitted use and controls the rights and obligations of all parties to the occupancy.

5.3.7 A **Licence** is a contractual agreement that grants the Lessee a personal right to occupy and use Council Property for a particular purpose. It does not grant exclusive possession of the Council Property, as is the case with a Lease, and may permit the Council Property to be used by other persons.

5.3.8 A **Funding Deed** is a legally binding contract between all parties that sets out the proposed capital works and construction project, the funding model for the works, including contributions by all parties, any grant funding arrangements and release of funds linked to project milestones.

5.4 Utilisation and determining a Lease or Licence

5.4.1 CN recognises that many Community Groups have a strong historical affiliation with the Council Property which they use and have contributed cash and in-kind works to their Premises. However, past contributions of cash or in kind-by contributions by Lessee's on Council Property do not convey permanent or preferential access to that Council Property.

5.4.2 A Lease or Licence will be determined by how CN is proposing to lease or licence the Council Property and its proposed utilisation. This will guide whether the Lessee has exclusive use, limited use (by time and/or exclusivity), or if the required use of a space will be through a Hire Agreement only.

5.4.3 CN"s objective is to optimise the use of Council Property for the greater community wherever possible.

5.4.4 A lease will only be provided where exclusive use on a permanent basis is demonstrated as the only outcome for the proposed use.

5.4.5 Where it is determined that the proposed use requires the space for one-off or recurring sporadic periods only, a Lease or Licence will not be entered into and the space will be managed as a Bookable Facility and a Hire Agreement will be entered into.

5.4.6 A proposed use that utilises Council Property to operate a full-time business and requires exclusive use will be considered for a Lease of Council Property.

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5.4.7 A proposed use that utilises a Council Property for set periods where the space is to be open to the public or other users at all other times will not be considered for a Lease but may be considered for a Licence.

5.4.8 Common Areas of Council Property will not be included in the Lessee's Premises, and responsibility for these areas will remain with CN.

5.4.9 Only those parts of Council Property required for the proposed use will be provided under a Lease or Licence and those parts of the Council Property will form the Premises. The Contract will clearly state the permitted use of the Premises. Operations or services that are ancillary to their core business may be considered in determining the Premises required. A separate Lease or Licence may be entered into for ancillary operations and services, in line with this Policy.

5.4.10 Where an existing Lessee operates under a Lease or Licence for Premises exclusively but does not require exclusive use, CN may require part or all of the Premises to be better utilised for the wider community. Where CN requires an uplift in utilisation, part or all of the Premises must be made available to be booked by the wider community.

5.4.11 Any fees or revenue generated from bookings is to be held by CN in a sinking fund for the Council Property that the Lease or Licence is on (except in the case of ground Leases).

5.5 Entering into Leases and Licences

5.5.1 This Policy will come into effect on the date of adoption, however, the Policy will only be enacted, upon entering into new Leases or Licences of Council Property.

5.5.2 CN will enter into Leases or Licences with individuals or Organisations.

5.5.3 CN will consider entering into new Leases or Licences under various circumstances. Where a new Lease or Licence is being considered, CN will first undertake a strategic assessment of the Council Property to determine its optimal future use. The assessment will be undertaken in consultation with the land manager and any potentially impacted asset custodians. Considerations will include:

- Alignment with this Policy, any Plan of Management (POM) and Council's Community Strategic Plan (2040), as well as any other Policies and Strategies relating to the Council Property;
- Native Title restrictions
- Asset Condition;
- Use and utilisation;
- Expected service level's v's actual service levels;
- If it will be provided for a commercial return;
- Any Building Asset Plan in place from time to time, relating to the Council Property being assessed;
- Consideration of any grant funding being sought by the Lessee;
- Consideration of any CN funding being sought by the Lessee; and
- Proposed Heads of Agreement (including Rent).

5.5.4 CN will determine if the strategic assessment recommendation is either supported, supported in principle, or the recommendation is not supported.

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5.5.5 Where:

- The Council Property is vacant from a previous use (excluding vacant Council Property that is held for disposal, demolition, refurbishment or renewal, or is deemed unfit for habitation);
- The Council Property is vacant as a result of being refurbished or renewed, acquired, or newly constructed; and
- The sitting Lessee has provided notice to vacate.

5.5.6 The Council Property will be Leased or Licensed in accordance with the process outlined in **Annexure C: Process for Leasing and Licencing of new or vacant Council Property**.

5.5.7 Where:

- The sitting Lessee's Lease or Licence is due to expire within 18 months or is on month-to-month holdover.

5.5.8 The Council Property will be Leased or Licensed in accordance with the process outlined in **Annexure D: Process for Leasing and Licencing of Council Property to sitting Lessee's**.

5.5.9 Where:

- CN receive unsolicited offers to Lease or Licence Council Property for such uses including but not limited to short term site access and storage for works on public or private land adjacent to Council Property, infrastructure (including telecommunication equipment), utilities.

5.5.10 A review of the proposed Lease or Licence will be undertaken in consultation with the land manager and any potentially impacted asset custodians.

5.5.11 In determining the suitability of any proposed Lease or Licence for unsolicited offers, consideration will be given to:

- Permissibility with any current Local Environmental Plan, any applicable POM, and the legislative requirements for leasing and licensing Council Property;
- Impact on Council Property or CN assets;
- Any regulatory enforcement where CN has no control;
- Any financial gain by the Lessee as a result of the proposed use; and
- Heads of Terms that align to this Policy (including rent).

5.6 Categories

5.6.1 CN categorises Lessee's under four areas, Community Groups, Commercial, Infrastructure and Emergency Services and Short Term Uses.

5.6.2 Category 1**: Community Groups** are Organisations that provide goods, services, facilities and the provision of activities for the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons.

5.6.3 Community Groups include member based fee-paying clubs, groups that charge for services and Organisations that may or may not have the capacity to generate revenue from use of the Council Property or other activities consistent with the organisational purpose (but do not operate to make a commercial profit), and include:

- Registered Clubs;
- Scouts/Guides Groups;
- Not-For-Profit Child Care Centres;
- Community Service Providers (e.g. Meals on Wheels, TPI);
- Men's Sheds; and
- Sport and Recreation Groups.

5.6.4 Category 2**: Commercial Groups** are individuals or Organisations that occupy Council Property for a financial gain where the Organisations have a commercial (business oriented) profit objective; Government Organisations requiring Council Property for operational purposes on commercial terms. All terms and conditions of Leases and Licences are to be mutually negotiated to then current market terms and conditions, including market rent and incentives. For the purposes of this Policy, any residential Council Property will be treated on a fully commercial basis.

5.6.5 Category 3**: Emergency Services and Infrastructure Organisations** includes but is not limited to Organisations that provide Emergency Services, and Organisations that provide infrastructure such as navigation beacons, telecommunication towers and equipment, utilities and ancillary equipment and overhead walkways (administered under s.149 of the Roads Act). Where the proposed use is for private infrastructure (serving just the Lessee's proposed use and not for public purposes, and will support the Lessee's commercial operations), all terms and conditions of Leases and Licences are to be mutually negotiated to then current market terms and conditions, including market rent and incentives.

5.6.6 Category 4**: Short-Term Uses** are generally where temporary use is required for a specific period, usually related to construction projects. They These may include access and storage on CN land for development on adjacent land or access for construction on Council Property and may be by public authorities or private individuals or Organisations. For Short Term Use Leases and Licences to private individuals or Organisations, CN will charge a rent fee as advertised in CN's Fees and Charges.

5.6.7 For Short Term Use Leases and Licences to public authorities, CN will not charge a rent fee so long as the use is for the direct benefit of the surrounding community.

5.6.8 For Short Term Uses provided for agents, consultants or contractors of CN, undertaking works or services on behalf of CN on Council Property, no rent fee will be charged.

6 Leasing and Licensing Key Terms

6.1 Lease and License Length and Options

6.1.1 The term proposed in a Heads of Terms, included as part of the strategic assessment of Council Property, will align to this Policy and reflect the proposed use and term required to be feasible, taking into consideration any proposed capital works expected to be covered by a Lessee.

6.1.2 Any proposed term will also take into consideration the future strategy for the Council Property, including any future redevelopment that may require vacant possession. If required, CN may include a demolition clause in the Lease or Licence as a special condition, to meet the future needs of the Council Property.

6.1.3 Options to renew will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis as part of the strategic assessment of the Council Property.

6.1.4 An option to renew at the Lessee's discretion will be considered where that is a commercially acceptable market driven outcome.

6.1.5 An option to renew at CN's discretion will be considered where CN require certain conditions to be met or services provided to an agreed standard, however, an option to renew is required by the Lessee. In these cases, this will be included in the special conditions.

6.1.6 The Term and Option for all Leases and Licences is determined in accordance with **Annexure E - Lease or Licence Key Terms.**

6.2 Market Rent, Commencing Rent, Additional Rent

6.2.1 Market Rent will be assessed as part of the strategic assessment of Council Property.

6.2.2 Market Rent will be determined in accordance with **Annexure E - Lease or Licence Key Terms.**

6.2.3 The Commencing rent will be the rent charged under a proposed Lease or Licence, from the Lease or Licence commencement date.

6.2.4 The Commencing Rent may not be the Market Rent, as the Commencing Rent considers any CN In-Kind Subsidy provided.

6.2.5 The Commencing Rent for all Leases and Licences is determined in accordance with **Annexure E - Lease or Licence Key Terms.**

6.2.6 For all categories, where there is Financial Gain by a proposed use, CN will seek a rental return commensurate to the financial gain generated by the use of Council Property.

6.2.7 Where a Community Group makes a Financial Gain from their Permitted Use, CN will reduce the value of in-kind subsidy provided. The Additional Rent charged which will be held in a sinking fund to be used for any future capital works on Council Property that contributes to the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of the community.

6.3 In-Kind Subsidy

6.3.1 CN recognises the important contribution that community groups provide and that in the majority of cases, community groups exist as member based fee-paying groups, with limited ability to generate revenue through donations, fundraising and grants.

6.3.2 For Community Groups, CN will provide an In-Kind Subsidy in the form of the amount of Market Rent CN is foregoing evaluated against the Commencement Rent and Additional Rent.

6.3.3 Lessee's must make public the In-Kind Subsidy CN provides under this Policy.

6.4 Rent Reviews

6.4.1 Rent reviews will be undertaken annually during the term of any Lease or Licence.

6.4.2 Rent Review type will be determined in accordance with **Annexure E - Lease or Licence Key Terms.**

6.5 Outgoings

6.5.1 Outgoings will be charged separately to a Lessee or multiple Lessee's of a Council Property where the costs can be easily and fairly attributable to their proposed use.

6.5.2 Where any other operating costs relate directly to a Lessee's use of the Council Property, the Lessee will be responsible for paying that cost and will be specified in any special conditions.

6.5.3 Where Outgoings are not being charged, the Lease or Licence will be considered "gross" and the Market Rent will take into account comparable market gross rents.

6.6 Services

6.6.1 All Categories will be required to pay for connections, service and usage charges for any Services connected to the Council Property separately metered and servicing the Lessee.

6.6.2 Where there is no separate metering, however, sub-meters are in place, the Lessee will be responsible for usage charges.

6.7 Premises

6.7.1 The Premises will be determined as part of the strategic assessment of the Council Property.

6.7.2 Where the Premises may alter for an existing Lessee that is proposed for a new Lease or Licence, CN will determine the areas required after consulting with the affected Lessee/s.

6.7.3 A separate Lease or Licence may be provided that supports the proposed use, including but not limited to outdoor seating areas, storage areas, encroachments or parking.

7 Other Terms

7.1 Responsibilities of Each Party

7.1.1 Responsibilities of CN and Lessees are determined and included in the proposed Lease or Licence prior to execution.

7.1.2 Responsibilities are determined in accordance with **Annexure F - Lease and Licence Roles and Responsibilities**.

7.2 Repairs and Maintenance

7.2.1 Responsibility for repairs and maintenance within the Premises generally will be the responsibility of a Lessee, and will include any external maintenance, if any external areas are included within the Premises.

7.2.2 Repairs and maintenance of any common areas for the use of other Lessee's, guests and visitors to the Council Property will be the responsibility of CN.

7.2.3 The Lease or Licence will specify the Lessor's (CN) Property and the Lessee's Property for clarity of responsibilities.

7.2.4 The Lessee's Property may include property that is in the Premises at the Lease or Licence commencement, however, is not CN's Property.

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7.2.5 Repairs and Maintenance of any Lessor's Property servicing just the Lessee's Premises will be the responsibility of the Lessee.

7.2.6 Repairs and Maintenance must be undertaken in a professional manner and utilising good quality materials, using qualified trades where required by legislation.

7.3 Improvements and Owners Consent

7.3.1 Lessee's may propose Improvements to their Premises to be able to undertake their Permitted Use.

7.3.2 Lessee's proposed Improvements require written consent from CN, such consent, not to be unreasonably withheld, except, where the Improvements include any structural alterations to the Council Property or propose any change in area required, changes to the façade of the Council Property or propose a change in use, such consent is to be at CN's absolute discretion.

7.3.3 The proposed Improvements must include professionally prepared concept plans, estimated costs of the works, prepared by a suitably qualified quantity surveyor.

7.3.4 The proposed Improvements must include independent planning advice from a suitably qualified planner stating the legal planning pathway (Exempt, Complying or development requiring consent).

7.3.5 Proposed improvements must not impact detrimentally on the Council Property structure, services or any other users of the Council Property.

7.3.6 Where the proposed Improvements do not consist of any change in area required, changes to the façade of the Council Property or propose a change in use, Consent for Improvements will be granted in accordance with **Annexure G - Owner's Consent Process**.

7.3.7 Where the proposed Improvements alter the Premises required, the proposal will be considered as if it were a new Lease or Licence, and CN will undertake a strategic assessment of the Council Property to assess if the Lessee's proposal meets CN's determination of its optimal future use.

7.3.8 Where the proposed Improvements alters the Premises required, propose changes to the façade of the Council Property or propose a change in use, they will be determined in accordance with **Annexure H - Changes to Premises Required, Facade and Permitted Use**.

7.3.9 CN will include conditions on the consent that must be met

7.3.10 No works can commence until Owner's Consent is granted, and all applicable conditions of consent are met. Sample standard conditions of consent are shown at **Annexure I - Sample Conditions of Consent.**

7.3.11 CN will not be liable for any costs incurred by a Lessee in preparing their proposal, including any reports or documentation required by CN in assessing the proposal.

7.4 Funding of Improvements and Grant Applications

7.4.1 It is an expectation that Lessee's will fund any proposed Improvements to their Premises.

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7.4.2 CN recognises the benefits offered to Community Groups in the ability to apply for grant funding that can be used for the improvement and renewal of and additions to Council Property as well as development of new assets.

7.4.3 CN supports strategic and planned proposals for Council Property that Lessee's may be able to contribute to through grant funding, where it meets the core objectives of the Council Property and contributes to the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of the community.

7.4.4 Where a Lessee proposes to fund the proposed Improvements partly or fully by way of grant funding, CN's support for the grant application will be considered in accordance with **Annexure G - the Owner's Consent Process**.

7.4.5 Where a Lessee proposes to seek CN funding for the proposed Improvements, the funding will be considered in accordance with **Annexure G - the Owner's Consent Process**.

7.4.6 Where a Lessee proposes to seek CN funding where the proposed Improvements include a change in Premises required, the funding will be determined in accordance with **Annexure H - Changes to Premises Required, Façade and Permitted Use.**

7.4.7 Lessee's grant applications require written support from CN and will only be granted once Owner's Consent to the Improvements is granted.

7.4.8 Any proposal for a Lease or Licence (or variation to a current Lease or Licence) resulting from any Lessee partly or fully funded works on Council Property, should align to the principles of this Policy and specifically, Council Property utilisation.

7.4.9 Where a Lessee's proposed improvements are proposing a change in the Premises required or are seeking CN funding, a variation to or a new Lease or Licence may be required and may also require a Funding Deed and or Agreement for Lease, which will be determined through the consent process.

7.4.10 No works, including tendering for works, can commence until an Agreement for Lease is executed by all parties.

7.5 Change in Use

7.5.1 Any proposed change of use must be consistent with any Permissibility with any current Local Environmental Plan, any applicable POM, and the legislative requirements for leasing and licensing Council Property.

7.5.2 Any proposed change of use that increases any Financial Gain will require a review of the terms and conditions of any Lease or Licence, including but not limited to rent, term and permitted use.

7.5.3 Any proposed Improvements that require a change in the Permitted Use, will be determined in accordance with **Annexure H - Changes to Premises Required, Facade and Permitted Use**.

7.6 Subletting and Assignment

7.6.1 CN may allow sub-leasing or sub-licencing of Council Property where it is determined there will not be any detrimental impact on the Council Property or its objectives and does not impact CN's risk exposure.

7.6.2 If any proposed Sub Lease or Sub Licence requires a change in use of the Lessee's Lease or Licence, CN will review the proposal in accordance with **Annexure H - Changes to Premises Required, Facade and Permitted Use**.

7.6.3 CN will review any proposed Sub Lease giving consideration to the following:

- Permissibility with any current Local Environmental Plan, any applicable POM, and the legislative requirements for leasing and licensing Council Property;
- Impact on Council Property or CN assets;
- Any financial gain by the Lessee as a result; and
- Heads of Terms that align to this Policy (including rent).

7.6.4 Where the Sub Lease or Sub Licence is on Community Land, the proposed use must be consistent with the Permitted Use in the Lease or Licence.

7.7 Keys and Security

7.7.1 Lessee's may change locks or install other security measures and these will constitute Improvements.

7.7.2 Where alternate security measures have been implemented by the Lessee, CN must be provided with access to the Premises (keys or security codes) in case of emergency. CN will make every effort to contact the Lessee in cases of emergency before entering the Premises.

7.8 Make Good

7.8.1 Any Improvements or Lessee's property must be removed and made good prior to the expiry of a Lease or Licence.

7.8.2 The Premises must be returned to its original condition at the commencement of the Lease or Licence, subject to fair wear and tear.

8 Other Conditions

8.1 Compliance

8.1.1 Lessee's of Council Property are expected to comply with the terms of their Lease or Licence. If a Lessee breaches the terms of a Lease or Licence, CN officers may serve a Breach Notice requiring rectification of the breach within a reasonable period or payment of compensation for the breach.

8.1.2 If a Lessee does not comply with a Breach Notice, or a notice to pay compensation, or if the Lessee continues to commit breaches of the Contract, CN reserves any and all its rights under the terms of the Lease or Licence, including termination of the Lease or Licence and re-entry of the Council Property.

8.1.3 Lessee's will also be required to comply with CN's Code of Conduct and breach of CN's Code of Conduct will be considered a breach of the Lease or Licence.

8.1.4 Delegation for termination of a contract will be in accordance with CN's Financial Delegations and the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer adopted from time to time (Part C Policy Authorisations (Prepare, review and sign Legal Documents).

8.2 Legal documentation

8.2.1 All Lessee's will be provided CN's standard Lease or Licence documentation which reflect this Policy.

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8.2.2 Any conditions agreed between CN and the Lessee that are not consistent with this Policy will be agreed as variations to the standard Lease or Licence or included as special conditions.

8.3 Provision of and Requests for Information

8.3.1 When CN is determining the suitability of a Lessee for a Lease or Licence, it may require the Lessee's financial statements to undertake due diligence on the financial stability ability to service debt.

8.3.2 Wherever Lessee's pay any rent based on the Lessee's financial performance, CN will require a copy of their Annual Report including all financial statements.

8.3.3 Wherever CN requires any information in assessing or determining any proposal under this Policy, CN will make a Request for Information and the Lessee must comply with all reasonable requests.

8.4 Fees and Other Charges

8.4.1 All Lessee's will be required to pay application and administrative fees for various Council Property dealings.

8.4.2 Fees and charges include:

- Application Fee;
- Contract Administration Fee;
- Lease or Licence Variation Fee;
- Sub-Lease or Sub Licence Fee;
- Owner's Consent (including grant application support) Fee; and
- Public Notice of Lease or Licence Fee.

8.4.3 Each party will be responsible for their own legal costs, however, where there are significant legal representations required by CN as a result of complex terms and conditions, CN may require the Lessee be responsible for the payment of the 'reasonable' costs of CN in relation to the preparation of any legal documents.

8.5 Bank Guarantee

8.5.1 All Lessees, (excluding Community Groups that do not pay any turnover rent) must provide a Bank Guarantee equivalent to three months rent and outgoings.

8.5.2 Where CN has paid, incurred or suffered any loss in connection with a breach of the Lessee’s obligations under this Lease or Licence, CN entitled to claim against the bank guarantee.

8.6 Approvals

8.6.1 Determination on whether any proposed Lease or Licence or Owner's Consent is either supported, supported in principle subject to Asset Advisory Committee endorsement or the proposal is not supported will be provided in accordance with **Part C - Roles and Responsibilities, CN Endorsement Process.**

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Part C Roles and Responsibilities

CN Endorsement Process:

	Stakeholders	Recommendation	Endorsement of Recommendation	Asset Advisory Committee Endorsement/Recommendation	Elected Council Resolution	Document Execution
Strategic assessment of Council Property	Land Manager, Asset Custodian, Assets & Facilities, Community Planning, Property Services	Property Services (Level 4 or 5 Manager)	Corporate Services (Executive Director)	Required	N/A	N/A
Lease and Licence Heads of Agreement (issued in accordance with Table 1 and Table 2 of this Policy)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required	N/A	Property Services , Finance Property & Performance, Corporate Services , CEO, dependant on contract value and in line with CN's Contract Policy and Financial Delegations
Lease and Licence Heads of Agreement (where CN receive unsolicited offers)	Land Manager, Asset Custodian, Assets & Facilities, Property Services	Property Services (Level 4 or 5 Manager)	EM Finance Property & Performance	Where rent is being charged based on the Lessee's Financial Gain.	N/A	Property Services , Finance Property & Performance, Corporate Services , CEO, dependant on contract value and in line with CN's Contract Policy and Financial Delegations
Agreement for Lease, Funding Deed or Lease & Licence Contract (reflecting the executed Heads of Agreement)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Where the value of any tender for leasing is greater than $1M	AFL, Funding Deed, Lease: CEO Licence: dependant on contract value and in line with CN's Contract Policy and Financial Delegations
Owner's Consent where proposed Improvements do not include change of use or the façade of the Council Property, or any change to the Premises required (irrespective of the requirement for development consent).	Land Manager, Asset Custodian, Assets & Facilities, Property Services	Property Services (Level 4 or 5 Manager)	EM Finance Property & Performance	Where the Lessee is seeking CN funding of the proposed Improvements or where Development Cponsent is required.	N/A	Property Services , Finance Property & Performance, Corporate Services , CEO, dependant on contract value and in line with CN's Contract Policy and Financial Delegations
Owner's Consent where proposed Improvements include change of use or the façade of the Council Property	Land Manager, Asset Custodian, Assets & Facilities, Property Services	Property Services (Level 4 or 5 Manager)	Corporate Services (Executive Director)	Required	N/A	Property Services , Finance Property & Performance, Corporate Services , CEO, dependant on contract value and in line with CN's Contract Policy and Financial Delegations

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ANNEXURE A - DEFINITIONS

Additional Rent means any rent paid in addition to the Commencing Rent.

Agreement for Lease creates a binding obligation on both parties to enter into a Lease on agreed terms, subject to agreed conditions being completed.

Asset Advisory Committee is a confidential committee constituted to investigate, consider, and provide advice on strategic property asset issues.

Bookable Facility is a Council Property that is to be managed as a hireable space under a hire agreement and does not form part of the Lease or Licence arrangements under this Policy.

Breach Notice is any notice issued to a Lessee for a breach of the conditions of Lease or Licence, issued in accordance with section 129 of the Conveyancing Act.

CEO means Chief Executive Officer of the City of Newcastle and includes their delegate or authorised representative. References to the Chief Executive Officer are references to the General Manager appointed under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

City of Newcastle (CN) means Newcastle City Council.

Commencing Rent is the rent determined at the commencement of a Lease or Licence, being the rent determined in accordance with this Policy, which may be different to the Market Rent.

Common Areas are the parts of the Council Property provided for common use of other users of the Council Property (including where applicable, the public), including access and egress roads, driveways and car parks within the property, entrances, exits and corridors and shared areas within the building/s.

CN Council Official means Advisory Committee member, other delegate of Council or contractors or consultants engaged by CN.

CN Staff means employees of CN (including full time, part time, fixed term and casual) or Specific Talent Lease or Licensor who is engaged under a CN position description.

Community Group see section 5.6 of this Policy.

Community Land means land that is classified as community land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act (1993), for public purposes.

Council means the elected Council.

Councillor means a person elected to civic office as a member of the governing body including the Lord Mayor.

Council Property is Council owned or managed land and buildings, including a premises within a building. It does not include any improvements to land or CN assets that have been made previously by Lessee's under past or existing Lease or Licences

Crown Land Manager is the body responsible for the care, control and management of Crown reserves.

Emergency Services Organisation means an Emergency Services Organisation as defined in the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act

Financial gain is any revenue or income generated from a Council Property for the provision of goods and services commercially available.

Heads of Agreement is an initial, non-binding document that establishes the basic framework for a Lease or Licence.

Hire Agreement is an agreement between CN and users of a Bookable Facility for one off or recurring but sporadic use of the Bookable Facility.

Improvements are any works undertaken on Council Property by a Lessee including alterations, additions, replacements, renewals and upgrades, but excludes repairs and maintenance (and for the purposes of this Policy, includes a proposed change in use).

In-Kind Subsidy is the amount of Market Rent CN is foregoing evaluated against the Commencement Rent and Additional Rent.

Land means any CN owned or managed land classified as Operational, Community or Crown Land (where CN is the Crown Land Manager).

Lease grants a Tenant exclusive possession of a Council Property and gives the Lessee a proprietary interest in the Council Property which is binding on third parties. Under a Lease, a Lessee is able to assign or transfer its interest to a third party as the lease runs with the land.

Lessee means a person or Organisation that has entered into or is proposing to enter into, a Lease or Licence with Council for the use of Council Property. In this Policy, Lessee also includes any person or organisation that is currently occupying Council Property by way of any formal or informal agreement previously agreed to between CN and the person or organisation. Lessee includes the successors and permitted assigns of that person and includes, where relevant, its officers, agents, employees, representatives, contractors, licensees or invitees.

Lessee's Property means all fitout, fixtures, plant, equipment, services, partitions, alterations, articles and chattels of any kind that are located on, or brought into the Premises, by the Lessee, or in the Premises at the Lease or Licence commencement, not forming the Lessor's Property.

Lessor means CN.

Lessor's Property means all plant, equipment and chattels which are fixed to the Council Property which belong to the Lessor.

Licence is a Licence gives a Lessee a non-exclusive contractual right to occupy the licensed area and does not give a Lessee an interest in the licensed area but a right enforceable in contract only. Under a Licence the Lessee cannot assign or transfer to a third party. A Licence is applicable and specific to the Lessee named on the Licence only and can be revoked at any time.

Market Rent means the annual rent that can be reasonably expected to be paid in the open market for Council Property. The market rent is assessed by comparing Premises of comparable use and location in which advice will be sought by a qualified and registered valuer.

Not for Profit refers to a defined body with a legal entity that is incorporated under the NSW Corporations Act 1997 and/or registered under the Charitable Fundraising Act No 69, 1991 The Charity is Not Funded, Not for Profit and charitable purposes are for public benefit and must supply CN with a copy of their Constitution prior to entering into negotiations for a Lease or Licence.

Operational Land means land that is classified as operational land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act (1993), and is generally for operational purposes.

Organisation is a company that includes private companies, proprietary companies, unlisted and listed public companies, Not-For-Profit companies, incorporated associations and Government departments and corporations.

Owner's Consent is written approval for Lessee's to undertake improvements on Council Property and is granted for any regulatory consent if required and for the works.

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Outgoings means the costs incurred by CN in the ongoing operation and maintenance of the land and buildings. They include but are not limited to air-conditioning and other plant, lighting and cleaning of common areas, security, landscaping, management, general repairs and maintenance costs, building insurance, public liability insurance, land tax and Council and water rates.

Permitted Use is the type of business or service that is permitted in the Premises and will align to the Council Property objectives, ensuring CN maintain control over the Council Property.

Plan of Management means a plan of management adopted by a council under Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act (1993).and in force in relation to an area of public land, and sets out the objectives and use of Community Land.

Premises is that part of CN's land or a building that are leased or licensed to the Lessee for the core operation of their organisation and will be delineated on a plan annexed to any Lease or Licence.

Rates and Taxes means any Government rates and charges, taxes and levies including the Fire Services Levy.

Services means the supply of all services and systems provided to the Premises or available for use including electricity, light, gas, oil, water, air conditioning, power, fuel, sewage, telephone services, cleaning, garbage removal, trade waste removal, and all other services furnished or supplied to the Premises.

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ANNEXURE B - POLICY AUTHORISATIONS

In accordance with section 378 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Chief Executive Officer delegates the following functions to the positions listed:

Title of authorisation	Description of authorisation	Position Number and Title
Nil		

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ANNEXURE C - PROCESS FOR LEASING AND LICENCING OF NEW OR VACANT COUNCIL PROPERTY

A vacancy has arisen or a new or refurbished Council Property has become available.

CN undertake a strategic assessment of the Council Property to determine the optimal future use of the Council Property.

A report with a recommendation will be presented to CN's Asset Advisory Committee for endorsement or otherwise.

CN will undertake a marketing campaign, in the form of an EOI, RFT or by direct marketing the property (which may be undertaken by a property agency). The method will be determined in accordance with the Local Government Act taking into account the land classification, proposed Lessee group, proposed term and forecast contract amount.

CN will undertake an assessment of submissions. Any terms and conditions that can be negotiated and align to the Policy will be negotiated at this point. A report with a recommendation will be presented to CN's Asset Advisory Committee for endorsement or otherwise. If the contract value exceeds $1M, a report with a recommendation will be presented to Council for endorsement or otherwise.


If supported by CN's Asset Advisory Committee and Council (if required), a Heads of Agreement will be issued for execution, including key terms for any Agreement for Lease or Licence, the Lease or Licence, and any Funding Deed.

If the Council Property is on Community Land (or Crown Land being managed as if it is Community Land), then the proposed Lease or Licence must be publicly notified and allow 28 days for submissions relating to support or objections for the proposal.

Council staff consider any submissions received during the notification period. If the proposed lease or licence term is over 5 years and Council receives an objection to the proposal during the notification period, it must forward the proposal to the Minister for Local Government for consent, as required in the Local Government Act 1993.

CN resolves objections, or where referred to the Minister, Minister's consent granted.

CN will issue Agreement for Lease or Licence, the Lease or Licence, and any Funding Deed for execution by all parties, noting the Lease or Licence will only be executed once any Funding Deed or Agreement for Lease conditions precedent are met.

ANNEXURE D - PROCESS FOR LEASING AND LICENCING OF COUNCIL PROPERTY TO SITTING LESSEE'S

A Lease or Licence of Council Property is on month-to-month holdover or is due to expire within 18 months.

Within 15 months of a Lease or Licence expiring (or on a case by case basis where a Lessee is on holdover), CN undertake a strategic assessment of the Council Property to determine the optimal future use of the Council Property.

Within 12 months of a Lease or Licence expiring (or on a case by case basis where a Lessee is on holdover), CN will review the suitability of the sitting Lessee to meet the objectives of the Council Property.

If CN propose to enter into a Lease or Licence with the sitting Lessee, CN will prepare a Heads of Agreement with standard terms and conditions (including any special conditions), aligned to this Policy.

Once all parties agree terms, a Heads of Agreement will be issued for execution, including key terms for any Agreement for Lease or Licence, the Lease or Licence, and any Funding Deed.


If the Council Property is on Community Land (or Crown Land being managed as if it is Community Land), then the proposed Lease or Licence must be publicly notified and allow 28 days for submissions relating to support or objections for the proposal.

Council staff consider any submissions received during the notification period. If the proposed lease or licence term is over 5 years and Council receives an objection to the proposal during the notification period, it must forward the proposal to the Minister for Local Government for consent, as required in the Local Government Act 1993.

CN resolves objections, or where referred to the Minister, Minister's consent granted.

CN will issue Agreement for Lease or Licence, the Lease or Licence, and any Funding Deed for execution by all parties, noting the Lease or Licence will only be executed once any Funding Deed or Agreement for Lease conditions precedent are met.

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ANNEXURE E - LEASE AND LICENCE KEY TERMS

	Community Groups		Commercial Organisations	Emergency Services & Infrastructure Organisations				Short-Term Uses	
	Child Care Centres	Other Community Groups		SES	Other Emergency Services	Public Infrastructure	Private Infrastructure	Authorities	Private individuals or organisations
Term	5 years	Up to 5 years	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	Up to 21 years	5 years	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	As required	As required
Option	5 years, exercised by mutual agreement	Nil	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	Nil	5 years	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	Nil	Nil
Market Rent Assessment	Market value (comparable permissible commercial uses)	5% of land value for Leases and Licences of land, 7% of land value for Leases or Licences including part or all of a building asset	Market value (comparable permissible commercial uses)	Market value (comparable permissible commercial uses)	Market value (comparable permissible commercial uses)	Market value (comparable permissible commercial uses)	Market value (comparable permissible commercial uses)	Nil	Nil
Commencing Rent	3.25% of previous 3 years FY turnover (being the most recent 3 FY's prior to the Lease or Licence negotiations)	Minimum Crown Land Rent published in the quarter prior to the Lease or Licence commencement date	Market Rent	$1	Market Rent	$1	Market Rent	Minimum Crown Land Rent published in the quarter prior to the Lease or Licence commencement date	The then current CN Fees and Charges
Additional Rent	Turnover Rent, 3.25% of annual turnover	Reviewed on a case by case basis commensurate to any proposed Financial Gain	Case by case, based on market and Lessee requirement	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rent Reviews	Commencing Base rent reviewed to 3.25% of previous years turnover, however, base rent not to reduce below the Commencing Rent	Commencing rent annually 3%	Case by case, based on market and forecast impacts on future Rent	Not applicable	Annually 3%, Market Rent every 5 years	Annually 3%, Market Rent every 5 years	Annually 3%, Market Rent every 5 years	Nil	Annually, reviewed to the then current CN Fees and Charges

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ANNEXURE F - LEASE AND LICENCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

	Category 1						Category 2						Category 3						Category 4					
	Ground Lease		Land & Premises		Premises Only		Ground Lease		Land & Premises		Premises Only		Ground Lease		Land & Premises		Premises Only		Ground Lease		Land & Premises		Premises Only	
	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee	CN	Lessee
Building Insurance		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Contents Insurance		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Public Liability Insurance		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Council and Water Rates (only payable if charged through Outgoings)		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Fire Safety Compliance		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Land tax levied by authorities		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Maintaining Plant & Equipment (where serving multiple Premises and Common Areas)		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Maintaining Plant & Equipment (where serving the Lessee's Premises only)		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Service Connections and Usage (where separately metered)		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Commercial Waste Services		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Trade Wastewater Services		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Cleaning		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Graffiti removal		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Grounds Maintenance (including trees up to 3M)		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
Gutter Clearing		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
Pest Control		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Termite Control		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Security		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Repairs and Maintenance		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
Capital and Structural Works (excluding any Improvements constructed by Lessee)		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	
Makegood and Vacant Possession		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓

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ANNEXURE G - OWNERS CONSENT PROCESS

A Lessee provides notice of proposed Improvements where the proposed Improvements do not consist of any change in area required, changes to the façade of the Council Property or propose a change in use.

CN will review the proposed Improvements and determine if all information has been provided and will request further information or clarifications.

The proposal will be referred to relevant stakeholders for assessment, which may include amendments to the proposed Improvements. Any funding being requested of CN for the proposed Improvements will be negotiated at this point.

CN will prepare a recommendation for endorsement.

If the consent is supported, CN will issue Owner's Consent, support for any Grant application and a Funding Deed if applicable.

ANNEXURE H - CHANGES TO PREMISES REQUIRED, FACADE AND PERMITTED USE

Proposed Improvements include a change to the required Premises or Change in Use.	*Proposed Improvements include changes to the Council Property façade.*
	
CN undertake a strategic assessment of the Council Property to determine the optimal future use of the Council Property and if a new Lease or Licence (or variation to existing Lease or Licence) will be considered that support's Owner's Consent	CN will review the proposed Improvements and determine if all information has been provided and will request further information or clarifications.
	
Any terms and conditions that can be negotiated and align to the Policy will be negotiated at this point. A report with a recommendation will be presented to CN's Asset Advisory Committee for endorsement or otherwise. If the contract value exceeds $1M, a report with a recommendation will be presented to Council for endorsement or otherwise.	The proposal will be referred to relevant stakeholders for assessment, which may include amendments to the proposed Improvements. Any funding being requested of CN for the proposed Improvements will be negotiated at this point.
	

Once endorsed by CN's Asset Advisory Committee and Council (if required), a Heads of Agreement will be issued for execution, including key terms for any Agreement for Lease or Licence, the Lease or Licence, and any Funding Deed.	A report with a recommendation will be presented to CN's Asset Advisory Committee for endorsement or otherwise.
	
If the Council Property is on Community Land (or Crown Land being managed as if it is Community Land), then the proposed Lease or Licence must be publicly notified and allow 28 days for submissions relating to support or objections for the proposal.	If the consent is supported, CN will issue Owner's Consent, support for any Grant application and a Funding Deed if applicable.
	
Council staff consider any submissions received during the notification period. If the proposed lease or licence term is over 5 years and Council receives an objection to the proposal during the notification period, it must forward the proposal to the Minister for Local Government for consent, as required in the Local Government Act 1993.	
	

CN resolves objections, or where referred to the Minister, Minister's consent granted.

CN will issue Agreement for Lease or Licence, the Lease or Licence, and any Funding Deed for execution by all parties, noting the Lease or Licence will only be executed once any Funding Deed or Agreement for Lease conditions precedent are met.

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ANNEXURE I - SAMPLE CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

CorporateServices.Author.Initials
Reference: LXX XXX/XXX
Phone: 02 4974 2xxx

Name
Company
Postal Address
SUBURB STATE POST CODE

By email:

Dear xxx

LEASE TO XXXX
ADDRESS
OWNER'S CONSENT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

We refer to your recent request for Owner's Consent for proposed alterations and additions (Improvements) in accordance with the plan entitled "XXX"' and attached to your email of DD MM YYYY.

The Lessor hereby provides consent for the proposed improvements subject to the Lessee:

1. Submitting professionally drawn plans, specifications and samples of finishes for the proposed Improvements.
2. Submitting copies of all statutory consents and approvals required by law in respect of the proposed Improvements, including conditions, prior to commencing work.
3. As a result of the Improvements, addressing any redirection of surface/ground water and resulting sediment transported onto an adjoining property, and ensuring that any existing stormwater system on the property will adequately address any increased loads.
4. Ensuring the Improvements are done in a workmanlike manner.
5. Ensuring the Improvements are done in accordance with any plans, specifications and schedule of finishes.
6. Ensuring the Improvements are done in accordance with all statutory consents, approvals and laws and the requirements of authorities.
7. Submitting works as executed drawings of all Improvements done, within a reasonable time after completion of the work.
8. If applicable, submitting a copy of an Occupation Certificate on completion of the Improvements.
9. Ensuring the Improvements are maintained in accordance with the terms of the Lease.
10. If required by the Lessor, removing the Improvements and reinstating the Premises to its condition prior to the Improvements being carried out on expiry or termination of the Lease.

Further, the Lessor will not be committing any funds to the proposed Improvements and will not be responsible for any repairs or maintenance of the Improvements except to the extent that the terms and conditions of the Lease require.

Should you require any further information on this matter please contact <<Officers name>>, <<Title>> on 49XX XXXX.

Yours faithfully

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Policy title	Council Property Lease and Licence Policy
Policy owner	Executive Director Corporate Services / Executive Manager Finance Property and Performance
Policy expert/writer	Property Services Manager
Associated Guideline or Procedure Title	Insert 'Nil' if not applicable
Guideline or Procedure owner	Executive Director Corporate Services / Executive Manager Finance Property and Performance
Prepared by	Finance Property and Performance
Approved by	Choose an item.
Date approved	Insert either Council meeting date or CEO approval date
Commencement Date	Insert same date as above
Next review date	Within the first 12 months of the new Council term *(Or if CEO approved, insert three years from CEO approval date – delete this comment)*
Termination date	One year past the review date
Version #	Version number x *(versions mean adopted versions only)*
Category	Council (and Crown) Land and Facilities
Details of previous versions	Version 1 – ECM:
Keywords	*Insert words that will help users find this document using the search function*
Relevant Newcastle 2040 Theme/s	Liveable Sustainable Creative Achieving Together *Delete irrelevant themes*
Relevant legislation/codes (reference specific sections)	This Policy supports CN's compliance with the following legislation: – Relevant Legislation / Codes that affect this Policy If none, insert 'Nil'.
Other related documents	Insert Related policies, documents and strategies if applicable In none, insert 'Nil'.
Related forms	Insert Related forms In none, insert 'Nil'.
Required on website	Yes
Authorisations	Functions authorised under this Policy at Annexure B

DRAFT

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/23 - APPLICATION FOR LOCAL EVENT DAY FOR NEWCASTLE SHOW 2024

8.9	**Attachment A:**	NSW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL EVENT DAY APPLICATIONS
	Attachment B:	ENGAGEMENT REPORT

8.9 **Attachment A:** NSW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL EVENT DAY APPLICATIONS

DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Premier's Department

Guidelines for Local Public Holiday and Local Event Day applications

The following guidelines are provided to assist in the making of applications to the Minister for Industrial Relations for the declaration of local public holidays and local event days under the *Public Holidays Act 2010* (NSW).

Under the *Public Holidays Act 2010* all public holidays and local event days (including part-days) must be declared by Order of the Minister and published on the NSW legislation website.

In determining whether to apply for a local public holiday or local event day, it is important that the Council be mindful of the potential impact the application will have upon businesses and communities located within designated public holiday areas.

Declaration of a Local Public Holiday

In circumstances where a local public holiday is declared by the Minister, a bank located in the designated holiday area will be required to close during the declared public holiday hours unless the bank is exempted from the requirement to close under Part 3A of the *Retail Trading Act 2008.* Shops located within the designated holiday area are free to open without restriction.

Where it is proposed to request a half-day public holiday, consideration should be given to the effect the half day holiday will have on local schools and on the transport of students who attend school on the day**. In this regard, it is expected that the consultation process with local schools will take account of the transport arrangements for students on the half day.**

Implications for Employers

The public holiday provisions contained in the National Employment Standards of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) apply to local public holidays declared under the *Public Holidays Act 2010*. This means that all employees irrespective of their former entitlements and whose place of work is within a local public holiday area will be entitled to be absent from work for the day or part day declared to be a public holiday. In addition, employees who work on the day or part day may have an entitlement to penalty rates under a relevant award or enterprise agreement.

In considering an application to the Minister for a public holiday or part-day holiday, it is expected that the Council will consult with the affected community and other relevant stakeholders as to the impact of a local public holiday or part-holiday on businesses located in the local government area.

Declaration of a Local Event Day

The capacity for the Minister to declare a local event day or part day at the request of a local council is also available under the *Public Holidays Act 2010*. The Minister must be satisfied that the day or part day is, and will be observed as, a day of special significance to the community in the area concerned.

The declaration of a local event day or part day does **not preclude banks or shops located within the designated holiday area from opening or trading on the day.**

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001
ABN 34 945 244 274

02 9228 5555
premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

Implications for Employers

A declared local event day does not automatically mean that employers in the particular locality are compelled to treat the day as a public holiday. Entitlements to paid leave or penalty rates on a local event day will only arise where agreed to at the workplace level, usually in the form of an enterprise agreement or by contract. This goes some way to restoring the industrial arrangements that existed prior to changes in the Commonwealth workplace laws.

The application process

An application for the declaration of a local public holiday or local event day (including a part-day holiday or event day) must be made in writing to the Executive Director, NSW Industrial Relations, Premier's Department and contain the following information:

1. a statement regarding the history of the event and whether the event day has traditionally been observed as a full or half-day public holiday.

2. the date, the designated area and, if relevant, the hours during which the public holiday or local event day is to be observed;

3. the extent of community consultation undertaken in respect of the proposal;

4. copies of advertisements seeking public comment and a summary of the public's responses;

5. a summary of correspondence to, and responses from, relevant stakeholders, including bank managers; school principals; and chambers of commerce regarding the Council's proposal.

6. internal reports or information prepared for consideration by the Council and a copy of the Council's resolution authorising the making of the application;

7. where an application is made for a public holiday or part-day holiday, details of:

- alternatives considered by the Council including the declaration a local event day; and
- arrangements for school students (including the provision of transportation for students attending schools on the day of a part-day public holiday).

Biennial declaration of public holidays and local event days

Applications may be made for the declaration of public holidays and local event days (and part days) over a consecutive two-year period for the holding or celebration of annual events, such as a local show day, race day or carnival.

However, in making an application for a full or part-day public holiday it is expected that the Council will provide additional information focused on the economic and social importance of the event for the designated holiday area. This could include information provided by event organisers, local businesses or relevant industry surveys or statistics.

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Additional information required for biennial applications

Where a Council intends to make a biennial application for the declaration of public holidays or local event days (including part-day declarations), the Council must conduct a consultation process as to the proposal and provide the following information:

- the level of support for and against the application from local businesses and stakeholders
- the benefits to the local community in terms of employment, business activity, tourism and industry promotion of the region
- demonstration of the economic benefits to the local community in terms of employment, business activity, tourism and industry promotion of the region
- details of the importance of the event from a social and community perspective

Sections 5 and 8 of the *Public Holidays Act 2010*

Copies of sections 5 and 8 of the *Public Holidays Act 2010* relating to the declaration of local public holidays and local event days have been included for the information of the Council in Appendix A.

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premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

Appendix A

Sections 5 and 8 of the *Public Holidays Act 2010*

s5 Additional public holidays

(1) The Minister may by order published on the NSW legislation website declare a specified day or part-day in a particular year to be a public holiday. The order must be published at least 7 days before the public holiday.

(2) The order can declare a public holiday for the whole State or for a specified part of the State.

(3) The Minister may by order published on the NSW legislation website cancel a public holiday declared under this section. The order must be published at least 7 days before the public holiday.

s8 Local event days

(1) The Minister may by order made at the request of the council of a local government area declare a specified day or part-day to be a local event day in the local government area or in a specified part of the local government area.

(2) The Minister is not to declare a local event day unless satisfied that the day or part-day is, and will be observed as, a day of special significance to the community in the area concerned.

(3) The order declaring a local event day must be published on the NSW legislation website at least 7 days before the local event day.

(4) The declaration of a local event day does not make the local event day a public holiday.

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02 9228 5555
premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

8.9 **Attachment B:** ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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Engagement Report

Newcastle Regional Show Day 2024

City of Newcastle

Overview

City of Newcastle (CN) recently sought feedback from people who live, work and run businesses in Newcastle on whether they support a local public holiday or local event day for the Newcastle Show on Friday 1 March 2024.

Every year, City of Newcastle makes an application to the NSW Government for Newcastle Regional Show Day to be declared a local public holiday or local event day, given its significance to the local community.

Over the past few years, Show Day has been declared either a local public holiday or local event day for the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie local government areas.



Our engagement

CN sought feedback from the community via an online form on our Have Your Say website. Feedback could also be provided by mail, email or phone.

The community were able to provide feedback from Friday 18 August to Friday 9 September 2023.

Number of responses

144

survey responses

67% of respondents were from the Newcastle LGA

Communication & promotion

367 Have Your Say webpage visits

4,705 people reached via LinkedIn

Public notice advertisement included in the Newcastle Herald on 19 August 2023

Direct email sent to Business Hunter encouraging submissions

Newcastle Show also shared a post on Facebook to their 22,000 followers encouraging submissions

Newcastle Live shared an article on their website promoting the engagement

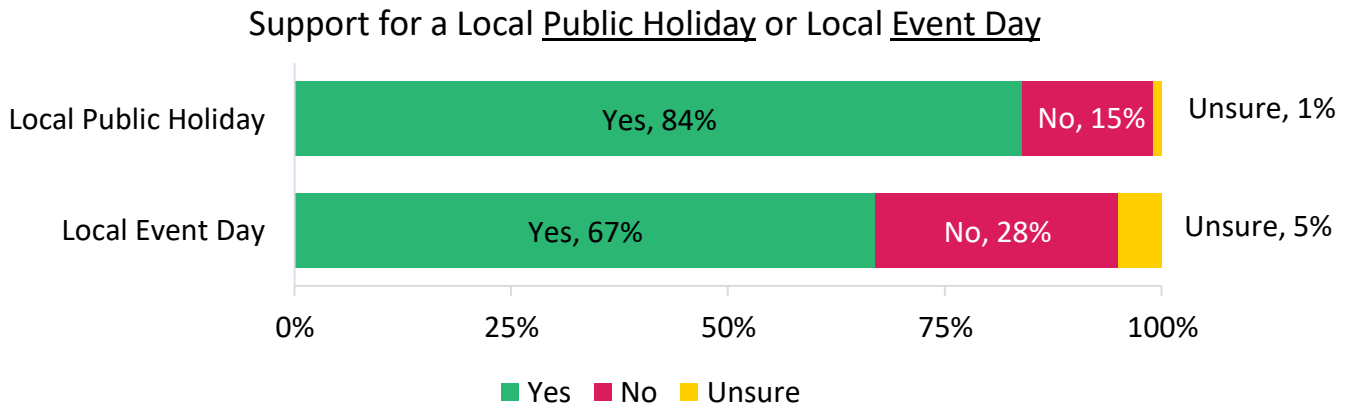
What we heard

The online form asked respondents whether they supported a local public holiday or local event day.

A local public holiday is considered a public holiday for all employees whose place of work is within the Newcastle local government area.

A local event day is not a public holiday but can be considered as one, for those employees in the area who have agreed to observe the day in their relevant industrial agreement and any other employers who want to participate.

The majority of respondents supported either a local public holiday or local event day, with 84% supporting a local public holiday and 67% supporting a local event day.



Key themes

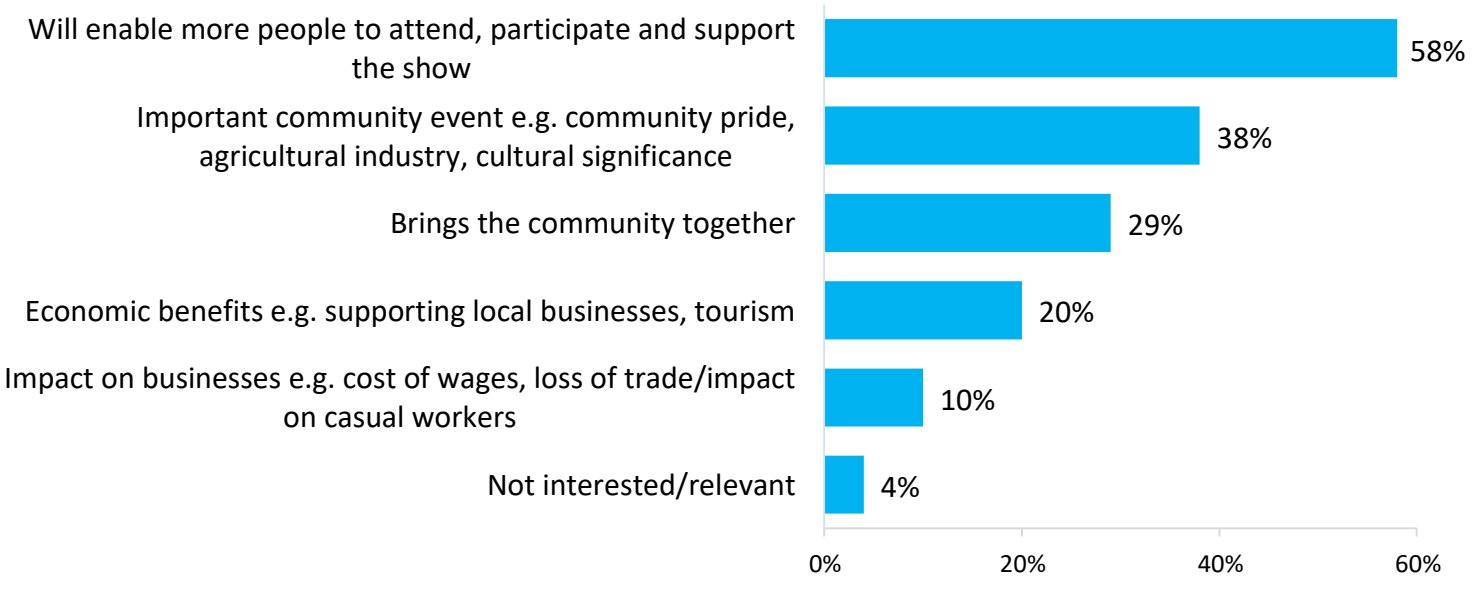
Respondents were also able to provide open comments about their level of support.

The main reason for supporting a local public holiday or event day was that it will enable more people to attend, participate in and support the Newcastle Show.

Other reasons for support included:

- importance or significance of the event to the community
- bringing the community together
- providing benefits to the local economy.

The main reason for not supporting the local public holiday or event day was due to the impact on small businesses such as cost of wages or loss of trade and impact on casual workers losing wages.



Appendix:

Online feedback form and Communications collateral

City of Newcastle

Online form

Your say

Do you support Newcastle Regional Show Day being declared a Local Event Day on Friday 1 March 2024? Required

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Do you support Newcastle Regional Show Day being declared a Local Public Holiday on Friday 1 March 2024? Required

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please provide your reasons for supporting or not supporting the application for a local event day or local public holiday: Required

If you would like to provide more detailed feedback, upload a Word or PDF document here:

Choose file...

Max files: **5** Allowed file types: **pdf,doc,docx** Size limit: **10.00 MB**

Your details

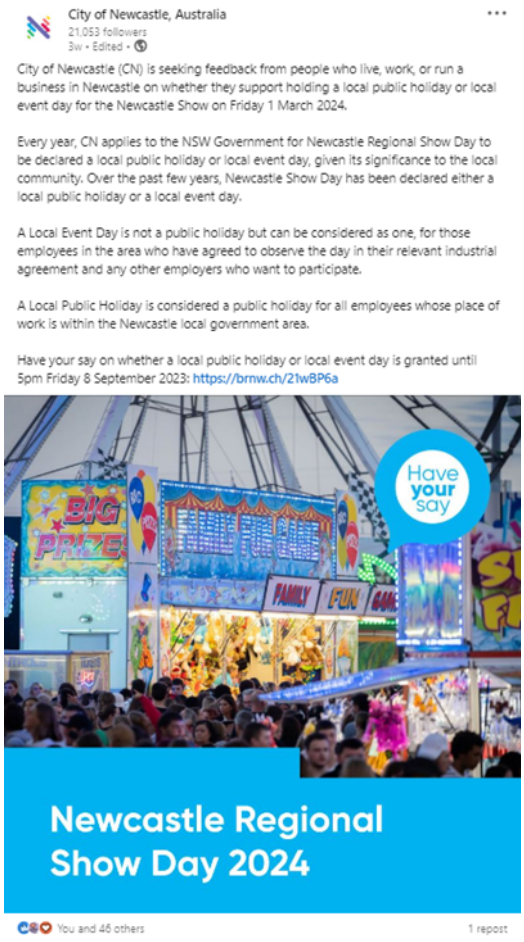
First name: Required

Last name: Required

Email: Required

Suburb: Required

LinkedIn post



Newcastle Herald advertisement

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

LOCAL EVENT DAY FOR NEWCASTLE SHOW 2024

City of Newcastle (CN) is currently seeking feedback from people who live, work and run businesses in Newcastle on whether they support holding a local event day for the Newcastle Show on Friday 1 March 2024.

Every year, CN makes an application to the NSW Government for Newcastle Regional Show Day to be declared a local event day, given its significance to the local community.

CN is seeking community feedback via public exhibition prior to making an application to the NSW Government. Have your say at: https://haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/newcastle-regional-show-day-2024

Written comments are invited to be addressed to: City of Newcastle, Attention Linda Woodbury, PO BOX 489, Newcastle NSW 2300 or by email to: engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au by 5pm on Friday 8th September 2023.

City of Newcastle

AW7352733

Examples of responses

Will allow more people to attend, participate in and support the show
"Public Holidays allow opportunities for citizens to participate in local events such as the show whilst also boosting the local economy."
"The show is a Newcastle institution that will be lost if not actively promoted. A holiday will encourage patronage and allow the next generation to enjoy it as we did!"
"I support show day being a public holiday because I teach in Primary Schools. Fewer of us can attend the day if it's only held on the weekend, especially small children in Primary Schools and their teachers. I have not been since Show Holiday was lost."

Important community event
"I believe this is an important local event that should be a public holiday so everyone can attend"
"The show is a significant event and opportunity to celebrate our amazing city..."
"Allows for greater support of the Newcastle Show and allows children to experience the benefits of agriculture"

Brings the community together
"A local show brings communities together and stimulates the community financially"
"It would be an opportunity for Novocastrians to come together and build a stronger sense of community"
"Community coming together, a time to celebrate the agricultural community..."

Economic benefits
"Public holidays are great injections of income for local small businesses as they enable the wider community to visit and enjoy the services Newcastle has to offer on a day they otherwise wouldn't"
"I believe that it can help foster a closer community revitalizing the family orientated event while also generating a great deal of support and commercial gain from the tourism industry."
"Great opportunity for novacastrians to support local business"

Impact on businesses
The last 3+ years have been very difficult for small business owners. If it is declared a Local Public Holiday, we will most likely close as the increase in wages cannot be substantiated for current trade levels.
Local business - if penalty rates apply for casual staff it is financially not viable
Our business cannot afford another public holiday we would be forced to close, therefore our casual staff also miss out on a days pay.

Next steps

Thanks for having your say! Your feedback will be reported to Council before an application is made to the NSW Government. The outcome of this application will be shared with the community once a decision has been made.

City of Newcastle

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 31/10/23 - EXECUTIVE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

8.13	**Attachment A:**	EXECUTIVE MONTHLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

Monthly Performance Report

September 2023



newcastle.nsw.gov.au

City of Newcastle

Income Statement

Result for the financial period ending 30 September 2023

Full Year Budget $'000		YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actual Result $'000	Variance ($) $'000	Variance (%) $'000
	Income from continuing operations				
219,236	Rates & annual charges	54,809	54,809	-	0%
117,640	User charges & fees	27,892	28,959	1,067	4%
9,341	Other revenues	2,315	2,646	331	14%
21,220	Grants & contributions - operating	800	637	(163)	-20%
38,626	Grants & contributions - capital	2,442	2,442	-	0%
9,315	Interest & investment revenue	2,329	3,501	1,172	50%
7,089	Other income	1,891	879	(1,012)	-54%
422,467	**Total income from continuing operations**	**92,477**	**93,872**	**1,395**	**2%**
	Expenses from continuing operations				
131,648	Employee benefits & on-costs	32,216	31,289	(926)	-3%
112,483	Materials & services	23,080	20,759	(2,321)	-10%
4,039	Borrowing costs	1,015	1,020	6	1%
69,601	Depreciation & amortisation	17,831	17,746	(84)	0%
52,147	Other expenses	12,319	12,766	447	4%
7,002	Net loss from the disposal of assets	1,256	1,094	(162)	-13%
376,920	**Total expenses from continuing operations**	**87,715**	**84,675**	**(3,041)**	**-3%**
45,547	**Operating result from continuing operations**	**4,762**	**9,197**	**4,436**	**93%**
6,921	**Net operating result before grants & contributions - capital**	**2,320**	**6,756**	**4,436**	**191%**

Operating Analysis as at 30 September 2023

Over budget by more than 5%	✖
Over budget by 5% or less	!
Result within budget	✔

Financial Statement Line Item	Indicator	Var ($'000)	Var(%)	Issue	Explanation
Operating Revenue					
Rates & annual charges	✔	-	0%		
User charges & fees	✔	1,067	4%		$0.6m increase in revenue related to additional Commercial Tonnes from Summerhill Waste Management Centre $0.4m increase in regulatory fees predominantly related to one-off revenue from Occupation and Construction certificates relating to timing under Accounting Standards $0.1m increase in Parking Meters
Other revenues	✔	331	14%		$0.2m increase in Food & Beverage sales from Newcastle Venues $0.1m proceeds from Insurance Claims
Grants & contributions - operating	✖	(163)	-20%		Related to timing of grant payments
Grants & contributions - capital	✔	-	0%		
Interest & investment revenue	✔	1,172	50%		Increased return from investments
Other income	✖	(1,012)	-54%		$1.1m Unfavourable Fair Value adjustment in TCorp Long Term Growth Fund partially offset by increased rental returns
Operating Expenses					
Employee benefits & on-costs	✔	(926)	-3%		
Materials & services	✔	(2,321)	-10%		$2.7m saving related to the timing of delivery within the Works Program $0.2m additional spend related to timing of City Events $0.1m increase in electricity costs related to Street Lighting
Borrowing costs	!	6	1%		
Depreciation & Amortisation	✔	(84)	0%		
Other expenses	!	447	4%		$0.5m increase in State Waste Levy related to additional tonnes at Summerhill Waste Management Centre
Net loss from the disposal of assets	✔	(162)	-13%		Due to timing of budgeted disposals

Capital Statement

Result for the financial period ending 30 September 2023

Full Year Budget $'000		YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actual Result $'000	Variance ($) $'000	Variance (%) $'000
Capital funding					
70,107	General fund contribution to capital	17,622	21,895	4,274	24%
2,410	Stormwater Management Service Charge	603	603	-	0%
32,127	Capital Grants & Contributions	2,442	2,442	-	0%
719	Proceeds from the sale of assets	10	10	-	0%
(3,339)	Net Loans Borrowings / (Repayments)	(835)	(835)	-	0%
102,024	**Funding available for capital expenditure**	**19,841**	**24,115**	**4,274**	**22%**
Capital Expenditure					
42,956	Asset Renewal	7,049	6,146	(902)	-13%
41,764	New / Upgrade	9,328	7,256	(2,072)	-22%
84,720	**Total capital expenditure**	**16,377**	**13,402**	**(2,975)**	**-18%**
17,304	**Transfer to or (Draw down on) reserves**	**3,464**	**10,713**	**7,248**	**209%**

Debtors Report as at 30 September 2023

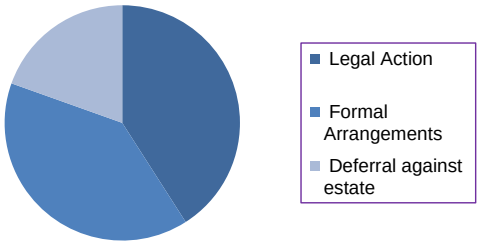
Outstanding Rates

Debt Recovery Action	No. of Properties	$ Amount
Legal Action	133	984,942
Formal Arrangements	301	950,720
Deferral against estate	16	470,178
Total	**450**	**2,405,840**

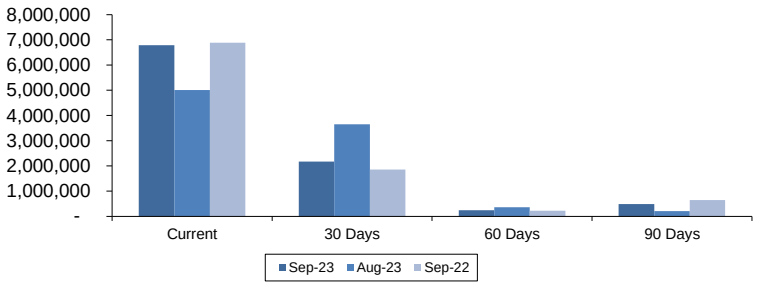
Aged Debtors Report (Major Debtors Report)

Period	Sep-23 $	Aug-23 $	Sep-22 $
Current	6,791,010	5,016,412	6,890,026
30 Days	2,168,906	3,655,545	1,854,140
60 Days	241,463	360,904	224,827
90 Days	487,443	210,333	646,229
Total	**9,688,822**	**9,243,194**	**9,615,222**

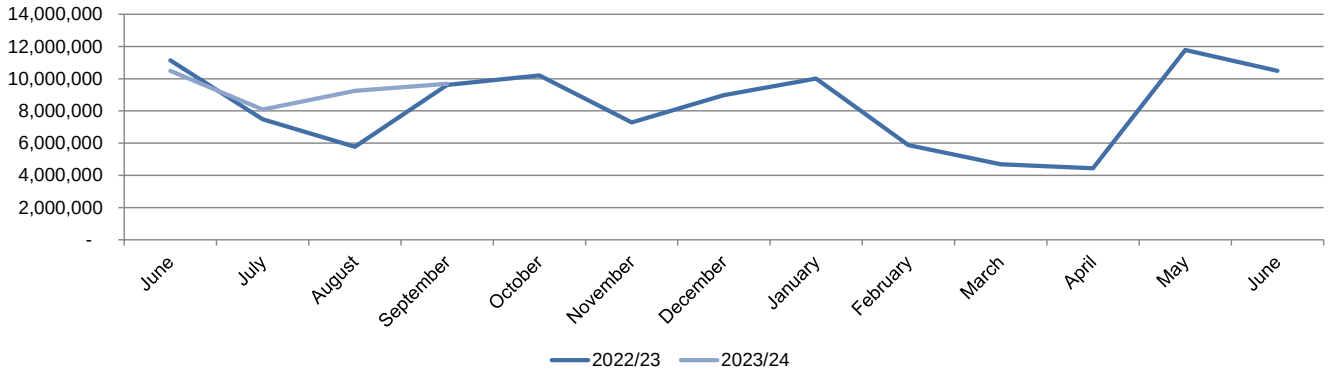
Outstanding Rates ($)



Debtors balances



Trend of Debtors Balance ($)



Works Program Summary

Result for the financial period ending 30 September 2023

Full Year Budget $'000	Portfolio/Program	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actual Result $'000	Variance to YTD budget (%) $'000	% of FY Budget Spent $'000
35,313	**City Infrastructure - Assets & Facilities**	**7,174**	**4,528**	**-37%**	**13%**
260	Buildings - Council Support Services	54	126	136%	49%
150	Public Toilets	31	-	-100%	0%
140	Retaining walls	23	135	488%	96%
7,780	Bridges	538	109	-80%	1%
1,160	Footpaths	239	361	51%	31%
1,983	Roadside Furniture	184	151	-18%	8%
7,240	Road Rehabilitation	2,955	458	-84%	6%
7,500	Road Resurfacing	1,986	2,184	10%	29%
300	Parking Infrastructure	62	(0)	-100%	0%
4,975	Stormwater System	797	920	15%	18%
3,825	Fleet Replacement	307	83	-73%	2%
5,000	**Planning & Environment - Transport**	**1,245**	**1,021**	**-18%**	**20%**
3,610	Cycleways	989	227	-77%	6%
250	Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP)	31	462	1367%	185%
1,140	Local Area Traffic Management (LATM)	225	332	48%	29%
13,458	**Planning & Environment - Environment & Sustainability**	**1,954**	**1,126**	**-42%**	**8%**
1,050	Blackbutt Reserve	216	45	-79%	4%
254	Flood Planning	52	19	-64%	7%
8,009	Coast, Estuary and Wetlands	941	391	-58%	5%
1,810	Bushland and Watercourses	337	117	-65%	6%
1,660	Street and Park Trees	333	338	2%	20%
675	Sustainability & Climate	75	215	189%	32%
6,400	**Corporate Services**	**1,038**	**734**	**-29%**	**11%**
800	Digital Enablement	135	42	-69%	5%
5,600	Core Systems Development & Maintenance	903	692	-23%	12%
41,160	**City Shaping**	**8,486**	**5,251**	**-38%**	**13%**
36,500	Citywide	7,524	4,772	-37%	13%
4,660	Summerhill	962	480	-50%	10%
22,334	**Creative & Community Services**	**2,843**	**2,719**	**-4%**	**12%**
7,450	Aquatics	1,041	1,194	15%	16%
349	Community Buildings	72	86	20%	25%
920	Civic Venues / Civic Services	189	195	3%	21%
12,245	Recreation & Sport	1,256	1,053	-16%	9%
475	Economic Development	100	10	-90%	2%
150	Art Gallery	31	1	-95%	1%
745	Museum / Libraries / Historic Fort Scratchley	153	180	17%	24%
4,375	**Waste Services**	**1,944**	**3,628**	**87%**	**83%**
4,375	Waste Management	1,944	3,628	87%	83%
9,216	**City Infrastructure - Revitalisation**	**2,037**	**1,837**	**-10%**	**20%**
5,620	City Centre	1,273	593	-53%	11%
2,300	Coastal	400	541	35%	24%
1,296	Urban Centres	365	703	93%	54%
137,255	**Total Works Program**	**26,722**	**20,845**	**-22%**	**15%**

Note: The Budget above is inclusive of operational and capital works

Councillors' Expense Register 2023/2024

	Annual Budget Allotments									Council Term Budget Allotments		
	EVENTS	ACCOMPANYING PERSON (Official Business)	OVERSEAS TRAVEL	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LGNSW / NGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE	COMMUNICATION EXPENSES	SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS & CARER EXPENSES	HOME OFFICE EXPENSES	TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE	AICD COURSE FEES	COMMUNICATION DEVICES	TOTAL TERM EXPENDITURE
LORD MAYOR												
Policy Provision	$4,000	$1,000	Paid in accordance with a specific resolution of Council	$5,000	$20,000 (shared among elected representatives inclusive of both events)	$3,000	$6,000	$2,000		$4,000 (may be combined with Professional Development expenses in the year undertaken)	$4,000	
NELMES Nuatali	488.07	-	-	-	-	302.73	-	-	790.80	563.64	4,378.21	4,941.85
ALL COUNCILLORS												
Policy Provision	$2,000	$500	See Above	$5,000	See Above	$3,000	$6,000	$500		$4,000	$4,000	
CLAUSEN, Declan	363.27	-	-	-	-	242.73	-	-	606.00	-	2,537.85	2,537.85
CHURCH, John	-	-	-	-	-	62.73	-	-	62.73	-	2,428.59	2,428.59
MACKENZIE, John	-	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	220.92	-	3,219.67	3,219.67
DUNCAN, Carol	-	-	-	500.00	-	220.92	-	-	720.92	563.64	3,392.58	3,956.22
BARRIE, Jenny	122.73	-	-	210.00	-	220.92	-	-	553.65	-	3,219.67	3,219.67
McCABE, Charlotte	-	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	220.92	-	3,047.73	3,047.73
WINNEY-BAARTZ, Peta	-	-	-	420.00	-	220.92	-	-	640.92	-	3,219.67	3,219.67
WOOD, Margaret	-	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	220.92	-	3,219.67	3,219.67
WARK, Katrina	1,349.26	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	1,570.18	-	3,219.67	3,219.67
RICHARDSON, Deahnna	79.39	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	300.31	4,000.00	3,646.94	7,646.94
ADAMCZYK, Elizabeth	177.27	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	398.19	-	3,646.03	3,646.03
PULL, Callum	79.39	-	-	-	-	220.92	-	-	300.31	-	3,219.67	3,219.67
TOTAL (exc LM)	**2,171.31**	**-**	**-**	**1,130.00**	**-**	**2,514.66**	**-**	**-**	**5,815.97**	**4,563.64**	**38,017.74**	**42,581.38**
TOTAL (inc LM)	**2,659.38**	**-**	**-**	**1,130.00**	**-**	**2,817.39**	**-**	**-**	**6,606.77**	**5,127.28**	**42,395.95**	**47,523.23**

CEO and Lord Mayor Offices Expenses

	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actual $'000
Employee costs	**294**	**294**
Materials & contracts	**62**	**25**
Other operating expenses	**0**	**0**
Total Operating Expenses	**356**	**318**

Ward 4

At 30 September 2023

City of Newcastle

Wallsend Capital Works Update

Wallsend Local Centre Public Domain Plan

- Phase 1 survey engagement explored the community's views on urban design themes, safety and order of priority for future revitalisation stages. The final report is available on our website at: https://haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/wallsend-engagement-hub
- Phase 2 of this engagement will include ongoing targeted community consultation and Placemaking engagement activities for individual project stages as they progress.

Stage 3: Detail design and construction of the intersection of Cowper and Kokera Streets, including:

Stage 3A: Ironbark creek widening and realignment, Cowper Street culvert bypass

Stage 3B: Installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Cowper and Kokera Streets

Stage 3A:
- Flood assessment and modelling completed, and report submitted for review by CN.
- Detailed design tender scheduled for release in November 2023, with the detailed design process to progress through 2023/24.

Stage 3B:
- Detailed design has been approved by Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

Stage 4: Detailed design of Boscawen Street and Nelson Street Bridge replacement works

Boscawen Street Bridge:
- Construction commencement scheduled for late 2023.

Nelson Street Bridge:
- 100% detail design submitted and reviewed by internal stakeholders.
- Construction tender scheduled for 2023/24.

Stage 5: Detailed design of: Traffic lights and shared path at Nelson Street and Cowper Street intersection

Proposed roundabout at the intersection of Cowper Street and Newcastle Road

- Detailed design and construction of Stage 5 will follow the construction of Stages 3A and 3B.

Wallsend Active Hub amenities

- Building installation, external painting and water and power connections complete. Concrete pathways and turf make-good also complete.
- Sewer maintenance hole and building connection to be completed early October.
- Facility will be open to the public early October.

Investment Policy compliance report

September 2023

Executive summary:

1 **Socially Responsible Investment:**
Application of the investment function has remained consistent with requirements outlined within Part E of CN's Investment Policy, "*Environmentally and Socially Responsible Investments (SRI)*".

2 **Portfolio holdings:**
As at the end of September 2023 CN's overall investment portfolio holdings are $397.8million. These holdings are split between Income producing/defensive and Capital Growth asset classes.

3 **Performance commentary – Income producing/Defensive funds:**
As at the end of September 2023 CN's allocation to the income producing/defensive assets sat at 88%.

The 1-month annualised yield was 4.07% as at 30 September 2023. The monthly yield generated by CN's Defensive portfolio has steadily increased since a low in February 2022 of 1.03%. The continued increase is in response to upward movements in the Cash Rate set by the RBA.

The diversified nature of CN's portfolio has enabled the portfolio to participate in capturing a significant proportional share of the upward movement in interest rates.

As demonstrated by this month's returns, our expectation remains unchanged that in the short term the steep upward movement in interest rates witnessed since early in calendar year 2022 will challenge CNs ability to exceed the performance of the benchmark.

This challenge will continue until such time as existing long-term fixed investments placed prior to calendar year end 2021 begin to mature and/or the RBA Cash Rate declines.

4 **Performance commentary – Capital growth funds:**
For the month of September 2023, the TCorp Fund posted a fair value decrement, being a negative return of (2.31%).

Reiterating the comment made in last month's report, it is the large exposure to domestic and global equity asset class that means the fund could incur a large fair value decrement in the event of a significant equity market contraction. Since TCorp first created the Long-Term Growth Fund in 2006, the Fund has proven to be relatively resilient with the ability to recover fair value losses over time following broader global equity downturns.

CN remains confident in the long-term strategic rationale that supports this investment, and therefore our strategy as a long-term holder remains unchanged.

5 **Risk management compliance:**
CN's temporary surplus funds are invested consistent with its adopted Investment and Borrowing Policy and The Local Government Act and Regulations.

Actual performance against CN's Policy limits is disclosed later in this report.

6 **New and matured investments:**
New investments placed during September 2023 continued to focus on meeting the objectives outlined in CN's Investment and Borrowing Policy.

Further disclosure of investment portfolio composition and details of any investment placements or maturities during the reporting period are detailed later in this report.

7 **Income producing/Defensive funds – Actual v Budget:**
Cumulative Net returns to September 2023 from the Income producing/Defensive funds totalled $3.38m against a budget of $2.26m (excluding Newcastle Airport and non-investment portfolio sources of interest). This resulted in Interest and Investment income outperforming the budget by $1.12m for the financial year to date.

From the commencement of 2023, when the interest income budget was set, to now, the RBA Cash Rate has continued to reset higher than budget formulated assumptions. It is possible that this will result in an upward revision to the full year budget at a future quarterly review.

8 **Capital Growth Funds – Actual v Budget:**
Net returns to September 2023 from the Capital Growth Fund totalled a decrement of ($0.42m) against a budgeted increment of $0.70m. This resulted in net returns underperforming budget by ($1.12m) for the financial year to date.

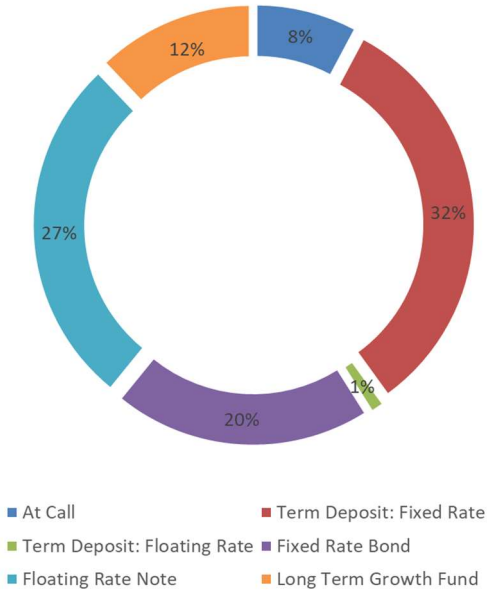
Ongoing performance will continue to be closely monitored and any possible adjustments made to the budget will be carefully assessed and recommended if deemed appropriate.

Investment Policy compliance report

September 2023

Portfolio holdings:

Asset Class allocation		
Investment Category	Investment type	CN exposure ($'000)
Income producing / Defensive	Cash At Call	30,967
	Term Deposit: Fixed rate	128,279
	Term Deposit: Floating rate	4,000
	Floating Rate Note	107,600
	Fixed Rate Bond	78,842
Capital Growth	Long Term Growth Fund	48,094
Total		397,783



Performance:

Income producing/Defensive category*:

	3 year (% p.a.)	1 year %	3 months %	FYTD %	1 month %	1 month annualised (% p.a.)
CN's return#	1.98%	3.42%	0.98%	0.98%	0.33%	4.07%
Performance objective^	1.36%	3.56%	1.08%	1.08%	0.34%	4.12%
Excess return	0.62%	(0.14%)	(0.10%)	(0.10%)	(0.01%)	(0.05%)

* Exclusive of Capital Growth (disclosed separately below).

^ CN's Performance objective is set at the Ausbond Bank Bill Index.

Cash at Call funds have been included in the calculation of CN's reported investment portfolio performance from January 2021. This change has not been applied retrospectively to historical months.

Capital Growth category*:

	3 year (% p.a.)	1 year %	3 months %	FYTD %	1 month %
CN's return	5.31%	10.14%	(0.87%)	(0.87%)	(2.31%)
Performance objective^	7.91%	8.83%	1.75%	1.75%	0.58%
Excess return	(2.60%)	1.31%	(2.62%)	(2.62%)	(2.89%)

	Return since Inception#
CN's return	11.85%

* Capital Growth category consists solely of CN's exposure to TCorp Individually Managed Growth Funds.

^ CN's Performance objective is set at CPI + 3.5% p.a. (over a rolling 10yrs). Prior months performance objective used in place of current month (not available at time of preparation).

Return since inception considers the month end dollar value of the investment against CN's capital contributions since inception. Initial investment into the Capital Growth category occurred in February 2019 with incremental contributions thereafter.

Investment Policy compliance report

September 2023

Risk Management compliance:

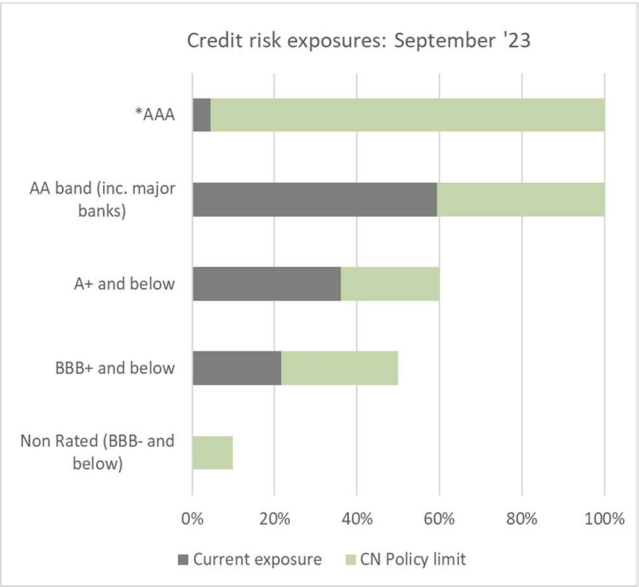
Portfolio exposure:

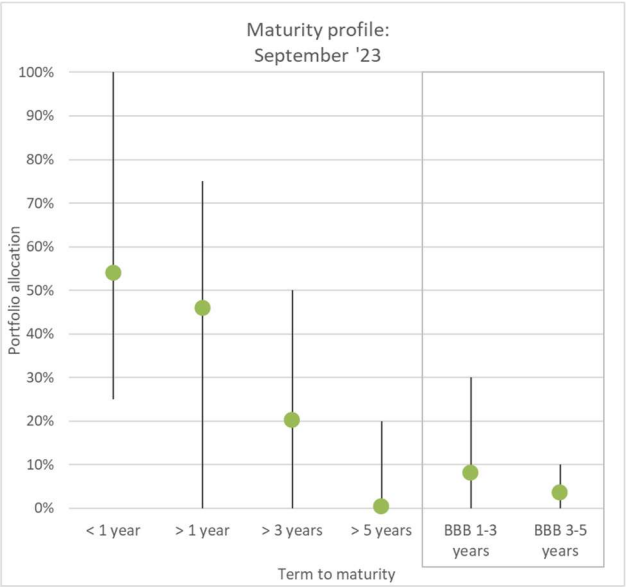
Investment category	Minimum exposure	Maximum exposure	CN exposure
Income producing / Defensive	80%	100%	88%
Capital Growth^	0%	30%	12%

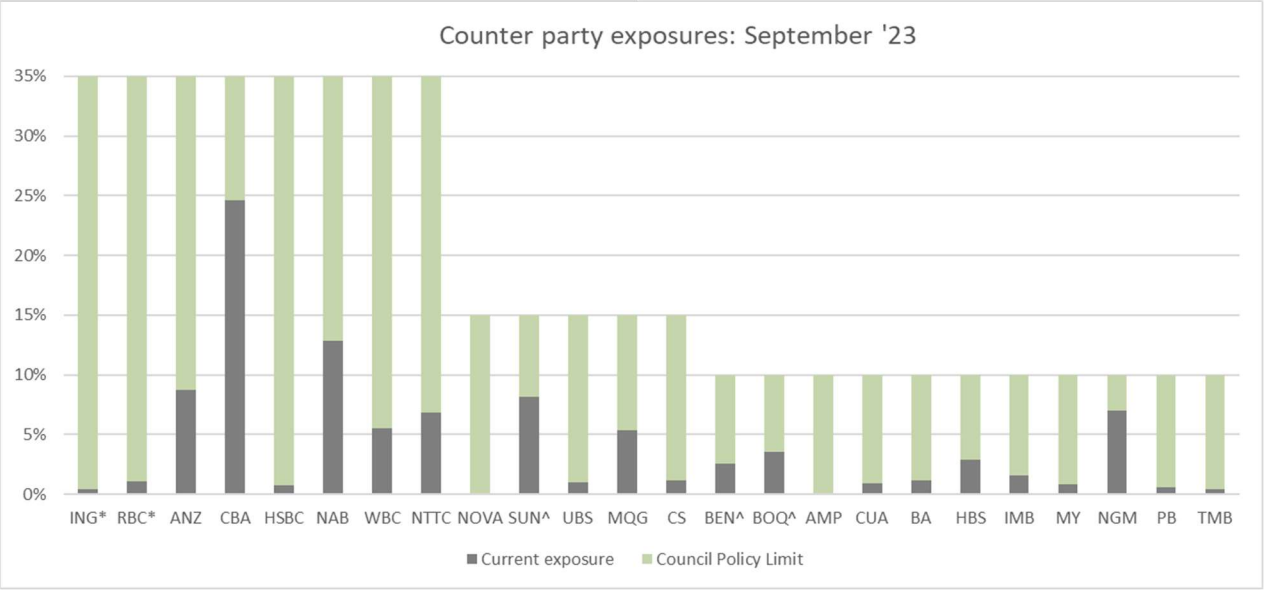
^ Capital Growth category consists solely of CN's exposure to TCorp Individually Managed Growth Funds.

Income producing/Defensive risk limits:

The below risk limits apply only to the Income producing/Defensive category of CN's investment portfolio.







*Where these is an Asterix marked in the above graphs all of CN's investments in this category are assigned a AAA rating due to additional credit support of the investment class.

^ = Total exposures to Suncorp Bank, Bank of Queensland, and Bendigo Adelaide Bank include a component of AAA rated individual investments.

Investment Policy compliance report

September 2023

New and matured Investments:

New Investments:

Contract date	Settlement date	Institution	Long Term Credit rating (S&P)	Asset Class	Face value	Rate of Return	Term	Maturity date
31 Aug '23	11 Sep '23	ANZ	AA-	Floating rate note	$7,000,000	90d bbsw + 0.93%	5years	11 Sep '28
31 Aug '23	11 Sep '23	ANZ	AA-	Fixed rate bond	$2,400,000	4.961%	5years	11 Sep '28
7 Sep '23	14 Sep '23	Macquarie Bank	A	Floating rate note	$8,000,000	90d bbsw + 0.85%	3years	14 Sep '26
12 Sep '23	12 Sep '23	CBA	AA-	Term Deposit: Fixed rate	$7,000,000	4.90%	120days	10 Jan '24
12 Sep '23	12 Sep '23	CBA	AA-	Term Deposit: Fixed rate	$7,000,000	5.05%	183days	13 Mar '24
26 Sep '23	26 Sep '23	IMB Bank	BBB	Term Deposit: Fixed rate	$5,000,000	5.01%	113days	17 Jan '24

Matured Investments:

Date matured	Institution	Asset Class	Face value	Rate of Return	Original Term	Original date invested
7 Sep '23	Bank of Nova Scotia	Floating rate note	$7,500,000	90d bbsw + 0.98%	4.5years	8 Mar '19
7 Sep '23	ING Bank (Aust)	Fixed rate bond (Covered)	$2,500,000	3.04%	5years	30 Aug '18
14 Sep '23	Bendigo Adelaide Bank	Term Deposit: Fixed rate	$7,000,000	5.02%	92days	14 Jun '23
23 Sep'23	NAB	Floating rate note	$6,000,000	90d bbsw + 0.93%	5years	26 Sep '18

I certify that the new investments detailed above have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, and Council's adopted Investment Policy.



Simon Mitchell
Acting Responsible Accounting Officer