

## CITY OF NEWCASTLE

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Level 1, City Administration Centre, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West on Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 6.03pm.**

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### **PRESENT**

The Lord Mayor (Councillor N Nelmes), Councillors J Church, D Clausen, C Duncan, J Dunn, K Elliott (*retired 9.35pm*), B Luke, J Mackenzie, A Robinson (*retired 8.52pm*), A Rufo, E White and P Winney-Baartz.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

J Bath (Chief Executive Officer), D Clarke (Director Governance and Chief Financial Officer), F Leatham (Director People and Culture), J Rigby (Acting Director Infrastructure and Property), L Duffy (Acting Director City Wide Services), K Hyland (Interim Director Strategy and Engagement), H Sexton (Acting Manager Legal), M Bisson (Manager Regulatory, Planning and Assessment), S Moore (Manager Finance), N Kaiser (Acting Manager Major Events and Corporate Affairs), M Murray (Chief of Staff), E Dowsell (Media and Stakeholder Relations Manager), M Meehan (Senior Media Advisor), A Knowles (Councillor Services/Minutes), K Sullivan (Councillor Services/Meeting Support), L Stanhope (Councillor Services/Meeting Support), G Axelsson (Information Technology Support) and U Bansal (Information Technology Support).

### **REQUEST TO ATTEND BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK**

#### **MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

The request submitted by Councillor Dunn to attend by audio visual link be received and leave granted.

**Carried**

### **APOLOGIES**

Nil

### **MESSAGE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Lord Mayor read the message of acknowledgement to the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

### **PRAYER**

The Lord Mayor read a prayer and a period of silence was observed in memory of those who served and died so that Council might meet in peace.

### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

#### **Councillor Elliott**

Councillor Elliott declared a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 111 – Councillor Kath Elliott Stay of Suspension; as she was the subject of the item and would remove herself from the Chamber for discussion on the item.

## CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**MINUTES - PUBLIC VOICE COMMITTEE 19 OCTOBER 2021**  
**MINUTES - BRIEFING COMMITTEE 19 OCTOBER 2021**  
**MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL 26 OCTOBER 2021**

### MOTION

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Clausen

The draft minutes as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

**Carried**

## LORD MAYORAL MINUTE

**ITEM-27                      LMM 23/11/21 - NEWCASTLE SAYS NO TO SYDNEY'S TOXIC WASTE FROM NORTHERN BEACHES LINK PROJECT**

### MOTION

Moved by Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes

That City of Newcastle:

- 1 Notes with concern that on 15 November 2021, the NSW Government, through Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW), announced plans to ship toxic waste from the construction of the Northern Beaches Link to Newcastle, advising that the material would be stored at the Port of Newcastle, before being trucked to an unnamed Waste Management facility;
- 2 Notes this announcement was not discussed with City of Newcastle (CN) staff or the elected Council, and was not discussed with the Port of Newcastle;
- 3 Commends the Port of Newcastle who subsequently advised that they give *"no guarantee that the material proposed will be accepted, or is suitable, for unloading at the Port. Furthermore, if it was to be accepted, the Port has specified that the material could not be stored at Port of Newcastle for any period."*
- 4 Notes that there is no agreement for CN to take waste from Sydney with TfNSW, and that only one meeting between CN and TfNSW has occurred, where TfNSW were advised that in order for any waste to be considered for landfill disposal at the Summerhill Waste Management Facility it must meet our strict requirements set under the EPA's Waste Classification Guideline for General Solid Waste and that CN Officers stressed that any waste would need to be independently tested to confirm that it meet our strict licensing requirements. No further meetings have occurred between CN and TfNSW since this initial meeting;
- 5 Raises serious concern about the handling of this matter by the NSW Government and the unnecessary distress that has been caused in the community given the complete lack of community consultation, or consultation with City of Newcastle prior to the media announcement;

- 6 Writes to the Premier, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, and Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Minister for Transport and Roads, the Hon. Rob Stokes MP, advising that City of Newcastle will not accept toxic sludge from the Northern Beaches Link project at Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-28 LMM 23/11/21 - SAVE NEWCASTLE'S AFTER HOURS GP SERVICE**

**MOTION**

Moved by Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes

- 1 Notes with concern the Federal Morrison Liberal Government's decision to close the Hunter Primary Care (HPC) GP Access After Hours Service (GPAAH) at the Calvary Mater Hospital, and reducing opening hours at the remaining four clinic across the Hunter Region;
- 2 Notes that 15,000 people may be left without access to vital medical care;
- 3 Commends Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Claydon MP, for fighting to save our after-hours GP service, noting that a petition of more than 11,000 signatures of concerned Newcastle residents against the closure of this crucial service has been tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament;
- 4 Writes to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, and the Minister for Health, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, calling on them to reverse this decision, and restore the full services of the HPC GP Access After Hours Service in Newcastle and the Hunter.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-29 LMM 23/11/21 - END OF TERM AND RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCILLORS; COUNCILLORS DUNN, RUFO AND LUKE**

The Lord Mayor acknowledged the retirement of Councillors Dunn, Rufo and Luke.

Extracts from the Lord Mayoral Minute provided below reflect their time as Councillors.

**Councillor Jason Dunn**

*Since 2012, he and his Labor colleagues have achieved considerable changes and improvements for Ward 4 and the city, including saving local services, including the Beresfield Swimming Pool and Golf Course, delivery of flood mitigation to Wallsend, public domain upgrades in Beresfield, Wallsend and Shortland; and securing the City's financial security, without cutting jobs or services.*

*He acknowledged a hard working team that had helped set up the city for ongoing success and was proud to have been part of a Council that had been deemed 'financially fit for the future' by the NSW Government.*

*Councillor Dunn expressed he was proud of his achievements as a Councillor, and it has been a privilege to represent the people of Ward 4.*

### **Councillor Luke**

*Councillor Luke was elected in 2008 as the first ever Liberal Party endorsed Councillor on Newcastle City Council and during his time, he served 2 years as the Deputy Lord Mayor.*

*He has served on various other roles including on the Joint Regional Planning Panel from its inception until 2017; the Asset Advisory Committee for his entire time on Council; the Audit Committee from 2008 till 2012, and various other committees.*

*Councillor Luke said he is very proud to have represented Ward 2 for the past 13 years and would like to thank all the staff he has worked with for their professionalism and hard work. He would also like to thank all the fellow Councillors who have served on council alongside him, and also thank the residents of Ward 2 for giving him the privilege over the last 3 terms.*

### **Councillor Rufo**

*Councillor Rufo thanked residents of Ward 3 for placing their trust in him and was honoured to have represented Ward 3 residents and Newcastle as a whole and he hoped that he had served them well.*

*His approach to Council issues had been, to be open and transparent, to support the residents of Ward 3 and community of Newcastle as a whole, and always, to be approachable and accessible. He believed he had always acted with integrity, empathy, and honesty.*

*It has been a privilege to work with some wonderful staff throughout the organisation. I would like to extend my appreciation for the amazing work you all do. Your support has made my job that much easier.*

The Lord Mayor acknowledged Councillor White, who had chosen to stand in the number two position on the Labor ticket for Ward 1, for her contribution to Council recognising one of her many achievements in the push for an apprenticeship and traineeship program through the City of Newcastle.

### **MOTION**

Moved by Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes

That City of Newcastle with acclamation:

- 1 Notes that this meeting of 23 November 2021 is the last Ordinary Council Meeting of an extended term which began on 26 September 2017;
- 2 Congratulates all Staff and Councillors for their contribution throughout this Council term;
- 3 Notes that this meeting marks the final meeting of retiring Councillors, Councillor Jason Dunn, Councillor Andrea Rufo and Councillor Brad Luke;

- 4 Congratulates each of our outgoing Councillors for their contribution to the betterment of the City of Newcastle.

**Carried  
unanimously**

## REPORTS BY COUNCIL OFFICERS

### ITEM-111 CCL 23/11/21 - COUNCILLOR KATH ELLIOTT STAY OF SUSPENSION

Councillor Elliott left the Chamber for discussion on the item.

#### MOTION

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council:

- 1 Notes the stay of suspension of Councillor Kath Elliott from civic office, in accordance with the Orders issued by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) on 4 November 2021; and
- 2 Notes the NCAT will hear Councillor Elliott's appeal against her suspension from civic office by the Office of Local Government (OLG) on 13 December 2021.

**Carried**

Councillor Elliott returned to the Chamber at the conclusion of the item.

### ITEM-113 CCL 23/11/21 - ADOPTION OF 2022 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

#### MOTION

Moved by Cr Elliott, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council:

- 1 Amends the 2021 adopted meeting schedule to vacate the December 2021 Committee and Ordinary Council meetings due to the rescheduling of the Local Government Election to 4 December 2021.
- 2 Adopts the following meeting schedule for 2022, with Meetings taking place on Tuesday commencing at 6.00pm:

i) For January 2022:

<b>Week 1</b>	No scheduled Meetings
<b>Week 2</b>	No scheduled Meetings
<b>Week 3</b>	Inaugural Council Meeting <i>to be held in former Council Chamber at City Hall</i>  Councillor Induction Program
<b>Week 4</b>	No scheduled Meetings – Councillor Induction Program

ii) For February 2022:

<b>Week 1</b>	No scheduled Meetings – Councillor Induction Program
<b>Week 2</b>	No scheduled Meetings – Councillor Induction Program Councillor Workshops (as required)
<b>Week 3</b>	Committee Meetings (as required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Voice Committee</li> <li>• Briefings Committee</li> <li>• Development Applications Committee</li> </ul> Councillor Workshops (as required)
<b>Week 4</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting

iii) For the period March, May, July, August, September, October and November 2022:

<b>Week 1</b>	Advisory Committees (at least 4 times per calendar year)  Note: LGNSW Special Conference (28 February – 2 March 2022)
<b>Week 2</b>	Councillor Workshops (as required)
<b>Week 3</b>	Committee Meetings (as required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Voice Committee</li> <li>• Briefings Committee</li> <li>• Development Applications Committee</li> </ul> Councillor Workshops (as required)
<b>Week 4</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Week 5</b>	No scheduled Meetings

iv) For April and June 2022:

<b>Week 1</b>	Advisory Committees (at least 4 times per calendar year)
<b>Week 2</b>	Committee Meetings (as required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Voice Committee</li> <li>• Briefings Committee</li> <li>• Development Applications Committee</li> </ul> Councillor Workshops (as required)
<b>Week 3</b>	No scheduled Meetings  Note: Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (19-22 June 2022 <i>to be confirmed</i> )
<b>Week 4</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting

v) For December 2022:

<b>Week 1</b>	Committee Meetings (as required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Voice Committee</li> <li>• Briefings Committee</li> <li>• Development Applications Committee</li> </ul> Councillor Workshops (as required)
<b>Week 2</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Week 3</b>	No scheduled Meetings

<b>Week 4</b>	No scheduled Meetings
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- 3 Notes the location of all Meetings, with the exception of the January 2022 Inaugural Meeting, will be the City Administration Centre, 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West, unless otherwise determined by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Lord Mayor.
- 4 Notes that for the purposes of the Instruments of Delegation to the Lord Mayor and CEO, Council's "Recess Period" commences from the date of the declaration of a new elected Council and ceases at midnight on Monday 17 January 2022. The "Recess Period" does not apply between the day of the last ordinary Council meeting and the date of declaration of a new elected Council.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-114                      CCL 23/11/21 - TABLING OF REGISTER OF DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST - 1 AUGUST TO 31 OCTOBER 2021**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Elliott, seconded by Cr Clausen

That Council:

- 1 Note the tabling of the Register of Disclosures of Interest (for the period 1 August to 31 October 2021) by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-117                      CCL 23/11/21 - PLANNING PROPOSAL - LINGARD PRIVATE HOSPITAL - ENDORSEMENT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Elliott, seconded by Cr Rufo

That Council:

- 1 Endorse the Planning Proposal (**Attachment A**) prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), to commence the process to amend the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 (NLEP 2012), as follows:
  - i) Rezone the land at 23 Merewether Street, Merewether from R3 Medium Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure (Health Service Facilities) and the land at 8 Lingard Street, Merewether from B5 Business Development to SP2 Infrastructure (Health Service Facilities).
  - ii) Increase the maximum Height of Building (HOB) standard from 10 metres to 18 metres at 23 Merewether Street and 8 Lingard Street, Merewether.
  - iii) Remove the maximum prescribed Floor Space Ratio (FSR) control (which is currently 0.9:1) at both 23 Merewether Street and 8 Lingard Street, Merewether.

- 2 Forward the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for a Gateway Determination pursuant to Section 3.34 of the EP&A Act, including a request that Council is authorised to make the proposed instrument pursuant to subsection 2(g).
- 3 Receive a report on the Planning Proposal following the exhibition period, undertaken in accordance with the Gateway Determination.
- 4 Requests the Gateway determination include a condition authorising Council to be the Local Plan Making Authority.

**For the Motion:** Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Church, Clausen, Dunn, Duncan, Elliott, Luke, Mackenzie, Robinson, Rufo, White and Winney-Baartz.

**Against the Motion:** Nil.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-118 CCL 23/11/21 - VARIATIONS TO DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS  
- 3RD QUARTER 2021**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

That Council:

- 1 Receives the report on approved development variations between 1 July to 30 September 2021 at **Attachment A** in accordance with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) concurrence to vary development standards in the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 (NLEP 2012).

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-121 CCL 23/11/21 - EXECUTIVE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE  
REPORT**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council:

- 1 Receives the Executive Monthly Performance Report for October 2021.

**For the Motion:** Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Church, Clausen, Dunn, Duncan, Elliott, Luke, Mackenzie, Robinson, Rufo, White and Winney-Baartz.

**Against the Motion:** Nil.

**Carried  
unanimously**



**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Luke, seconded by Cr Rufo

That Council recommit Item 121 – Executive Monthly Performance Report.

**Carried**

**ITEM-120                    CCL 23/11/21 - SEPTEMBER QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE 2018-2022 DELIVERY PROGRAM**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr White

That Council:

- 1     Receives the 2018-2022 Delivery Program - September Quarterly Performance Report (Report) at **Attachment A**.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-112                    CCL 23/11/21 - CODE OF CONDUCT ANNUAL STATISTICS**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Church, seconded by Cr Rufo

That Council:

- 1     Notes City of Newcastle's Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics Report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 at **Attachment A**.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-115                    CCL 23/11/21 - END OF TERM REPORT 2017 - 2021**

**MOTION**

Moved by Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes, seconded by Cr Clausen

That Council:

- 1     Endorse CN's End of Term Report 2017-2021 (Report) at **Attachment A**.

The Lord Mayor circulated a graph outlining the infrastructure delivery from 2008/09 until 2021/22 by City of Newcastle.

The motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Clausen was put to the meeting.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-116**                    **CCL 23/11/21 - ADOPTION OF GREGSON PARK  
MASTERPLAN AND HERITAGE PLACES PLAN OF  
MANAGEMENT FOR GREGSON PARK**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Duncan, seconded by Cr Elliott

That Council:

- 1    Adopts the Gregson Park Masterplan as amended following public exhibition **(Attachment A)**.
- 2    Notes the verbal and written submissions received as part of Section 5 in the Public Hearing Report **(Attachment B)** for the Heritage Places Plan of Management.
- 3    Adopts the Heritage Places Plan of Management for Gregson Park **(Attachment C)** and retain the 'Sportsground' category over the southern section of the western tennis court.
- 4    Repeals the existing Heritage Places Plan of Management for Gregson Park.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-119**                    **CCL 23/11/21 - ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2020/21 ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council:

- 1    Endorses CN's 2020/21 Annual Report and its submission to the NSW Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2021.

**For the Motion:**

Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Church, Clausen, Dunn, Duncan, Elliott, Luke, Mackenzie, Robinson, Rufo, White and Winney-Bartz.

**Against the Motion:**

Nil.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-121**                    **CCL 23/11/21 - EXECUTIVE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE  
REPORT (RECOMMITTED)**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Clausen

That Council:

- 1    Receives the Executive Monthly Performance Report for October 2021.

**For the Motion:**

Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Clausen, Dunn, Duncan, Luke, Mackenzie, Rufo, White and Winney-Baartz.

**Against the Motion:**

Councillors Church, Elliott and Robinson.

**Carried**

**ITEM-122                    CCL 23/11/21 - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - TENDER REPORT - SUPPLY OF FOUR GREEN WASTE TRUCKS - 2021/714T**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council:

- 1 Resolves not to accept any tender for the Supply of Four Green Waste Trucks for Contract No. 2021/714T.
- 2 Endorses continued maintenance of the current green waste fleet until a business case is completed for options considering a transition to electric or alternative fuel vehicles to meet City of Newcastle's (CN) 2025 Climate Action Plan (CAP) commitments.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**ITEM-37                    NOM 23/11/21 - END OF TERM REVIEW - COUNCILLOR PRODUCTIVITY**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

That Council:

- 1 Acknowledges that the 23 November 2021 meeting is the final of the 2017-2021 term of Council.
- 2 Acknowledges that at this meeting, Council will receive the End of Term Report, summarizing its performance over the last 4 years.
- 3 Notes that under the Local Government Act, a Councillor's role is to set the direction and strategy of the Council, provide governance oversight of the organisation in its operations, and advocate on behalf of their communities.
- 4 Notes that Councillor initiated motions are one of the key mechanisms for Councillors to undertaking this role; and
- 5 Notes that during the 2017-2021 term of Council, there have been:

- a 51 meetings of the council (ordinary and extraordinary meetings) where Councillor initiated motions have been considered
- b Across these meetings 287 motions have been considered and debated
- c 97% of these motions have been Carried. 68% of all motions were Carried Unanimously
- d Labor Councillors developed and presented 74% of all Councillor initiated motions (206 motions), the Greens Councillor developed and presented 17% (47 motions), the 'Independent' block developed and presented 9% (25 motions), and the Liberal Councillor 0% (0 motions)
- e These covered topics as important as:
  - Establishing an Apprenticeship Scheme (24/10/17)
  - Extending Beresfield Pool's Hours (24/10/17)
  - Developing a proactive Footpath Plan (27/03/18)
  - Advocating for Our Fair Share of the Snowy Sale (Councillor Elliott against) (24/7/18)
  - Supporting refugee community support programs (Councillor Luke against) (28/8/18)
  - Supporting the expansion of the Newcastle Art Gallery (25/09/18)
  - Developing a Verge Garden Policy (23/10/18)
  - Committing to a 'Buy Local' policy in procurement (11/12/18) and an Indigenous procurement policy (28/11/17)
  - Developing an Affordable Housing Policy (Councillor Church left the Chamber) (26/03/19)
  - Becoming the first Council to shift to 100% renewable energy, with a PPA that is now saving ratepayers money (opposed by Councillors Church, Elliott and Luke) (16/04/19)
  - Advocating to ensure that elected local councillors retain responsibility for local planning decisions (opposed by Councillor Church) (16/04/19)
  - Declaring a climate emergency (Councillors Church and Elliott left the Chamber) (28/05/19)
  - Addressing Urban Heat Island effect (Councillor Luke against) (23/7/19)
  - Declaring Sexism and Homophobia inappropriate in the council workplace (Councillors Church, Elliott and Rufo left the Chamber) (24/09/19)
  - Developing a Live Music Strategy (10/12/19)
  - Responding to COVID through the development of the award-winning Community and Economic Resilience Package (24/03/20)
  - Funding hardship support for ratepayers (opposed by Councillors Church, Elliott, Luke and Robinson) (26/05/20)
  - New Annual Festival (Councillors Church and Elliott against) (23/3/21)
  - Housing Affordability Crisis in Newcastle (Councillors Church and Luke against) (27/04/21)
  - Best practice employment conditions for staff engaged on council projects (opposed by Councillors Church and Luke) (27/07/21)

Councillor Robinson retired from the meeting at 8.52pm.

The mover and seconder supported the proposal by the Lord Mayor that, if the motion was carried, this Notice of Motion be included as an Appendix to Item 115 - the End of Term Report 2017-2021.

The motion moved by Councillor Clausen and seconded by Councillor Winney-Baartz was put to the meeting.

**Carried**

#### **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Elliott, seconded by Cr Luke

That Notice of Motions, Item 41 – Koala Habitat and Item 42 – Protecting the Green Corridor to be heard following Item 37 – End of Term Review – Councillor Productivity.

**Defeated**

#### **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes, seconded by Cr Clausen

That Notice of Motion, Item 42 – Protecting the Green Corridor be heard following Item 37 – End of Term Review Councillor Productivity.

**Carried**

### **ITEM-42                      NOM 23/11/21 - PROTECTING THE GREEN CORRIDOR**

#### **MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Elliott

That the City of Newcastle

- 1 Notes that the Hunter Regional Plan, a 20-year strategic planning blueprint for the future of the Hunter region, is currently under review by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, in order to extend the plan to 2041 and to reset priorities.
- 2 Notes that the 2006 Lower Hunter Regional Strategy established the 'Green Corridor' an intact ecological corridor that links the Watagans and Yengo National Parks with the coastal plains of the Tomago Sand beds, Stockton Bight and Port Stephens. City of Newcastle further notes that the protection of the Corridor recognised the importance of large vegetated areas being linked via habitat corridors at a landscape scale.
- 3 Notes the regional conservation value of the Corridor was reiterated in Hunter Regional Plan 2036 (2016) and the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 (2018), although being redesignated in the latter as the 'Blue and Green Grid'.
- 4 Notes the directive for Greater Newcastle Councils issued in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 to "prevent intensive urban development in the Blue and Green Grid" (p35).

- 5 Reiterates its commitment for the protection of the Green Corridor and the prevention of intensive urban development in the Corridor vicinity.
- 6 Endorses and advocates for the greater recognition and permanent protection, including through the inclusion of the remaining unprotected areas of the Green Corridor in the reserve estate, in the regional plan review.

**For the Motion:** Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Church, Clausen, Dunn, Duncan, Elliott, Mackenzie, Robinson, Rufo, White and Winney-Baartz.

**Against the Motion:** Councillor Luke.

**Carried**

**ITEM-38                      NOM 23/11/21 - BUILDING ON LOCAL CENTRES PROGRAM SUCCESS**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

That Council:

- 1 Once again commends our staff for the successful implementation of the Local Centres Program which has seen almost more than \$16 million invested into the delivery of infrastructure renewal at Beresfield (\$3 million), Carrington (\$3 million), Kotara (\$2 million), Merewether (\$2 million) James Street Plaza, Hamilton (\$1 million), Wallsend (\$3.3 million Tyrrell Street Bridge replacement, with an additional \$20.8 million committed for staged Wallsend Local Centre and Ironbark Creek Flood Mitigation strategy);
- 2 Notes that Local Centres Program projects are currently underway at Mitchell Street, Stockton; and Shortland Local Centre; while detailed design and community consultation at Orchardtown Road, New Lambton is underway, with planning for the next stages of delivery for the Wallsend Local Centre almost complete;
- 3 Notes that that Georgetown and Waratah Local Centres have been initiated following a successful Notice of Motion carried in May 2021;
- 4 Initiates detailed planning for Local Centre Upgrades at Maitland Road, Mayfield, in consultation with the recently re-formed Mayfield BIA, as the next Local Centre projects for delivery after Orchardtown Road New Lambton, and the Georgetown and Waratah local centres.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-39                      NOM 23/11/21 - 2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SUMMERHILL SOLAR FARM**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That City of Newcastle:

## **PART A**

- 1 Notes that this month marks the 2-year anniversary of the commencement of operations of our five-megawatt solar farm at Summerhill Waste Management Centre;
- 2 Acknowledges that the solar farm, constructed on top of a capped, disused landfill cell on the site of a former coal mine, contains 14,500 photovoltaic cells and produces enough clean, renewable energy to power the equivalent of around 1300 Newcastle households annually, is on track to save ratepayers around \$9 million, after costs, over its 25-year lifespan, and ensures City of Newcastle is meeting 100 per cent of its power supply through renewable energy sources;
- 3 Notes that because of the Summerhill Solar Farm, and our PPA with the Sapphire Wind Farm, we were able to become the first Council in NSW, and one of the first Councils in Australia, to move to 100% renewable electricity supply for all our City's operations; and
- 4 Commits to taking all further necessary actions required to meet our ambitious target of net zero emissions for City of Newcastle's operations by 2030, and sets interim targets to ensure net zero community emissions by 2040, as outlined in the adopted City of Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-2025 (**Attachment A**), including:
  - Ensuring best practice energy and water efficiency across all facilities.
  - Significantly reducing our emissions through the City's supply chains.
  - Ensuring that all of the City's street lighting is through LED or best practice equivalent by 2025.
  - Pursuing zero emissions transport across our operational fleet vehicles, with a commitment to halving our current level of liquid fuel use by 2025.

## **PART B Photovoltaic Solar commitment**

- 1 Notes that Council now has more than 800 kilowatts of photovoltaic solar systems installed across 16 key sites including the City, Wallsend and New Lambton libraries, No.1 and No.2 Sportsgrounds, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle Museum, the City Administration Centre at 12 Stewart Avenue, the Visitor Information Centre and the Works Depot;
- 2 Continues to deliver solar systems on the roofs of CN assets, including at Fort Scratchley, Summerhill Waste Management Centre and the Civic Theatre; and
- 3 Explores options to further increase our solar energy generation capabilities, at all available Council sites.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-40****NOM 23/11/21 - LOCAL SPORTING FACILITY UPGRADES  
2017-2021**

Moved by Cr Winney-Baartz, seconded by Cr Duncan

That Council:

- 1 Notes that since 2017, City of Newcastle has invested more than \$87 million on the city's open spaces with \$21.3 million of improvements to our existing facilities delivered over this Council term between 2017-2021;
- 2 Notes that we have partnered with numerous local sporting organisations to deliver upgraded sporting facilities across the City;
- 3 Congratulates our City of Newcastle Parks and Recreation Staff for the delivery of more than \$21 million worth of capital works upgrades for local sporting facilities right across our city and suburbs over the last term of Council, including funding for:
  - Upper Reserve Wallsend – renew amenities building
  - Upper Reserve Wallsend – floodlight upgrade
  - Mitchell Park Merewether – Clark Stand upgrade works
  - Tuxford Park Upgrade
  - Wallsend Oval drainage
  - Darling Street Oval Floodlighting
  - Elermore Vale Sporting Complex Upgraded Floodlighting
  - Harry Edwards Oval, Lambton Park – Sporting field renewal
  - Ecofit Outdoor Exercise Program
  - No. 1 Redevelopment
  - No. 2 Sportsground Upgrades
  - Nesbit Park Resurfacing Sports Field, Kotara
  - Alder Park Storage, New Lambton
  - Harker Oval, New Lambton Amenities upgrades
  - Hudson Park, Kotara
  - Cook Park upgrades, Shortland
  - Thomas Percy floodlighting, Waratah West
- 4 Notes that significant capital is required to upgrade local amenities to help further facilitate the growth of women's sport in Newcastle, and that the NSW Government has made City of Newcastle **ineligible** to apply for any of the \$150 million dedicated fund to enhance women's sporting facilities, including change rooms, due to our City's classification.
- 5 Notes that when a further \$100 million of funding was announced in May 2021, following \$50 million previously announced in January 2021, to upgrade women's sporting facilities, the Lord Mayor wrote to the Deputy Premier outlining our disappointment at being ineligible to apply for any funding, despite an audit of our sporting venues finding that only one of our City's 63 sporting venues has identified female friendly change rooms to cater for high level sport. No response to this correspondence was ever received.



- 6 Writes to the new Deputy Premier, the Hon. Paul Toole MP, asking that the NSW Government provide fair and equitable access to the significant grant funding available throughout almost everywhere else in NSW to improve our female sporting facilities, including change rooms.

Councillor Elliott retired from the meeting at 9.35pm.

At 9.45pm, the following procedural motion was moved.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Duncan, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council extend the duration of the meeting until all items on the agenda have been heard.

**Carried**

The motion moved by Councillor Winney-Baartz, seconded by Councillor Duncan was put to the meeting.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-41                      KOALA HABITAT**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr White

That the City of Newcastle

- 1 Notes that since 1990, NSW koala populations have declined by between 20% and 50%, to be in the range of 15,000 to 25,000 remaining. Local extinctions have already occurred and the species is projected to become extinct in the wild in NSW within 30 years.
- 2 Notes that Australian Koala Foundation announced in May 2019 that there are no more than 80,000 koalas in Australia, making the species “functionally extinct”.
- 3 Recognises the need for coordinated action across NSW to ensure future generations can see these iconic species in the wild.
- 4 Writes to the Premier, Minister for Planning & Public Spaces, Minister for Energy and Environment, and Minister for Agriculture urging them to:
  - a. Maintain council dual consent provisions for Private Native Forestry in Local Environmental Plans, to account for the variability within regions, zoning objectives, site survey needs, traffic and infrastructure limitations, and consultation with adjoining land holders;
  - b. Maintain council’s ability to regulate environmental zones to protect, manage and restore lands of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values, particularly for the protection of core koala habitat;

- c. Provide planning certainty, resources and support for identifying core koala habitat and the development of Koala Plans of Management; and
- d. Allow for departures from the Koala Habitat Protection Guideline based on existing surveys, local circumstances or emerging technology where this is agreed to by the Department.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**The meeting concluded at 9.48pm.**