

Date: Thursday 7 February 2023	Time: 5.30 – 7pm	Venue: Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre
Meeting No: 13	Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to built and natural facilities and systems within the LGA.	

1. Welcome

Councillor Winney-Baartz acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples.

The Committee welcomed Bryn Hernandez, Ausgrid's new representative replacing Frank Roberson. Bryn previously held the position of Sustainability and Resilience Manager at Lake Macquarie City Council and is Ausgrid's new Council Manager.

1.1 Attendees:

Members

Cr Peta Winney-Baartz	Councillor Member (Chair)
Cr Deahanna Richardson	Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) via Teams
Cr Katrina Wark	Councillor Member
Emmanuel Genlot	General Manager, Keolis Downer
John Merrell	Community Representative
Bryn Hernandez	Network Planning & Operations, Council Management, Ausgrid
Robert Main	Business Program Manager Intelligent Networks, Hunter Water
Corinne Thompson	Senior Manager, Community and Place Partner, Transport NSW

Guests

Robert Dudgeon	Executive Manager Project Management Office
David Grejsen	Acting Program and Project Services Manager
Rachel Howard	Committee Secretary (Minutes)
Matthew Murray	Chief of Staff, Lord Mayor's Office
Joanne Rigby	Executive Director City Infrastructure and Committee Facilitator
Ryan Tranter	Traffic and Transport Manager, City of Newcastle

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 20 October 2022 endorsed as circulated. Bryn noted that he did not attend the meeting and abstained.

2.2 No outstanding actions.

3. Committee Performance

3.1 The Annual Performance Report was endorsed by the Committee. The report will be publicly available on CN's website and tabled at the March Ordinary Council meeting.

- 3.2 The Committee discussed strategic focus areas for the year ahead. The Committee endorsed the following focus areas:
- Coastal Management – Environment and Built Infrastructure.
 - Integrated and Accessible Transport:
 - It was noted during the discussion that the focus will be on strategic transport matters rather than operational matters.
 - Sports Infrastructure Delivery.
- 3.3 Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz was nominated as the Committee's representative on the Newcastle Ocean Baths Stage 2 Community Reference Group.
- 3.4 John Merrell was nominated as the Committee's representative on the Bathers Way – King Edward Park Community Reference Group.

4. Sports Infrastructure Working Party Update

- 4.1 Councillor Winney-Baartz advised that the EOI process put in place for sporting groups to apply for external funding has been implemented. The first applications are starting to come through. The applications are required to note which objectives in CN's Strategic Sports Plan are met by the project. This will lead to more effective infrastructure delivery and improved outcomes for the community.
- 4.2 CN are currently working on a number of masterplans including Smith Park, Waratah Park and Gregson Park. Multiple groups use these facilities.

5. Wallsend Bridge Delivery

- 5.1 David Cotterill, Acting Manager Project Management Office provided a presentation on the Boscawen Steet Bridge replacement project:
- 5.1.1 Wallsend Local Centre is currently being upgraded in accordance with a [public domain plan](#).
- 5.1.2 Wallsend CBD is on the major floodplain of Ironbark Creek. During rare storm events, the floodplain can spill into urban areas causing overland flow flooding, resulting in significant flood risk for the Wallsend CBD. Multiple flood studies have since been commissioned by CN including the [Ironbark Creek Flood Study](#).
- 5.1.3 The Committee noted that due to the nature of the catchment, the risk of flooding within Wallsend CBD cannot be completely eliminated. Future flood reduction works, such as the bridge replacement program, will mitigate against one-in-five and one-in-ten year events.
- 5.1.4 Construction works for the Boscawen Street Bridge replacement are scheduled to commence on site in mid-2023. The proposed design is for a 24m bridge span with a single pier and heavy duty vehicle barriers.
- 5.1.5 A shared pathway in accordance with the CN's Cycling Strategy will be incorporated as well as renewed stormwater infrastructure.

- 5.1.6 Relocation of overhead powerlines will be required resulting in planned outages in consultation with Ausgrid.
- 5.1.7 CN has been working collaboratively with HWC as a key stakeholder in this project given asset ownership of the channel. A Consent Deed to access the HWC channel is underway. HWC has participated in the detail design.
- 5.2 The Committee discussed overtopping and the levels that could be accommodated by the upgraded infrastructure. The key is to mitigate and reduce the velocity/depth ratio to make it safer for the community. The risk cannot be fully eliminated.
- 5.3 CN is committed to a program of bridge renewal (Tyrrell, Boscawen, Nelson and Cowper) in Wallsend. The channel is a HWC asset. There is currently no agreed funding pathway to support channel augmentation. Wallsend flood mitigation has consistently featured on CN advocacy documents sent to State and Federal governments.
- 5.4 Ausgrid noted the significant infrastructure in and around the channel which would be impacted by any future widening. It was noted that this would be a key part of the planning and design process.
- 5.5 KD would like to be engaged as soon as possible on the Cowper Street Bridge upgrade as this is a key route on the network. CN noted that this is a complex site, with additional flood modelling currently being undertaken.
- 5.6 The Committee noted the importance of sharing information between agencies to enable informed decision making.

6 2023 Major Projects Overview

- 6.1 David Grejsen presented City of Newcastle's 2023 major projects. CN is delivering a works program in excess of \$130m this financial year across eight portfolios with 39 programs and over 300 individual projects. Some of the major projects include:
- Organics Processing Facility, Materials Recovery Facility and access road at Summerhill Waste Management Centre.
 - Remediation of the former Astra Street landfill site.
 - Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion mine grouting works and tender for main works.
 - Newcastle Ocean Baths Stage 1 and Bathers Way South Newcastle Beach which are both currently under construction.
 - The contract for construction of Boscawen Street Bridge will be tabled for Council approval in February.
 - Cottage Creek Bridge is an aged asset at end of life which needs to be replaced. This is a complex project which will require the road to be closed through construction which will have major traffic and utility impacts.
- Action: The Committee will receive a presentation on this project at a future meeting to enable stakeholder coordination.**
- Longworth Avenue (Newcastle Road to Sandgate Road) and Minmi Road widening are currently at concept design stage.
 - Implementation of Stockton CMP management actions and preparation of the Southern Beaches CMP.

7. Stakeholder Updates

7.1 Corrine Thompson provided an update on a range of TfNSW matters:

7.1.1 State planning approval for the M1 extension to Raymond Terrace was given on 8 November 2022. The work will be delivered under two contracts – one for the 10km section from Black Hill to Tomago and the other for the northern 5km section that bypasses Heatherbrae. Early works are expected to start early this year and includes archaeological salvage in collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders, scoping of at-residence noise treatments and establishment of site compounds.

7.1.2 The Hexham Straight project early work including geotechnical and utility investigations are underway and will continue for the first half of the year. Main construction will commence mid-2023 with construction expected to be completed in 2026.

7.1.3 Early work and site establishment activities for the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass started in September and main construction activities are expected to commence by the end of February. An online interactive portal to support community engagement during construction is now live.

7.1.4 TfNSW is currently having discussions around light rail in the context of aligning Fast Rail and the Broadmeadow Catalyst Area and is seeking guidance as to the next steps and approach from the NSW Government.

7.2 Hunter Water – Robert Main provided an update:

7.2.1 Community engagement will be undertaken in 2023 in relation to the IPART pricing submission.

7.2.2 Stormwater channel rehabilitations are ongoing with four priority areas identified as:

- Turton Road, Lambton,
- Platt Street, Waratah,
- Macquarie Street, Mayfield, and
- Christo Road, Georgetown.

7.2.3 A major upgrade to the Newcastle West wastewater pump station is planned for 2023, with early work undertaken in November and December 2022. This is a complex site neighbouring the Marketown shopping centre car park.

7.3 Keolis Downer - Emmanuel Genlot provided an update:

7.3.1 Zero Emissions Bus Strategy – three electric buses have been delivered and tested and will be launched in the coming days.

7.3.2 Preparations for Supercars are ongoing, focusing on improved coordination between all stakeholders. It is a great event for the city and a busy piece of work for service providers such as KD.

7.3.3 Full return of services with the schools back following summer holidays, however staff shortages continue to be a challenge for service delivery. The recruitment drive is still ongoing, new staff coming on board are being trained and this should improve levels of service in the long term.

7.3.4 Revenue compliance being undertaken by KD (previously TfNSW) as of December to tackle fare evasion. KD are currently in the education phase to ensure the community are informed.

7.3.5 Discussion of New Years Eve and measures that can be put in place to mitigate future issues through improved stakeholder collaboration.

7.4 Ausgrid – Bryn Hernandez provided an update:

7.4.1 Ausgrid has submitted its [2024-29 Regulatory Proposal](#) to the AER. The proposal sets out the revenue Ausgrid proposes to collect from its consumers through distribution network charges over the 2024–29 regulatory control period. Climate resilience has been incorporated within the submission for the first time.

7.4.2 LED Streetlighting upgrade will reduce energy consumption and improve fault detection which will improve safety outcomes.

7.4.3 Three community batteries are currently being trialled in NSW including one in Cameron Park.

7.4.4 Newcastle's first pole mounted EV charger is now in operation, installed on an existing pole asset. The goal is for this type of infrastructure to make EV vehicles more accessible to the community.

7.4.5 Bryn is new in the role, please reach out if there are any matters for collaboration.

8. General Business

8.1 Nil.

9. Closing

9.1 Next meeting: 5.30pm, Tuesday 4 April 2023
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Administration Centre