

# Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024



## Foreword from the Chair



The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee supports efforts to achieve the vision outlined in the City's Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan to be a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive global city. The Committee provides advice on a wide range of issues, including economic development, smart city initiatives, tourism, climate action, and major events.

In 2024, the Committee met on three occasions and hosted an EV and Low Emissions Vehicle Roundtable. Throughout the year, the Committee played a key role in advancing discussions on the Newcastle Environment Strategy, the City Intelligence Platform, and economic development opportunities associated with the Newcastle Airport's international terminal. Additionally, members received briefings on significant NSW Government legislation, including the proposed Community Improvement Districts, and supported the Climate Summit held in August 2024. The Committee also helped enhance awareness of the tools available through the City Intelligence Program Dashboard, which supports local businesses and investors in decision-making and assessing the impacts of events and tourism.

The Committee brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including industry leaders, community representatives, and Councillors, providing a valuable forum to inform the City's strategic vision, direction, and programs. This collaborative approach ensures alignment and consistency in advocacy and programming across the City, strengthening Newcastle's position as a leader in innovation, sustainability, and economic diversification.

Following the council election in September 2024, the Committee was reconstituted by the incoming elected Council in October 2024. In 2025, the Committee will refresh its membership to enable it to continue its work, with a strong focus on economic development, innovation, and climate action. This includes ongoing support for key strategies and initiatives that drive Newcastle's transition to a more resilient and forward-thinking city.

On behalf of the Committee, I acknowledge outgoing members for their participation and leadership, including former Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Cr McCabe, Cr Pull, Vice Chancellor Alex Zelinsky AO, and Michelle Faithfull. I also thank the Committee Facilitator, David Clarke, Danielle Ogden and Jessica Budd for their invaluable support, and extend my appreciation to the City of Newcastle team for providing high-quality reports and presentations that have enriched our discussions and informed our strategic direction.

I look forward to welcoming new members to the Committee in 2025, including a new Deputy Chair (Cr Barrie) and Councillor Member (Cr Brooker). I am confident that with this refreshed membership we will continue our collective efforts to shape Newcastle's future as a dynamic and sustainable global city.

# Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024



The Committee's term concluded in September 2024 at the local government election. Below are the Members who attended the Committee during the 2024 year.



Lord Mayor  
Cr Nuatali Nelmes



Cr Declan Clausen  
Chair



Cr Charlotte McCabe  
Deputy Chair



Cr Callum Pull  
Councillor Member



David Clarke  
Executive Director  
Corporate Services & CFO



Tony Sansom OAM  
Community Representative



Prof. Alex Zelinski AO  
University of Newcastle



Bob Hawes  
Business Hunter



Alison McGaffin  
Regional NSW



Joe James \*  
Hunter Joint Organisation



Larry Platt \*  
Emergent Group



Justin Page  
Hunter Jobs Alliance



Michelle Faithfull \*  
Community Representative

*\*Resigned during Committee term*

# Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024



## Objective of the committee

The Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee will provide advice and guidance on the formation, development, refinement and implementation of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to the economic development and diversification of Newcastle as a destination leading in innovative technologies, climate action, smart infrastructure, high value investment, and major events and tourism. Continue the implementation of strategies and advocacy emanating from the Lord Mayor's City Taskforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the city's continued economic recovery.

## Summary of key items of business considered

| Date of Meeting      | Business Item   |
|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 5 March 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Briefing</li><li>• Airport Briefing by the Airport CEO</li><li>• Community Improvement Districts briefing from NSW Government</li><li>• SIAC 2023 Annual Report</li></ul>  |
| Tuesday 7 May 2024   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Briefing</li><li>• 2023 Climate Summit Debrief</li><li>• Environment Strategy update and EV Roundtable Briefing</li><li>• City Intelligence Program Dashboard</li></ul>  |
| Tuesday 2 July 2024  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Briefing</li><li>• Newcastle Environment Strategy update - EV Charging Grants</li><li>• Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan Review</li><li>• Hunter Jobs Alliance Update &amp; TAFE Centres of Excellence</li></ul>  |
| 8 August 2024        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EV and Low Emissions Vehicle Roundtable with Transport for NSW, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association, the University of Newcastle, Business Hunter, Port of Newcastle and companies involved in the EV supply chain, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to electric vehicles and low emissions transport in Newcastle.</li></ul> |

Standing agenda items include:

- Adoption of draft minutes and actions arising,
- Economic Briefing, and
- General Business.

# Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024



## Summary of key achievements

- Economic briefings – supporting awareness and decision making by the City of Newcastle and each member organisation
- City Intelligence Program Dashboard – including the tools available to CN to support local businesses and investors make decisions, and to understand the impacts and benefits of local events and tourism
- Support for the EV Roundtable event and Climate Summit held in August 2024 – including CN initiatives to increase EV charging in the City and transition our vehicle fleet
- Briefing on important NSW Government legislation, including proposed Community Improvement Districts
- Building awareness of the benefits and timing of the new international terminal at Newcastle Airport.

# Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024



## Summary of performance and governance

| Date of Meeting            | Quorum achieved | Members in attendance  | Agenda circulated to members and published on CN's website | Declaration of conflicts of interest listed as agenda item | Minutes circulated to members, adopted by the committee and published on CN's website |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---|
| Tuesday<br>5 March<br>2024 | Quorate         | Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson<br>Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson<br>Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor<br>Cr Callum Pull<br>Prof. Alex Zelinsky AO, UON<br>Mr David Toll, UON<br>Mr Bob Hawes, Business Hunter<br>Mr Justin Page, Hunter Jobs Alliance<br>Ms Samantha Marsh, Dept of Regional NSW<br>Mr John Dunn, Community Representative<br>Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative<br>Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative<br>Mr David Clarke, Committee Facilitator | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Tuesday<br>7 May 2024      | Quorate         | Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson<br>Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson<br>Cr Callum Pull<br>Mr David Clarke, Committee Facilitator<br>Prof. Alex Zelinsky, UON<br>Mr Bob Hawes, Business Hunter<br>Mr Justin Page, Hunter Jobs Alliance<br>Ms Samantha Marsh, Dept of Regional NSW<br>Mr John Dunn, Community Representative<br>Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative<br>Ms Michelle Faithfull, Community Representative   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Tuesday<br>2 July 2024     | Quorate         | Cr Declan Clausen, Chairperson<br>Cr Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Chairperson<br>Cr Callum Pull<br>Prof. Alex Zelinsky, UON<br>Mr Joe James, Hunter Joint Organisation   | Yes  | Yes  | No  |

# Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee Annual Report 2024



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  | Mr John Dunn, Community Representative<br>Mr Tony Sansom, Community Representative |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|