

Date: Monday 6 November 2023	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre
Meeting No: 15	Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the LGA.	

1. Welcome

Councillor Richardson acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples and paid respect to Elders past and present.

1.1 Attendees:

Members

Cr Deahna Richardson	Councillor Member (Acting Chair)
Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor Member
Bryn Hernandez	Network Planning & Operations Council Management, Ausgrid
Robert Main	Group Manager Planning & Engineering, Hunter Water Corporation
John Merrell	Community Representative
Corinne Thompson	Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW

Guests

Evan Buxton	Asset Engineer (Item 4)
Peter McMurray	Asset Services Manager (Item 4)
Sarah Horan	Senior Project Planner (Item 5)
Patrick Burgess	Project Services Manager, City of Newcastle
Robert Dudgeon	Executive Manager Project Management Office, City of Newcastle
Rachel Howard	Committee Secretary (Minutes)
Matthew Murray	Chief of Staff to the Lord Mayor
Clint Thomson	Executive Director City Infrastructure and Committee Facilitator
Tammara Ward	Executive Manager Assets and Facilities

Apologies

Emmanuel Genlot	General Manager, Keolis Downer
Cr Peta Winney-Baartz	Councillor Member (Substantive Chair)

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 4 July 2023 endorsed as circulated.

2.2 No outstanding actions.

3. Sports Infrastructure Working Party Update

3.1 Apologies received from Councillor Winney-Baartz.

4. Minmi Road Concept Designs

- 4.1 Evan Buxton and Peter McMurray provided an overview of the Minmi Road concept designs:
- 4.1.1 The proposed road upgrades will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, supporting future development across the Western corridor.
 - 4.1.2 [Public Exhibition](#) of the plans to upgrade Minmi Road commenced 20 October 2023 closing 17 November. Plans will be presented to Council for adoption in December 2023.
 - 4.1.3 The Committee were provided an overview of the lane configurations. Westbound parking will be maintained, with provision for an on-road cycleway coming down the hill. The East bound lane configuration proposes a shared path and offset parking.
 - 4.1.4 Residents impacted by changes to the median have been contacted, and alternative traffic arrangements shared.
 - 4.1.5 Construction tenders are scheduled to be released in 2025, with construction completed by June 2026.
- 4.2 During the discussion it was noted that:
- 4.2.1 Consultation feedback has been strong, both via the survey and the in-person sessions. The community are keen to see the project progress.
 - 4.2.2 There are power pole considerations which will be a key focus. Utility investigations are ongoing and will form an important part of the project.

5 Georgetown Road Local Centre Public Domain and Traffic Plan

- 5.1 Sarah Horan and Patrick Burgess provided a project overview:
- 5.1.1 Georgetown Local Centre is part of the Local Centres Program which covers 48 centres across the Local Government Area. In June 2021 the elected Council resolved to initiate a public domain upgrade for Georgetown Local Centre.
 - 5.1.2 Community engagement was undertaken in 2021. A public domain plan (PDP) has been developed based on the priorities identified by the community, including improving the look and feel of the area, more trees, and pedestrian safety. Community consultation on the plans will commence this week.
 - 5.1.3 The draft PDP proposes to increase the tree canopy, from one to 39. Prioritised pedestrian road crossings will increase from two to six. There is an estimated loss of six parking spaces to support the proposed changes.
 - 5.1.4 The Committee discussed overhead powerlines and incorporation of street trees. The nearby residential development has implemented underground powerlines; it would be beneficial to continue this approach, particularly in the vicinity of the proposed green space.
 - 5.1.5 The Committee discussed the new/ongoing developments in the local centre. The developments, including a senior living facility, have onsite parking. It was noted

that there is a proposal for a café integrated into one development. The middle development is under construction and has parking incorporated in the ground floor. This is the location of the existing bus stop, and the PDP does not propose changes to the current parking arrangements at this location. The third development is proposed to be fronted by public space.

- 5.1.6 The Committee noted that Georgetown benefits from active transport options, including bus connections and train links.

6 Stakeholder Updates

- 6.1 TfNSW - Corinne Thompson provided an update:

- 6.1.1 M1 to Raymond Terrace - early works started this year and included archaeological salvage in collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders, scoping of at-residence noise treatments, and establishment of site compounds. Work on the main contract expected to commence later in the year and be completed in 2028.
- 6.1.2 Hexham Straight - work in November includes clearing, line marking, installation of barriers and signage, construction of earthworks, new pavements and site accesses, services relocation, as well as site investigations. Construction expected to be completed in 2026.
- 6.1.3 Main construction started in March 2023 and vegetation clearing was completed in early June. Earthworks continues through the main line and at southern and northern interchanges. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.
- 6.1.4 Transport met with the new NSW Government and has received direction to proceed with the preservation of a corridor for a transit system. TfNSW has been working with the property owner at 4 Tighe Street and has agreed to purchase this property as part of this future corridor. TfNSW is still working through options for the corridor preservation process, and will be requesting to meet with Council and other stakeholders in due course to seek preliminary feedback on the preferred corridor proposal before public consultation.

- 6.2 Hunter Water - Rob Main provided an update:

- 6.2.1 Customer engagement on the price proposal is a key focus. Community forums will be held in March.
- 6.2.2 Over \$200 million in capital expenditure forecast for 2023 and 2024. A large part of this is associated with project delivery within the Newcastle LGA.
- 6.2.3 Stormwater assessments are ongoing, HWC will contact CN to discuss the outcomes and where works may be best targeted.
- 6.2.4 The customer hot spots (areas where customers receive less than ideal service levels) program is ramping up, a project will shortly commence in Georgetown.
- 6.2.5 The Hill reservoir works are ongoing. This will provide improved local water security.
- 6.2.6 The Newcastle West wastewater pump station upgrade near Marketown is progressing well.
- 6.2.7 Water conservation messaging is a current focus.

6.3 Keolis Downer - Emmanuel Genlot provided apologies.

6.4 Ausgrid - Bryn Hernandez provided an update:

6.4.1 The pricing proposal is in with the Regulator. The Regulator reviews from a rear facing snapshot which presents challenges. Ausgrid are currently working on a response to the regulator's preliminary feedback which was disappointing. Engagement with Councils is proposed to support the climate focus.

6.4.2 A pole mounted battery has been installed at Henderson Park, Merewether. It is part of a trial program which aims to enable more solar in the vicinity of Henderson Park to benefit customers.

6.4.3 Renewable Energy Zones are becoming more present.

7. General Business

7.1 CN is establishing a Walking and Mobility Plan Working Party. Emmanuel Genlot was endorsed as the Infrastructure Advisory Committee's representative on the Working Party.

7.2 John Merrell is the Infrastructure Advisory Committee's representative on the Bathers Way South Newcastle Beach Community Reference Group and provided positive feedback on the last meeting, and commended CN's organisation of the reference group.

8. Closing

8.1 Next meeting: 5.30pm, Tuesday 6 February 2023
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre