

Here's a summary of our main planning documents, refreshed and revised between 2024 and 2025, to guide our shared future.

Newcastle 2040 is our shared roadmap to becoming a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive global city. This Community Strategic Plan sets out our vision and priorities for the next decade, guiding the decisions and actions that will shape our future together.

Planning

Community Strategic Plan - Newcastle 2040 10+ yrs



Service delivery

Delivery Program and Operational Plan - Delivering Newcastle 2040

- Delivery Program (2025-2029) 4 yrs
- Operational Plan (2025/26) 1 yr (Our Budget and Capital Works Program)



You can view the full versions on our <u>website</u>.

NEWCASTLE 2040 it's our Autore

Community Strategic Plan REVISED 2024/25

Informing Strategies



Resourcing

- Strategy Finance Assets -Workforce
- Long-Term Financial Plan 10 yrs
- Asset Management Planning 10 yrs
- Workforce Development Strategic Plan 4 yrs



Our city, our people

Our population

Median age

Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander population

Newcastle

Newcastle

Born oversed Newcastle NSW

NSW

NSW





Speak a language other than English

Newcastle

NSW

11%	
27%	

134 different languages spoken at home - most widely spoken includes Mandarin, Macedonian, Italian, Greek and Arabic. Languages spoken with greatest need for translation included Arabic, Mandarin, Swahili, Persian/Dari and Tibetan.

Acknowledgement of Country

4.4%

3.4%

"Niirun Yalawa Awabakal dha Worimi burrai". We all sit on Awabakal and Worimi land.

The City of Newcastle (CN) Acknowledges its Local Government Area (LGA) within the Country of the Awabakal and the Worimi peoples. We Acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancier relationships. The City of Newcastle Acknowledges the cu Awabakal and Worimi peoples and the care and stewardshi performed in this place since time immemorial

"Wunyibu wunyibu warra wunyibu wunyibu gkuuba Abor Always was, always will be Aboriginal land

In recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage, eight I officially dual-named with their traditional Aboriginal names on Aboriginal references to the landmarks documented in maps, ske geological descriptions dating back as early as 1798

- Burrabihnaa

- onbark Creek Toohrnbing
- Burraghihnbihng





CN's role and services

As Newcastle grows, CN, stakeholders, and the community must work together to invest in our shared wellbeing.

CN leads the preparation of Newcastle 2040 on behalf of the community, but it is not solely responsible for its delivery. Many key issues-such as transport, health, education, housing, and employment-are outside CN's direct control.

To achieve our vision, CN works with governments, agencies, businesses, educational institutions, and community groups. Depending on the task, CN may Deliver, Partner, or Advocate.

Through strong leadership, partnerships, and fulfilling its own commitments, CN helps shape a Newcastle that works for everyone.





CN delivers a wide range of programs and services including waste collection, libraries, childcare, maintenance of local roads and public spaces, recreation facilities and programs, community support, special events and regulatory functions.



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 longterm priorities.



A wide range of issues important to the community sits 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.

















Service Indicators

Cycle-friendly and walkable city

The indicators shown are a sample from N2040. Refer to the <u>full document</u> to view the complete set.

Service Indicators

Greenhouse gas emissions from CN operations

Return on investment on events sponsored by CN

Service Indicators

engagement Value of community grants

Number of people engaged through our community



NEWCASTLE 2040



Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025/2026

Delivering Newcastle 2040

Our Delivery Program sets out how we'll bring our community's vision for Newcastle to life over the next four years. Guided by Newcastle 2040, it translates the aspirations expressed by residents into meaningful actions and projects under the themes of liveable, sustainable, creative and achieving together.

The Delivery Program is our four-year roadmap for action, bridging the gap between the Community Strategic Plan (Newcastle 2040) and CN's day-to-day operations. It transforms the community's vision of a liveable, sustainable, inclusive global city into tangible projects and services that reflect our shared values and aspirations.

Throughout this term, we'll address and adapt to challenges such as climate impacts, population growth, and technological advances. By proactively managing risks and regularly reviewing our strategies, we ensure continuity of core services and remain responsive to new opportunities that strengthen our city.

Clear targets and performance measures keep us accountable for our commitments. Regular progress reviews, evidencebased decision-making, and community feedback loops help us refine our projects, ensuring resources are used effectively and transparently to meet residents' evolving needs.

Ultimately, the Delivery Program is about delivering real benefits for the people of Newcastle. Whether we're upgrading local infrastructure, protecting natural assets, or enhancing cultural experiences, every initiative is designed to foster a vibrant, resilient city where everyone can thrive.

Our key services

CN delivers a wide range of services to meet our vision for a liveable, sustainable and inclusive global city.

Waste	Planning & City		Corporate
Services	Environment Infrastructure		Services
Waste	Environment &	Assets &	Finance, Property
Management	Sustainability	Facilities	& Performance
	Planning & Development	Civil Construction & Maintenance	Information Technology
	Transport &	Project	Legal &
	Regulation	Management	Governance
	Business Operations & Customer	Office	Customer Experience
	Excellence		People & Culture

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mmunity & creation

vic Services

t Gallery



Major projects

The following major capital projects are planned to be delivered over the next four years:

Liveable

Foreshore Park, Newcastle all-abilities playground and water park upgrade East End Public Domain Plan - Hunter Street Mall Revitalisation Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade Stage 2 Cottage Creek Bridge renewal Western Corridor Road Upgrade - Minmi Road and Housing Project Longworth Avenue Sustainable

Summerhill Waste Management Centre landfill capacity, waste management and access improvements Coastal management works

Citywide trenchless drainage rehabilitation

Creative

Library collections Upgrade to Libraries

Community building refurbishment and renewal

Newcastle Art Gallery

cultural asset preservation

Achieving Together

Technology infrastructure and security TechOne CiA migrations

Georgetown Local Centre upgrade Bathers Way - King Edward Park Lambton Swimming Centre upgrades Minmi Road Wallsend upgrade Union Street Wickham Public Domain Plan Rail Bridge Row Affordable

Sustainable transport infrastructure

Stockton coastal and coastline protection work

Ironbark Creek rehabilitation

Civic Theatre refurbishment and improvements

Museum refurbishment and upgrades

Data Insights, Spatial Digital Twin and City Analytics

The following operating projects are planned to be delivered over the next four years:

Liveable

Implement identified actions within the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and	Prepare and fac delivery of Broac Place Strategy
Social Strategy	Implement Hous
Increase local community understanding and participation to conserve, enhance and celebrate	Strategy and co to evolve the Affi Housing Contrib Scheme
Newcastle's heritage places	
Sustainable	

eliver priority actions	Deliver trial fo
om Climate Action Plan,	and bulk wast
ustainable Waste Strategy	operations ar
nd Environment Strategy	organics dive
evelop Electric Vehicle &	from landfill p
w Emissions Transport	Deliver flood r
20	managomont

Creative

Support the operation of Newcastle's four Business Improvement Associations

Plan and develop public displays of the permanent collection within the expanded Art Gallery

Deliver engaging, diverse and inclusive programs that support, connect and reflect our community

Achieving Together

Strengthen CN's crisis and emergency management capabilities Implement Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Strategy

Update and consolidate the Reconciliation Action Plan, Aboriginal Employment Strategy and cultural awareness programs

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or drop-off te recoverv nd the food rsion of waste rogram

management program

isk

Develop and maintain a diaital platform aimed at raising the profile of Newcastle's economic development opportunities

Our informing strategies and supporting plans

Heritage Strategy 2020–2030



Blue Green Grid Action Plan (future draft)

Extended Stockton Coastal Management Program (future draft)

Hunter Estuary Coastal Management Program (future draft)

Newcastle Southern Beaches Coastal Management Program (future draft)

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uture draft)
sion Action Plan 2022-2026
ts Plan 2020–2030
rategy 2043

Customer Experience Strategy 2020–2025
Long-Term Financial Plan 2025–2035
Workforce Development Strategic Plan 2025–2029
Asset Management Strategy 2025–2035

Reconciliation Action Plan 2021–2024

Informing strategies

Help to deliver community aspirations. They provide long-term goals or outcomes on how we will achieve the objectives of Newcastle 2040. They help articulate community aspirations and CN's strategic intent over the long term within CN's resourcing capability.

Supporting plans

Translates strategic priorities from Newcastle 2040 or a Strategy into actions and identified accountability for delivery as well as measurements to measure performance. They contain specific steps to be taken to achieve a new or enhanced service level, project, or activity over the short and medium term within CN's resourcing capability.

Management Plans

Formal planning tool to design the future operations of a facility. It outlines what are we trying to achieve, how will we achieve it and evaluation methods used to measure performance.

Plans of Management and Masterplans

Determines and guides the future management of a place such as a park, sportsground or bushland reserve.

Public Domain Plans and Technical Manuals

Detailed plans and specifications to deliver works.

Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2026



Our Community Engagement Strategy 2023 - 2026 provides a framework for how City of Newcastle will engage with the community to support the development of its plans, policies, programs and key activities.

Our operational Plan

The Operational Plan sets out the specific projects, programs and actions CN will deliver over the next 12 months to achieve the commitments in the Delivery Program and align with the Newcastle 2040 vision.

It serves as a detailed roadmap for how we will provide essential services, invest in infrastructure and deliver outcomes that reflect the priorities of our community.

In 2025/2026, the Operational Plan outlines an operating income budget of \$431.3 million, which supports 173 actions across 18 Service Units to deliver key community priorities.







\$431.8 million expenditure on community services and operating expenses

*Total operating income excluding grants and contributions provided for capital purposes.



\$258 thousand net operating surplus

Total operating income: \$432.1 million*

Total income by category		
Rates and annual charges	•	\$
User charges and fees	•	
Interest and investment income	٠	
Other revenue	•	
Grants and contributions - operating	•	
Other income	٠	
Total		\$

*Total operating income excluding grants and contributions provided for capital purposes.

Total operating expenses: \$431.8 million

Total expenditure by category		2025/2026
Employee benefits and on-costs	٠	\$158.9 million
Borrowing costs	•	\$8.1 million
Materials and services	٠	\$123.5 million
Depreciation and amortisation	٠	\$76.5 million
Net loss from disposal of assets	•	\$11.9 million
Other expenses		\$52.9 million
Total		\$431.8 million

Works program summary

A significant portion of the 2025/26 budget is allocated to major capital works projects designed to improve Newcastle's infrastructure and public spaces. In addition, we are continuing our focus on innovation and efficiency, using technology and evidence-based approaches to deliver services that are responsive to the evolving needs of our community.



We forecast

\$154.5 million

on Capital Works Program

We manage \$2.6 billion

total assets

You can read more about our operational plan here.



\$244.8 million \$121.9 million \$13.7 million \$12.1 million \$25.8 million \$13.8 million

28%

\$432.1 million



57%



Major projects over the council term

Creative and Community Services

\$27.1 million

CN has a range of ongoing programs and projects that will extend throughout 2025-2029

Local centres public domain program

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Coastal revitalisation program •

footpaths and shared pathways

Road rehabilitation and renewal

- Stockton coastal and coastline protection works Upgrade, expansion and connection of
 - Community building refurbishment and renewal

Broadmeadow Place Strategy







resourcing NEWCASTLE 2040

CN provides services and facilities to more than 174,000 residents. We manage \$2.6 billion of assets including roads, bridges, drains, land, halls, recreation and leisure facilities, libraries and parks for the benefit of the local and visiting community, and support a workforce of over 1,300 people.

Resourcing Newcastle 2040 is an integral part of the IPR framework and provides a clear picture on how we plan to resource delivery.

Our planning for *Resourcing Newcastle 2040* is aligned with the community's vision for the future, as well as the planning process and implementation of *Delivering Newcastle 2040*. Our resourcing is transparent with clear accountability for delivery, bringing together CN's 3 interrelated plans in relation to resources. These plans facilitate how to best manage our assets and infrastructure, plan for replacement and ensure that adequate funding and skills are available for service delivery and operations.

Resourcing Newcastle 2040 consists of:

Our Finance - Long-Term Financial Plan Our Assets - Asset Management Planning Our People - Workforce Development Strategic Plan.



Long-Term Financial Plan









CN manages a diverse range of assets.

Arts & Cultural Facilities

1 Museum

- **1** Art Gallery
- **2** historical forts

1 Civic Theatre

1 City Hall

Natural Assets

79km creeks

102,799 street and park trees

91 bushland parcels

65 wetlands

4.5km sand dunes

3.5km coastal cliff line

8.7km river walls

3.7km sea walls

Stormwater

and culverts

23,500 stormwater pits

326 water quality devices

Summerhill Waste Management Facility

Transport

850km roads

1,487km kerb and gutter

117 bridges

972km pathways

Aquatic Centres 545km pipes 10 beaches **6** patrolled

Waste

Facilities

19 community halls and centres

Community

5 inland

swimming pools

2 ocean baths

6 surf clubs

10 Libraries

1 visitor centre

1 holiday park

3 cemeteries

Outdoor Spaces 134 playgrounds 250 recreation

parks

147 sporting grounds

17 dog off-leash areas

176 public art, fountains and monuments

5.7km tracks and trails

20km retaining walls

Our Finance Long-Term Financial Plan

The Long-Term Financial Plan helps us fund essential services, infrastructure and projects while ensuring Newcastle remains financially sustainable. It provides a 10-year forecast, reviewed annually, to guide responsible decisionmaking and balance community priorities with future needs.

Our financial strategy

In addition to the principles set out in the Local Government Act 1993 (section 8B), the LTFP has four objectives to ensure CN's financial sustainability

Maintain commitment towards achieving a net operating surplus

Renew and maintain assets within a sustainable range

Maintain a strong cash and liquidity position

Financial legacy

Funding our four-year delivery

			_	_	
Income Statement					
	Current	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
	2024/25	2025/2026	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	\$'000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Income from continuing operations					
Rates and annual charges	232,264	244,765	251,373	258,160	265,647
User charges and fees	124,293	121,933	128,372	135,390	141,470
Other revenue	11,501	12,114	12,392	12,731	13,069
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	24,075	25,758	27,174	29,353	30,087
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	43,782	32,750	32,915	33,738	34,581
Interest and investment income	14,517	13,660	10,701	11,353	11,789
Other income	13,306	13,837	11,701	12,578	13,308
Total income from continuing operations	463,738	464,817	474,628	493,303	509,951
Expenses from continuing operations					
Employee benefits and on-costs	146,514	158,882	162,583	168,554	175,345
Materials and services	122,371	123,546	123,929	127,121	132,391
Borrowing costs	5,410	8,118	7,946	7,819	7,913
Depreciation and amortisation	73,173	76,500	79,367	82,044	83,789
Other expenses	58,728	52,907	54,473	55,864	57,579
Net loss from the disposal of assets	9,697	11,856	12,931	13,257	13,623
Total expenses from continuing operations	415,893	431,809	441,229	454,659	470,640
Operating result from continuing operations	47,845	33,008	33,399	38,644	39,311
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	4,063	258	484	4,906	4,730

You can read more about our long-term financial plan here.

Our Assets

Asset Management Planning

Asset Management Planning, which includes the Asset Management Strategy, Asset Management Policy and Service Asset Management Plan plays a critical role in ensuring Newcastle's infrastructure is maintained, renewed and expanded sustainably. It balances community needs, funding and environmental sustainability to support a liveable city now and into the future.



Asset Management Strategy

The Strategy outlines how CN plans to manage and maintain key community assets such as roads, buildings, and open spaces. It explains how risks will be managed, and sets out actions to improve our asset management practices. The Strategy also includes how planning for renewal and maintenance will be undertaken and the resources needed to support this work.

Asset Management Plan

The Plan provides details about all assets under CN's care. It defines service levels and includes long-term plans for maintenance, renewal, and replacement, along with estimated costs. The plans help inform our long-term budgeting. CN reports each year on asset condition and spending, in line with financial reporting requirements.



Our Workforce Development Plan 2025–2029 sets a clear direction to grow a skilled, inclusive, and adaptable workforce. As technology advances and different generations bring new expectations to work, we're supporting our people to build the broad capabilities they need, like digital skills, innovative thinking, leadership, and wellbeing. By creating a safe, supportive, and flexible workplace, we're helping our people succeed so we can continue delivering vital services, infrastructure and works for Newcastle's future.

You can read more about our asset management strategy here.

You can read more about our asset management plan here.

Our Workforce Snapshot

Welcomed 281 Farewelled 185

Average Years of Service 8

Median Age 43 Local Government Area 37

Average Vacancy Rate 12%

Turnover 12% Local Government NSW 18%

Workforce Priorities and Measures

The strategic workforce priorities outlined in this plan will enable us to consistently deliver highquality services to our community while highlighting the essential role our people play in driving the achievement of our strategic objectives. The core priorities of our WDSP are:

Gender - All Male 55% Female 45% Local Government Area Male 51% Female 49%

Gender - Leadership Team Male 40% Female 60%

Employee Cost % of Total Operating Expenses **31%** Median Local Government NSW 27%

Full Time Equivalent per 1,000 Residents 6.4 All Councils 8.4

Cultivating Organisationa Health

You can read more about our workforce management plan here.

Shaping Tomorrow's

Workforce





