



City of  
Newcastle



## CITY OF NEWCASTLE

# Ordinary Council Meeting

Councillors,

In accordance with section 367 of the Local Government Act, 1993 notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on:

**DATE:** Tuesday 24 March 2020

**TIME:** 6.00pm

**VENUE:** Council Chambers  
2nd Floor  
City Hall  
290 King Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300

J Bath  
Chief Executive Officer

**City Administration Centre  
12 Stewart Avenue  
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302**

19 March 2020

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<b>ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING</b> <b>24 March 2020</b>
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**FOR DOCUMENTS MARKED 'DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER' REFER TO COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AT [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)**

**NOTE: ITEMS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE DEALT WITH IN NUMERICAL ORDER**

**CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MINUTES - EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** 200211 Extraordinary Council Meeting

*Note: The attached minutes are a record of the decisions made by Council at the meeting and are draft until adopted by Council. They may be viewed at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)*

**CITY OF NEWCASTLE**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall, 290 King Street, Newcastle on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 8.29pm.**

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**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

J Bath (Chief Executive Officer), D Clarke (Director Governance), K Liddell (Director Infrastructure and Property), F Leatham (Director People and Culture), A Jones (Interim Director City Wide Services), E Kolatchew (Manager Legal), S Moore (Acting Chief Financial Officer), M Bisson (Manager Regulatory, Planning and Assessment), T Uren (Manager Waste Services), A Abbott (Manager Corporate and Community Planning), E Dowswell (Media and Communications Advisor), M Murray (Chief of Staff, Lord Mayor's Office) and A Knowles (Council Services, Minutes/Webcasting).

**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.

**APOLOGIES**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Robinson, seconded by Cr Byrne

The apology submitted on behalf of Councillor Dunn be received and leave of absence granted.

**Carried**

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

Nil.

**CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Luke

Council move into confidential session for the reasons outlined in the business papers.

**Carried**

**ITEM-1                      CON 11/02/20 - CONTRACTS MATTER**

Staff distributed Confidential Item 1 – Variation to Contract No.2012/360T paper in accordance with clause 20.5 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Duncan

Council move into Committee to hear a briefing.

**Carried**

Council received a briefing on Confidential Item 1 – Variation to Contract No.2012/360T.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Duncan

Council extend the duration of the meeting by 15 minutes.

**Carried**

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Luke

Council move out of Committee into confidential Council session.

**Carried**

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Duncan, seconded by Cr Clausen

Council move of out confidential session.

**Carried**

Staff collected Confidential Item 1 – Variation to Contract No.2012/360T paper in accordance with clause 20.5 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

All papers were collected with the exception of Councillor Elliott's paper.

Council reconvened at 10.10pm.

The Chief Executive Officer reported the resolution of confidential session in respect to Confidential Item 1 – Variation to Contract No.2012/360T.

**ITEM-1 CON 11/02/20 - CONTRACTS MATTER**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Luke, seconded by Cr Clausen

That Council:

- 1 Varies the existing recyclables contract with Solo Waste ty Ltd as detailed in attachment A.
- 2 Awards a contract for the processing of recyclables to iQ Renew Pty Ltd under Section 55(3)(i) of the Act with the awarding of the contract being exempt from calling tenders because of the extenuating circumstances. The calling of tenders for this contract would not have achieved a satisfactory outcome. This contract with iQ Renew Pty Ltd be for 12 months only. This contract can include an option for City of Newcastle to exercise, and any exercise of the option is to be approved by Council.
- 3 This confidential report relating to the matters specified in s10A(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* be treated as confidential and remain confidential until the Chief Executive Officer determines otherwise.

**For the Motion:**

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

**Against the Motion:**

Nil.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**The meeting concluded at 10.12pm**



**MINUTES - PUBLIC VOICE MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** 200218 Public Voice Committee

*Note: The attached minutes are a record of the decisions made by Council at the meeting and are draft until adopted by Council. They may be viewed at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)*

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

**Minutes of the Public Voice Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall, 290 King Street Newcastle on Tuesday 18 February 2020 at 6.03pm.**

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**PRESENT**

Lord Mayor (Councillor N Nelmes) (*arrived 6.28pm*), Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D Clausen), Councillors J Church, C Duncan, J Dunn, B Luke, J Mackenzie, A Robinson, A Rufo, E White and P Winney-Baartz.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

J Bath (Chief Executive Officer), D Clarke (Director Governance), B Smith (Director Strategy and Engagement), F Leatham (Director People and Culture), A Jones (Interim Director City Wide Services), J Rigby (Manager Assets and Projects), E Kolatchew (Manager Legal), M Bisson (Manager Regulatory, Planning and Assessment), D Moldrich (Manager Customer Experience), S Moore (Acting Chief Financial Officer), S Grierson (Manager Transport and Compliance), P McCarthy (Urban Planning Section Manager), Joe Vescio (Executive Officer, Chief Executive Office), M Murray (Chief of Staff, Lord Mayor's Office), A Knowles (Council Services/Minutes) and J Redriff (Council Services/Webcasting).

**MESSAGE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

**PRAYER**

The Deputy 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.

**APOLOGIES**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Church, seconded by Cr Luke

The apologies submitted on behalf of Councillors Byrne and Elliott be received and leave of absence granted.

**Carried**

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

**Councillor Clausen**

Councillor Clausen declared a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 – Implementation of Wickham Master Plan and Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement, as he had conversations about the item to a close friend who recently moved to the Wickham area. Councillor Clausen stated he would remain in the Chamber for discussion on the item.

**PUBLIC VOICE SESSIONS**

**ITEM-1 PV 18/02/20 - IMPLEMENTATION OF WICKHAM MASTER PLAN AND DRAFT LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT**

Ms Kirsten Drysdale and Mr John Phelen representing Great Lifestyle of Wickham (GLoW), addressed Council and outlined concerns and issues in relation to the Implementation of the Wickham Master Plan and Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Nelmes arrived at 6.28pm and assumed the Chair.

**ITEM-2 PV 18/02/20 - DA2017/01376 - 495 HUNTER STREET, NEWCASTLE - DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS, ERECTION OF MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT INCL. THREE COMMERCIAL/RETAIL TENANCIES & 87 RESIDENTIAL UNITS, ASSOC. CARPARKING & SITE WORKS**

Mr Hilton Grugeon, Director GWH and Ms Lorraine Mordue, Worthplace Strata Committee addressed Council and outlined concerns and objections to the development application. Mr Alan McKelvey, Spark Helmore on behalf of the DA applicant addressed Council in support of the development application.

**The meeting concluded at 7.12pm.**

**MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 25 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** 200225 Ordinary Council Meeting

*Note: The attached minutes are a record of the decisions made by Council at the meeting and are draft until adopted by Council. They may be viewed at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)*

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor City Hall, 290 King Street, Newcastle on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 6.05pm.**

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**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

J Bath (Chief Executive Officer), D Clarke (Director Governance), K Liddell (Director Infrastructure and Property), F Leatham (Director People and Culture), A Jones (Interim Director City Wide Services), E Kolatchew (Manager Legal), S Moore (Acting Chief Financial Officer), M Bisson (Manager Regulatory, Planning and Assessment), S Grierson (Manager Transport and Compliance), J Rigby (Manager Assets and Projects), D O'Hara (Manager Civic Services), T Uren (Manager Waste Services), A Abbott (Manager Corporate and Community Planning), D Moldrich (Manager Customer Experience), E Dowswell (Media and Communications Advisor), J Vescio (Executive Officer, Chief Executive's Office), M Murray (Policy Officer, Lord Mayor's Office), A Knowles (Council Services, Minutes) and K Sullivan (Council Services, Webcasting).

**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.

**APOLOGIES**

Nil.

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

**Councillor Luke**

Councillor Luke declared a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12 – Executive Monthly Performance Report as the item included the re-investment of Surplus Funds Report which mentions multiple financial institutions that he had dealings with in his business. The declaration is less than significant as he noted he was not involved in determining where funds are invested and was just receiving a report.

**CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MINUTES - PUBLIC VOICE COMMITTEE 3 DECEMBER 2019**  
**MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 10 DECEMBER 2019**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Byrne

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

**LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM-1 LMM 25/02/20 - STUDY NSW WEBSITE UPDATE**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Nelmes, Lord Mayor

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that the NSW Government established “Study NSW” in 2014 with the aim of increasing the number of international students studying in Sydney and NSW. The primary vehicle of engagement is a “Study NSW” website with three key categories of information – Learn, Live, Work;
2. Notes the “Study NSW” website is also branded “Study Sydney” and all images / information are specific to Sydney educational institutions. The shortened website URL is [www.study.sydney](http://www.study.sydney). The “Hunter Region” link on the Study NSW website takes the user to The Hunter region page on the Destination NSW website, which includes images of vineyards and no specific information regarding education institutions in Newcastle / the Hunter;
3. Notes the “Study NSW” website does not enable any promotion of education institutions in Gateway Cities like Newcastle and Wollongong;
4. Notes that other states have supported the development of ‘Study’ branding, web portals and activities for regions outside of the state capital. Examples include Study Gold Coast, Study Townsville and Study Geelong;
5. In partnership with Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle, writes to The Hon Dominic Perrottet, NSW Treasurer and Minister responsible for Study NSW, requesting NSW promote its regions as study destinations, and resource a Study Hunter web portal and program. Like the Study Sydney equivalent, the new web portal should detail the learn, live and work opportunities of Newcastle and region and should be developed in partnership with the City of Newcastle and other key partners. The letter should also emphasise the City of Newcastle’s support for increasing the international student intake, noting the skills, ideas and innovation that skilled migrants bring to a city.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-2 LMM 25/02/20 - NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CHARTER: A UNIFIED APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Nelmes, Lord Mayor

1. Notes that in September 2018, Everymind launched the *National Communications Charter: A unified approach to mental health and suicide prevention* (The Charter), aimed at assisting governments, organisations, community groups and individuals to play a role in reducing stigma around mental illness and suicide, while also promoting help-seeking behaviour through its guiding principles and messages;
2. Commends Everymind for developing this important tool, and their incredible work to unite organisations across Australia to promote communicating in ways that promote improving our mental health awareness and suicide prevention;
3. Signs the National Communications Charter: A unified approach to mental health and suicide prevention; and commits to reducing stigmatising language and promoting help-seeking and help-offering behaviour in our City's communications;
4. Takes a leadership role when it comes to breaking down barriers and removing the stigma of mental illness and suicide, both for our staff, and across the broader community.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-3 LMM 25/02/20 - STOCKTON BEACH EROSION NATURAL DISASTER UPDATE**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Nelmes, Lord Mayor

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that following the severe and ongoing coastal erosion at Stockton Beach, the NSW Government granted City of Newcastle's request to declare a Natural Disaster at Stockton Beach;
2. Notes that this declaration means that City of Newcastle is eligible for assistance through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Fund Arrangements to help with the cost of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets, but does not allow for action towards a long-term solution to address erosion at Stockton Beach;
3. Commends the Stockton and broader community for their community rally, where thousands of people gathered in frustration at the current inability to address coastal erosion over the long term;

4. Acknowledges ongoing community concern about the closure of Lexie's on the Beach café and the forced relocation of Stockton Beach Holiday Park cabins;
5. Reassures the community that both measures have only been undertaken as an emergency response, based on expert engineering advice;
6. Commits to working with the owners of Lexie's on the Beach towards a resolution which protects local jobs by exploring all available options to allow the café to trade, while not compromising community safety;
7. Commits to the ongoing operation of the Stockton Holiday Park cabins, to protect the local economy and local jobs;
8. Ensures that the Stockton Community is updated with the latest information about:
  - a. Our response to the Natural Disaster declaration at Stockton Beach;
  - b. Public Safety provisions at Stockton Beach
  - c. The ongoing development of our Coastal Management Program (CMP); including recent direction from the Minister for Local Government to complete this process by 30 June 2020;
  - d. Outstanding grant applications that City of Newcastle has made to the NSW Government;
  - e. What we are doing to support Lexie's on the Beach café;
  - f. The situation regarding the forced relocation of Stockton Holiday Park cabins;
9. Reiterates the need for the NSW Government to consider legislative or regulatory change to allow for emergency offshore marine dredging for sand nourishment at Stockton Beach.

**Carried  
unanimously**

## REPORTS BY COUNCIL OFFICERS

### ITEM-1 CCL 25/02/20 - AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT

#### MOTION

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr White

That Council:

- 1 Receives the Audit and Risk Committee's Annual Report for the 2018/2019 financial year at **Attachment A**; and
- 2 Notes the 2019/2020 Forward Internal Audit Plan at **Appendix A of Attachment A**.

**Carried  
unanimously**



**ITEM-2 CCL 25/02/20 - ADOPTION OF OUTDOOR TRADING POLICY**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Dunn

That Council:

- 1 Adopts the revised Outdoor Trading Policy at **Attachment A** and waives the annual approval fees from 1 July 2020.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-4 CCL 25/02/20 - JANET STREET, JESMOND - PROPOSED UPGRADE TO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Byrne

That Council:

- 1 Approves the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing on Janet Street east of Algie Street, Jesmond, to a raised pedestrian crossing with kerb extensions, as generally shown at **Attachment A**.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-7 CCL 25/02/20 - SIX-MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE 2018-2022 DELIVERY PROGRAM (OUR BUDGET 2019/20)**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

- 1 That Council receives the Six-Monthly Performance Report on the 2018-2022 Delivery Program, as per **Attachment A**.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-9 CCL 25/02/20 - TABLING OF PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS - 1 NOVEMBER 2019 TO 31 JANUARY 2020**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

That Council:

- 1 Note the tabling of the pecuniary interest returns (for the period 1 November 2019 to 31 January 2020) by the CEO.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-12 CCL 25/02/20 - EXECUTIVE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Byrne

That Council:

- 1 Receives the Executive Monthly Performance Report for January 2020.

**For the Motion:**

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

**Against the Motion:**

Councillor Church.

**Carried**

**ITEM-3 CCL 25/02/20 - NEWCASTLE AND MEREWETHER OCEAN BATHS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST UPDATE**

This item was dealt with in conjunction with the Notice of Motion, Item 1 – Ocean Baths Redevelopment Update.

Councillor Robinson left the Chamber during discussion on the item.

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

**PART A**

That Council:

- 1 Notes that there were no successful EOI submissions for the upgrade of the Merewether and Newcastle Ocean Baths Pavilion sites.
- 2 Prepares concept design options based on current community engagement outcomes for further community consultation.
- 3 Investigates funding sources for City of Newcastle to manage the upgrade of the Merewether and Newcastle Ocean Baths Pavilions.

**PART B**

That City of Newcastle:

- 1 Notes that on 4 February 2020, it was announced that City of Newcastle has committed to funding the restoration of both Newcastle and Merewether Ocean Baths following an unsuccessful expression of interest (EOI) process;

- 2 Notes that City of Newcastle is currently engaged in extensive community consultation, following a resolution of Council to bring forward engagement following incorrect claims that our Ocean Baths would be privatised;
- 3 Reiterates that our Ocean Baths are on NSW Government Crown Land, with City of Newcastle acting as the Crown Land Manager, and cannot, and will not, be sold or privatised;
- 4 Notes that a Community Reference Group will now be established, with stakeholder groups invited to join including, but not limited to, the Friends of Newcastle Ocean Baths, the Australian Institute of Architects, Newcastle East Residents Group, local businesses, and local sporting clubs and user groups, to ensure broad community involvement in the redevelopment of our iconic Ocean Baths is maintained throughout these important projects.

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Elliott, seconded by Cr Rufo

Amend paragraph 3 in Part A of the motion:

- 3 Investigate funding sources for City of Newcastle to manage the upgrade of the Merewether and Newcastle Ocean Baths Pavilions, without relying on external funding if it is not forthcoming.

and include an additional paragraph in Part A of the motion:

- 4 Explore a Newcastle Ocean Baths co-design workshop and community information sessions and report back to Council.

The mover and seconder accepted Councillor Elliott's amendment into the motion.

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Byrne

Amend Part B, paragraph 4 to read as:

- 4 Notes that a Community Reference Group will now be established, with stakeholder groups invited to join including, but not limited to, the Friends of Newcastle Ocean Baths, the Australian Institute of Architects, Newcastle East Residents Group, local businesses, the City of Newcastle's Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee, the Chairs of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee, Liveable Cities Advisory Committee and Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and local sporting clubs and user groups, to ensure broad community involvement in the redevelopment of our iconic Ocean Baths is maintained throughout these important projects.

The mover and seconder accepted Councillor Mackenzie's amendment into the motion.

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

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-5 CCL 25/02/20 - DISSOLUTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES S355 COMMITTEES**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Byrne

That Council:

- 1 Approves the voluntary dissolution of the following s.355 Committees:
  - i) Carrington Community Centre Committee, and
  - ii) Henderson Park Hall Committee.
- 2 Recognises the contribution that volunteers have made to the s.355 Committees over many years.
- 3 Thanks the former office bearers Gloria Jones, John Thacker and Lyn Richardson from the Carrington Community Hall.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-6 CCL 25/02/20 - LIVE MUSIC STRATEGY UPDATE**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Duncan, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

That Council:

- 1 Receives the report on implementation of the Live Music Strategy 2019 – 2023.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-8 CCL 25/02/20 - ADOPTION OF THE WESTERN CORRIDOR SECTION  
7.11 LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That Council:

- 1 Adopts the Section 7.11 Western Corridor Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2013 (update February 2020) (**Attachment A**).
- 2 Upon gazettal of an amended Ministerial Direction, apply a rate of \$25,550.90 (with a cap of \$30,000 that cannot be exceeded upon future indexing) per dwelling or residential lot for areas identified as Planned Future Development Sites in the Section 7.11 Western Corridor Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2013 (update February 2020).

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Church, seconded by Cr Elliott

That this matter lay on the table.

**For the Procedural Motion:** Councillors Church, Dunn, Elliott, Luke and Rufo.

**Against the Procedural Motion:** Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Byrne, Clausen, Duncan, Mackenzie, White and Winney-Baartz.

**Defeated**

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

**For the Motion:** Lord Mayor, Cr Nelmes and Councillors Byrne, Clausen, Duncan, Mackenzie, White and Winney-Baartz.

**Against the Motion:** Councillors Church, Dunn, Elliott, Luke and Rufo.

**Carried**

**ITEM-10 CCL 25/02/20 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Clausen, seconded by Cr Duncan

That Council:

- 1 Preserve the Council Chamber and associated civic spaces within Newcastle City Hall to retain their current standard of presentation and ensure that any future renovation protects their heritage value.
- 2 Make City Hall Council Chamber and civic spaces available for commercial hire from 1 July 2020 with a two-tiered pricing structure that encourages both the private sector and community groups to utilise. Noting that in developing programs to enable public access to these civic spaces, priority will be given to access at discounted rates for educational purposes and for community groups, consistent with the 2020/21 Fees and Charges, and access at commercial hire rates for private and commercial purposes.
- 3 Develop public programs which promote access to the City Hall Council Chamber and civic spaces including information and education about the City's civic history and the City Hall building, and particularly its heritage value.
- 4 Where appropriate, continues to use City Hall for City of Newcastle functions and initiatives, including meetings of Council's Advisory Committees.
- 5 City of Newcastle intends to hold the ceremonial first meeting of the 2020 Council term at City Hall Chamber.

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie

Insert the following after paragraph 1 into the motion and renumber other clauses accordingly:

- 2 Conduct an audit, heritage assessment and conservation plan for internal fixtures, fittings and furniture in the four rooms, with particular attention to items that are contemporaneous with the Town Hall's construction or other items with historical, architectural or ceremonial significance.
- 3 That the renovation of the Council Chamber preserves the ability of the Chamber to be used for Council meetings, meetings of Advisory Committees, the Youth Council meetings, and other ceremonial and civic events in accordance with the heritage settings.

The mover and seconder of the motion accepted Councillor Mackenzie's amendment into the motion.

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Church, seconded by Cr Elliott

Amend original clause 2 of the motion to read:

- 2 Make City Hall Council Chamber and civic spaces available for **short term casual community and** commercial hire from 1 July 2020 with a two-tiered pricing structure that encourages both the private sector and community groups to utilise. Noting that in developing programs to enable public access to these civic spaces, priority will be given to access at discounted rates for educational purposes and for community groups, consistent with the 2020/21 Fees and Charges, and access at commercial hire rates for private and commercial purposes (**amendment in bold**).

The mover and seconder of the motion accepted Councillor Church's amendment into the motion.

The motion moved by Councillor Clausen and seconded by Councillor Duncan, as amended, was put to the meeting.

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

**Against the Motion:** Councillor Luke.

**Carried**

**ITEM-11 CCL 25/02/20 - QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - DECEMBER 2019**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Dunn, seconded by Cr Winney-Baartz

That Council:

- 1 Receives the December Quarterly Budget Review Statement (**Attachment A**) and adopts the revised budget as detailed therein.

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

**Against the Motion:** Councillors Church and Elliott.

**Carried**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**ITEM-1      NOM 25/02/20 - OCEAN BATHS REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

This item was dealt with in conjunction with Item 3 – Newcastle and Merewether Ocean Baths Expression of Interest Update (refer to page 6 of the minutes of 25 February 2020).

**ITEM-2      NOM 25/02/20 - ELECTRIC WASTE MANAGEMENT VEHICLE FLEET**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Mackenzie, seconded by Cr Byrne

That City of Newcastle

1. Receives a business case for the consideration of Councillors on the costs and benefits of transitioning the waste management vehicle fleet, including collection trucks, to electric vehicles. The business case should compare the cost and benefits under immediate, 2025 and 2030 scenarios, and include consider the options of using electricity generated at Summerhill Waste Management Facility.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**ITEM-3      NOM 25/02/20 - NSW BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Duncan, seconded by Cr Mackenzie

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that catastrophic bushfires have ravaged Australia over Summer, with fires burning an estimated 18.6 million hectares; destroying over 5,900 building, including almost 3,000 homes; sadly killing at least 34 people, including 4 firefighters; and leading to the widespread destruction of flora and fauna including an estimated one billion animals being killed, with some endangered species possibly being driven to extinction.
2. Notes that as a result of these bushfires, air quality has dropped to hazardous levels, and the estimated costs of addressing the fires is expected to exceed \$4.5 billion, in addition to tourism sector revenues falling significantly.
3. Notes that while the City of Newcastle Local Government Area was not directly impacted by the fires, our staff have offered to assist in the clean-up and recovery efforts in any way possible, including:
  - a. Immediately reaching out to our direct Council neighbours, including Mid-Coast Council, to offer support and assistance throughout the fire emergency;



## CITY OF NEWCASTLE

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- b. Offering our plant equipment and staff to assist those communities who are either still fighting the fires, or dealing with the tragedy of a clean-up;
  - c. Joining with the NSW Government, through the Office of Local Government, to make our resources available as part of a Bushfire Council Coordination Service;
  - d. Staff and Councillors volunteering at our New Year's Eve event to collect donations for the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal;
  - e. Committing to the \$1.8 million construction of a new local Emergency Operations Centre, which will allow various agencies to streamline their coordination of a city-wide mobilisation and response to future natural disasters;
4. Thanks our City of Newcastle Staff for their efforts to support those affected by the bushfire crisis;
  5. Acknowledges that climate change is impacting Australia, worsening and prolonging bushfires across the nation – there has never been a time in Australian history where we have had so many fires, which are so intense, burning across so many areas at the same time;
  6. Continues to encourage anyone affected by the bushfires to seek assistance, particularly to ensure their ongoing mental health wellbeing as the emergency abates.

**Carried  
unanimously**

**The meeting concluded at 9.00pm.**

**LORD MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM-4                      LMM 24/03/20 - CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE RESPONSE**

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**MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

- 1     Recognises that Coronavirus (COVID-19) will have a significant impact on our community wellbeing and the local economy of Newcastle, with many people potentially isolated for periods of time, small businesses facing supply chain issues and substantially reduced economic activity, with the unemployment rate likely to rise;
- 2     Receives a briefing from the City of Newcastle COVID-19 Planning Team, that meets daily, on the activation of our Emergency Management Action Plan (EMAP) aligned with state and national emergency plans;
- 3     Develops a Community and Economic Resilience package, to assist Novocastrians through this period of unprecedented disruption;
- 4     Recognises that the health, safety and wellbeing of our workforce is paramount;
- 5     Thanks NSW Police Local Area Commanders, Superintendent Brett Greentree, Newcastle Local Area Command and Superintendent Danny Sullivan, Lake Macquarie Local Area Comand, for their collaboration on the City's emergency response, through the Local Emergency Management Committee;
- 6     Notes that we are working in collaboration with government partners, including NSW Health, who are the lead agency responding to COVID-19;
- 7     Notes that we are working within the Local Emergency Management Committee - with NSW Police, NSW Fire Brigade, SES, Health, and Transport for NSW to ensure that our city is adequately equipped and prepared;
- 8     Notes that we continue to liaise with partners including the Office of Local Government, neighbouring councils, the University of Newcastle, Port of Newcastle and the Newcastle Airport to ensure consistent information is shared with our community;

**BACKGROUND**

COVID-19 will have a very disruptive impact on the people of Newcastle

It is already a challenging time. However, City of Newcastle is taking proactive actions that will benefit our community.

Collectively, we can get through this and City of Newcastle is doing all we can to facilitate community and economic resilience.

Part of the work includes the development of a Community and Economic Resilience Response.

This response recognises that COVID-19 will have a significant impact on the community well-being and local economy of Newcastle.

Many people may be isolated for periods of time, small businesses will face supply chain issues and substantially reduced economic activity, and the unemployment rate is likely to rise significantly.

This situation requires us to consider how we can deliver the best possible economic and well-being outcomes for our community.

In collaboration with a large and diverse team across the City of Newcastle, the Smart City team is developing resilience measures in response to COVID-19.

These resilience measures are being informed by international experts and seeks to focus on areas where local government has a clear strength and mandate.

The principles we have used are about expanding existing platforms and focusing on strategic legacy items for economic and community resilience. For example expanding the local skills base, accelerating digital literacy for small business and growing community cohesion.

These measures will also align to and support the previously announced Federal NSW Government stimulus packages.

Newcastle has a long history of dealing with economic adversity, as a community we can get through this together. It will be tough and have a huge personal impact on many, but with community thinking, we can come out the other side.

# COVID-19

## How we are responding

### **COVID-19: how we are responding**

**The safety of our communities, customers and employees is our top priority.**

Our employees are monitoring developments relating to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) daily and assessing any potential impact on city services and events. We aim to maintain our current level of service to residents and businesses during this period.

We take advice on all public health matters from the state and federal health departments.

To date, NSW Health and the other advising authorities are clear in their message. As of today, there is no COVID-19 cluster in the Hunter, and therefore no reason to alter our service levels to the community.

### **Events and public gatherings**

The Prime Minister has announced that non-essential indoor gatherings are to be restricted to 100 people. Outdoor events remain to be limited to 500 people. [Visit the NSW Health website for more information.](#)

View our [event and public gatherings](#) information about City of Newcastle venues and facilities.

### **How we are responding**

- We are promoting the NSW Health site [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) as the primary source of information and health updates.
- The City is actively involved in the Local Emergency Management Committee's response to COVID-19 which includes police, NSW Fire

Brigades, SES, Health, Transport for NSW and neighbouring councils. This is allowing us to establish joint approaches and provide consistent advice.

- A City of Newcastle COVID-19 Planning Team has been established. The Planning Team includes People and Culture (and WHS), Legal (Emergency Management and Risk) and Corporate Affairs (Communications and Community Engagement).
- Activating our Emergency Management Action Plan (EMAP) for Newcastle. This Plan is aligned to State and National emergency plans and CN's suite of Emergency Management Plans. The EMAP outlines strategies for CN in accordance with readiness and key actions which CN is committed to in accordance with relevant legislation, Acts and Regulations.

### **Preparedness – Key actions**

- We are reviewing increased cleaning regimes for our sites and appropriate signage needs.
- We are working through flexible working options with City of Newcastle staff should this become necessary to continue delivering essential services.
- We are liaising with other agencies including the Office of Local Government, neighbouring Councils, the University of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport, to ensure sharing of information and consistent messaging to our community.

We are continuing to develop our plans to cover a situation where COVID19 becomes widespread in Australia, and state and federal governments move to greater restrictions on activities within the Newcastle Government area.

### **Communicating to employees**

City employees who have recently travelled to affected countries or have been in contact with someone who has coronavirus will be excluded from work and have been advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

All employees have been reminded to practice good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing their hands thoroughly with soap and water, and using alcohol-based hand sanitiser. Public health information has been distributed at the City's libraries and community children's education centre.

City of Newcastle will continue to update you on the work we're doing through our Local Emergency Management Plan prepared for COVID-19.

**More information on COVID-19 is available on the [NSW Health website](#) or the [Federal Government Health website](#).**

**MEDIA RELEASES**

**Statement on events and sponsorships amid COVID-19**

**18 March 2020**

City of Newcastle is continuing to work with the State and Federal Government on limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Following restrictions placed on events under the NSW Government Public Health Order, which states outdoor events of more than 500 must not be held before 14 June 2020, the City is implementing a number of measured responses.

Since the Order was issued, the City has been notified of around 30 cancellations or postponements of public events on community land.

For licensed events that have notified the City of cancellation, we will refund the application fee. Similarly, application fees will be refunded for any sports licences that have been issued for events now cancelled.

The City is also supporting event organisers postpone to another date free of charge, providing their preferred new date is available.

Given the current uncertainty around events, the City's annual Event Sponsorship Program (ESP) will be deferred until after the Public Health Order is repealed. This will give event organisers more certainty when planning their event and related sponsorship applications. The City will provide more information as soon as a new opening date for the program is confirmed.

The City continues to plan a proposed flagship cultural event previously scheduled for later in 2020. While it had been scheduled to fit the national cultural festival calendar, the timing is now under review as we work with the cultural and arts sector on new programming.

The City's COVID-19 Emergency Response Team meets daily to assess the latest advice and formulate plans for maintaining services.

The health, safety and wellbeing of our workforce are its paramount concerns, and the City has implemented a daily update for employees on the response, including advice around social distancing and hygiene.

The response to COVID-19, including how social distancing should work for City of Newcastle employees, is developing in line with advice from our Government partners daily.

Should it be necessary, the City's indoor workforce is well placed to work from home given the recent rollout of laptops and migration to cloud-based services.

## **Update on City's swimming centres**

**17 March 2020**

City of Newcastle (CN) is working in collaboration with government partners including NSW Health to ensure our city is prepared in the event of the further spread of COVID-19 to the region.

In order to do all we can to limit the transmission of the virus and to prioritise the wellbeing of staff and the community, the end of season closure will be brought forward to Monday 23 March for City-owned swimming centres across the local government area.

City of Newcastle Interim Director City Wide Services Alissa Jones said the decision affected the City-operated Beresfield Swimming Centre, along with Lambton, Mayfield, Stockton and Wallsend Swimming Centres, operated by BlueFit Aquatics.

"In collaboration with BlueFit we have brought forward the final day of the season to 23 March 2020 as part of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of staff and the community," Ms Jones said.

"This means that all swimming centres in Newcastle will be closed from Monday 23 March 2020.

City of Newcastle will continue to provide lifeguard services at our beaches and ocean baths. Information on patrol hours can be found on our website.

"The City's key objectives are to provide timely information about any changes to services or the operation of our facilities and to support the State and Federal Governments to manage the impact of the pandemic.

"City of Newcastle will adjust operations to further protect public health and the health of our staff and volunteers.

"City of Newcastle is working with staff affected by the early closure of the Beresfield Swimming Centre to minimise the adverse impact on them."

BlueFit CEO Todd McHardy said BlueFit has considered a number of strategic approaches to ensure the best outcomes for both community and staff.

"The responsible solution across the Newcastle region is to bring forward the winter closure for all facilities to commence on Monday 23 March 2020, the final day of trade being Sunday 22 March 2020," Mr McHardy said.

"Safety is our number one priority and with ongoing government-imposed reductions in mass gathering numbers and further recommendations on social distancing, we believe closing the Newcastle swimming venues will limit the transmission of the virus in our community.

“We recognise the financial impact this has on our staff and the broader community, therefore, BlueFit has developed a safety net strategy to support our team and customers in times of hardship in an effort to reduce the impact across our network.

“All learn to swim program participants will be notified through separate correspondence of relevant closures and program disruption. We are committed to supporting both the community and our staff through this period and we are grateful for the strong partnership we have with the City of Newcastle to assist us through these tough decisions.

“We feel the impact on the community will be minimal given we are entering the end of the summer season and with the magnificent beaches and ocean baths available in Newcastle, and prioritises the health and wellbeing of staff and the broader community.”

## **City’s cultural facilities’ response to COVID-19**

### **17 March 2020**

In response to COVID-19, the Federal Government has introduced social distancing measures, which include limiting non-essential organised gatherings of 500 people or more.

Unsurprisingly, the Civic Theatre has been advised by promoters of all upcoming shows that they have been either cancelled or postponed.

Our ticketing service provider, Ticketek, will inform all customers affected by a show cancellation directly. Many show promoters are postponing rather than cancelling.

The Civic Theatre will provide regular updates on its website and by social media.

The Playhouse and Civic Café will continue to operate but have instituted the additional recommended social distancing measure of ensuring customers are seated 1.5 metres apart.

Whilst the Newcastle Art Gallery remains open, in order for the City to do all it can to limit the transmission of the virus in our communities, and to prioritise the wellbeing of members, staff, volunteers and visitors, all public programming at the Gallery has been suspended until further notice. This includes programs Art Cart and Last Fridays.

Newcastle Museum remains open but has suspended the Supernova and Mininova Gallery exhibition as well as the Bush Mechanics and Cultural Resurgence exhibitions.

Fort Scratchley is open, however its popular Tunnel Tours have been suspended to limit close contact in a confined space.

All City library branches are open, however programs and events have been suspended until further notice.



City of Newcastle is working in collaboration with government partners including NSW Health to ensure our city is prepared in the event of the further spread of COVID-19 to the region.

The City's key objectives are to provide timely information about any changes to services or the operation of our facilities and to support the State and Federal Governments to manage the impact of the pandemic.

City of Newcastle will adjust operations to further protect public health and the health of our staff and volunteers.

## **City working with key partners on COVID-19 response**

### **13 March 2020**

City of Newcastle is working in collaboration with government partners including NSW Health to ensure our city is prepared in the event of further spread of COVID-19 to the region.

City of Newcastle's key objectives are to:

- provide timely information about any changes to services or the operation of our facilities
- support the State and Federal governments to manage the impact of the pandemic
- adjust our operations to further protect public health and the health of our staff.

Public health is the number one priority for City of Newcastle and all agencies working collaboratively on the COVID-19 response.

We're working within the Local Emergency Management Committee - with NSW Police, NSW Fire Brigades, SES, Health, and Transport for NSW to ensure that our city is adequately equipped and prepared.

The City is also liaising with partners including the Office of Local Government, neighbouring councils, the University of Newcastle, Port of Newcastle and the Newcastle Airport to ensure consistent information is shared with our community.

### **How we are responding:**

- The City of Newcastle COVID-19 Planning Team has activated an Emergency Management Action Plan (EMAP) aligned with state and national emergency plans.
- Working with the Local Emergency Management Committee to establish joint approaches and provide consistent advice.
- Establishing a dedicated webpage which is being regularly updated to provide information about our essential services [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19)

- Working with event organisers following [restrictions on non-essential gatherings](#) of more than 500 people.
- Each City of Newcastle service area is developing a business continuity plan to support the EMAP should the spread of the virus prompt the state and federal governments to introduce greater restrictions on activities within our Local Government Area.

The NSW Health website [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) is the primary source of health information.

The City is supporting the NSW Government in sharing information on its channels.



## NSW Health – COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

### Pandemic

#### What is a pandemic?

A pandemic is an epidemic (infectious disease outbreak) that spreads on a global scale. Pandemics usually occur when a new infectious disease emerges that can spread rapidly around the world.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. This COVID-19 pandemic is the first caused by a coronavirus. ([WHO](#))

#### What causes pandemics?

A pandemic can occur when a new virus emerges and there is worldwide spread of the disease. Most people do not have immunity to a new virus. Viruses that have caused past pandemics usually come from animal viruses that have mutated to affect humans.

For a new virus to have pandemic potential it must meet three criteria:

- humans have little or no pre-existing immunity against the virus
- the virus causes disease in humans
- the virus can spread efficiently from person to person.

Previous pandemics include Spanish Influenza in 1918 or H1N1 Swine Flu in 2009. Only Type A influenza viruses have been known to cause influenza pandemics. This COVID-19 pandemic is the first caused by a coronavirus.

#### What does it mean that the WHO has declared a pandemic?

On 11 March WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic. The WHO used this declaration to call for urgent and aggressive action.

They noted that this is a pandemic that can be controlled. Both China and the Republic of Korea have significantly declining outbreaks.

On 30 January, the WHO declared that COVID-19 was a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#). In the last two weeks, the number of cases of COVID-19 has increased substantially and the number of affected countries has tripled ([WHO](#)).

## **Why do pandemics occur? How serious will the impact be?**

The health impact of a pandemic on the community depends on how easily the virus can be spread between people (i.e. transmissibility) and the seriousness of the illness it causes (i.e. clinical severity).

Healthcare systems can limit the impact on a community by slowing the spread of the infection between people and increasing the ability of the healthcare system to look after people who do get sick. NSW Health is putting a lot of effort into doing both of these things.

## **About COVID-19**

### **What are coronaviruses?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some coronaviruses cause illness in humans and others cause illness in animals, such as bats, camels, and civets. Human coronaviruses generally cause mild illness, such as the common cold.

Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve to infect and spread among humans, causing severe diseases such as [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome \(SARS\)](#) which emerged in 2002, and [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome \(MERS\)](#) which emerged in 2012.

### **What is the COVID-19 virus?**

COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. It was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, where it has caused a large and ongoing outbreak. It has since spread more widely in China. Cases have since been identified in several other countries. The COVID-19 virus is closely related to a bat coronavirus.

There is much more to learn about how COVID-19 is spread, its severity, and other features associated with the virus; epidemiological and clinical investigations are ongoing.

Outbreaks of new coronavirus infections among people are always a public health concern. The situation is evolving rapidly.

### **How is the virus spread?**

Human coronaviruses are spread from someone infected with COVID-19 virus to other close contacts with that person through contaminated droplets spread by coughing or sneezing, or by contact with contaminated hands, surfaces or objects.

The time between when a person is exposed to the virus and when symptoms first appear is typically 5 to 6 days, although may range from 2 to 14 days. For this reason, people who might have been in contact with a confirmed case are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

Most COVID-19 cases appear to be spread from people who have symptoms. A small number of people may have been infectious before their symptoms developed.

**How long does COVID-19 last on surfaces?**

According to the World Health Organization, it is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with a common household disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others. Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.

**What are the symptoms?**

Patients may have fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath and other symptoms.

In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia with severe acute respiratory distress.

**What is the difference between COVID-19 and the flu?**

The first symptoms of COVID-19 and influenza (flu) infections are often very similar. They both cause fever and similar respiratory symptoms, which can then range from mild through to severe disease, and sometimes can be fatal.

Both viruses are also transmitted in the same way, by coughing or sneezing, or by contact with hands, surfaces or objects contaminated with the virus. As a result, the same public health measures, such as hand hygiene (hand washing), good respiratory etiquette (coughing into your elbow or into a tissue and immediately disposing of the tissue) and good household cleaning are important actions to prevent both infections.

The speed of transmission is an important difference between the two viruses. Influenza typically has a shorter incubation period (the time from infection to appearance of symptoms) than COVID-19. This means that influenza can spread faster than COVID-19.

While the range of symptoms for the two viruses is similar, the fraction with severe disease appears to be higher for COVID-19. While most people have mild symptoms, approximately 15% of people have severe infections and 5% require intensive care in a hospital ICU. The proportions of severe and critical COVID-19 infections are higher than for influenza infections.

I have travelled to another country.

**What should I do?**

If you have been overseas in the last 14 days, you should:

- self isolate yourself from others for 14 days from the day you returned or arrived from overseas and monitor yourself for symptoms

If you develop a fever or respiratory symptoms, please:

- call your doctor or healthdirect on 1800 022 222. When you call, tell them where you have travelled or if you have been in contact with a confirmed case or (if your symptoms are severe)
- visit your local Emergency Department. When you arrive, immediately tell staff where you have travelled or if you have been in contact with a confirmed case.

If you have symptoms it is important that don't go to work, school/university/childcare, the gym, or public areas, and you should not use public transport, taxis, or ride-sharing services. If you need to seek medical care wear a surgical mask if available when attending. You should not use public transport, taxis, or ride-sharing services to get to your doctor or emergency department.

**Should I avoid attending public events, for example, religious celebrations, music festivals or sporting matches?**

On 15 March 2020, NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard made an [Order under Section 7 of the Public Health Act 2010](#) to force the immediate cancellation of major events with more than 500 people. This includes events such as concerts, sporting fixtures with large crowds, exhibitions and religious celebrations.

Individuals who fail to comply could face up to six months in prison or a fine of up to \$11,000 or both, plus additional penalties for each day the offence continues. Corporations face even harsher fines.

Critical workforce, such as healthcare professionals and emergency services workers, are also recommended to limit their attendance at non-essential meetings or conferences.

The advice on mass gatherings does not apply to attendance at schools, universities or child care centres. While all Australians are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility for [social distancing](#), there are no current restrictions recommended on attending other settings, such as shopping centres, or using public transport.

**For non-essential organised gatherings with fewer than 500 attendees, NSW Health recommends that organisers:**

- remind attendees and staff not to attend if they are feeling unwell
- remind attendees and staff they must not attend if they have travelled overseas in the past 14 days
- ensure emergency management plans are up to date
- brief staff on how to practice good hygiene and making it easy for staff and attendees to practice good hygiene

- have adequate hand washing facilities available NSW Health also encourages people considering attending these gatherings to:
  - stay home and not attend if you are feeling unwell
  - stay home and not attend if you have travelled overseas in the past 14 days
  - practice good personal hygiene including:
    - cleaning your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub
    - covering your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow.

### **How long does the COVID-19 infection last?**

The infection period for the virus will vary from person to person. Mild symptoms in an otherwise healthy individual may resolve over just a few days. Similar to influenza, for an individual with other ongoing health issues, such as a respiratory condition, recovery may take weeks and in severe cases could be potentially fatal.

### **What if I don't have Medicare?**

Most people that are not eligible for Medicare will have health or travel insurance. For those that do not have adequate insurance coverage, NSW Health will waive these costs.

This includes the waiving of payment and debt recovery procedures for ambulance transfers of people suspected to have COVID-19 infection, who are taken to NSW Health facilities for assessment.

These arrangements have been put in place to ensure payment issues are not a barrier for people from overseas with respiratory symptoms seeking early medical advice.

### **How is COVID-19 diagnosed?**

Infection with COVID-19 is diagnosed by finding evidence of the virus in respiratory samples such as swabs from the back of the nose and throat or fluid from the lungs. Samples for testing can be taken directly by GPs or at a range of private pathology sites across the state that are suitable for collection of COVID-19, or at public hospitals across NSW.

### **What should I do if I come into contact with a person with COVID-19?**

If you have been identified as a contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 infection in Australia, the local public health unit will contact you with advice. You need to isolate yourself at home for 14 days after contact with the infected person, and to monitor your health and report any symptoms.

Person to person spread of coronaviruses generally occurs between people who are [close contacts](#) with one another. A close contact is typically someone who has been face to face for at least 15 minutes, or been in the same closed space for at least 2 hours, with a person that was infectious.

The public health unit will keep in touch with people who are close contacts of patients with COVID-19 infection. If any symptoms develop contacts must call the public health unit to report those symptoms.

If your contact with the person was less than this, there is a much smaller risk of you being infected. However, as a precaution [you must still monitor your health until 14 days after you were last exposed to the infectious person](#). If you develop symptoms including a fever and/or respiratory signs, please call ahead to talk to a doctor or call healthdirect on 1800 022 222. Tell your doctor that you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19. The doctor may tell you to attend your nearest emergency department – if so when you arrive, immediately tell staff you have had contact with someone with COVID-19.

More information about home isolation is available for:

- [people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection](#)
- [close contacts and recently returned travellers](#).

Practice simple hygiene by:

- making sure to [clean your hands thoroughly](#) for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow.

### **What should I do if I come into contact with a person who has been identified as a contact?**

If you have been in contact with a person identified as a close contact of another person with confirmed COVID-19 infection, you do not need to self-isolate (although the close contact does) and don't need take any other special precautions.

If a close contact develops symptoms and is confirmed as a COVID-19 case, public health authorities will determine who, if anyone, has been in close contact with them while they were infectious, and these people will be directed to self-isolate.

### **Who is most at risk?**

In Australia, the people most at risk of getting COVID-19 coronavirus infections are those who have:

- recently returned from overseas, particularly from mainland China, Iran, Italy or Korea
- been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.



There is also evidence of limited spread of COVID-19 in the community in Australia. Based on what we know so far about COVID-19 and what we know about other coronaviruses, those at greatest risk of serious infection are:

- people aged 65 years and over
- Aboriginal people (as they have higher rates of chronic illness)
- people with chronic medical conditions, such as lung disease, heart disease, kidney disease, neurological conditions and diabetes
- people with impaired immune systems (such as people who have cancer or HIV, or who take high dose corticosteroids).

People living in group residential settings are at greater risk of being exposed to outbreaks of COVID-19 if a case is diagnosed in a resident or staff member. This includes:

- people living in residential aged care facilities and disability group homes
- people in detention facilities
- students in boarding schools
- people on Cruise Ships.

People living in some group residential settings are also more likely to have conditions that make them at greater risk of serious COVID-19 infection.

### **How is it prevented?**

Some simple measures significantly reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and of spreading it:

- Clean your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand rub/sanitiser.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or use your elbow, not your hands
- Avoid close contact with people unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms, and stay home if you have these symptoms.
- Avoid touching your face and avoid shaking hands with others.
- Try to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from others as much as possible, and avoid crowded places.

### **Is there a cure or vaccine?**

There are no vaccines that protect against COVID-19.

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19. Early diagnosis and general supportive care are important. Most of the time, symptoms will resolve on their own. People who have serious disease with complications can be cared for in hospital.

**Has my doctor been informed?**

Health workers in NSW public hospital emergency departments as well as community-based general practitioners are aware of the symptoms and actions to take to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through careful infection control measures.

**What if I am unable to speak to my doctor?**

If you are after medical advice and your general practitioner is not able to speak with you, you can call healthdirect on 1800 022 222. They will be able to discuss your symptoms and travel history with you, to help decide if COVID-19 testing is recommended.

**How do I get tested for COVID-19?**

NSW Health is recommending people with acute, cold, flu-like symptoms who are returned travellers, or a contact of a confirmed case, be tested for COVID-19.

Samples for testing can be taken directly by GPs or at a range of private pathology sites across the state that are suitable for collection of COVID-19, or at public hospitals across NSW.

COVID-19/Flu clinics are being established within all Local Health Districts across NSW to assess and diagnose patients with possible COVID-19 infections and other respiratory illness such as influenza as we approach the winter season.

NSW Health is also expanding the laboratory capacity across public hospitals and private laboratories to scale up the analytical testing to determine the results of those tests.

Currently, NSW Health laboratories have capacity to perform more than 1,000 tests a day at three public hospitals at Randwick, Westmead, and Liverpool, and they will soon be joined by four more hospitals: Royal North Shore, Royal Prince Alfred, John Hunter, and Nepean.

NSW Health has already engaged private pathology laboratories to assist in the collection of samples from people who require COVID-19 testing.

Testing is recommended for all returning overseas travellers who develop symptoms within 14 days of return, contacts of cases who develop symptoms, people admitted to hospital with severe respiratory infection irrespective of travel history, other special circumstances such as where there is an outbreak of respiratory infections without an identified cause such as flu.

This testing can take up to two days to complete and report back.

**How are other coronaviruses tested?**

COVID-19 is one kind of coronavirus, but there are other kinds of coronaviruses that have infected people for many years around the world, including in Australia. If you are sick with a respiratory infection (for example you have a cough, runny nose, sore throat or fever), the doctor may order a swab from the back of your nose or throat for testing. Many laboratories will test the swab for several different viruses.

This test is called a multiplex viral respiratory panel, which often include tests for these other coronaviruses. These tests currently do not test for COVID-19 and do not indicate whether it is present or absent.

**Are people in NSW at risk?**

COVID-19 was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, where it has caused a large and ongoing outbreak. It has since spread more widely in many other countries.

NSW Health has developed and exercised a range of procedures for case finding, diagnosis, and contact tracing for high consequence infectious diseases (such as pandemic influenza, SARS, MERS, and emerging infections) should they occur in NSW. These procedures are being used to identify contacts of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in NSW.

**What arrangements are in place for checking people at airports?**

The Australian Government has put in place protective measures at all international ports. For the most recent advice from the Australian Government, please visit [Department of Health -Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

**What arrangements are in place for checking people who arrive at sea ports?**

For each cruise ship arriving into NSW from overseas, a NSW Health expert panel conducts a risk assessment based on the ports visited, whether passengers and crew have a risk of exposure to COVID-19, whether the ship's doctor has identified a respiratory outbreak on board, and the results of test results done on board the ship.

Following this risk assessment, further assessment may be done when the ship docks, including checking people with fever and respiratory symptoms or who have risk of exposure to COVID-19, and testing them for respiratory infections, including COVID-19. As there is an incubation period (before symptoms develop and tests are positive) for all infections including COVID-19, screening people for disease is not a failsafe, and is only one piece of the assessment.

Cruise ships have large number of passengers (often thousands), many of whom are older and have chronic medical conditions. Respiratory infections (unrelated to COVID-19) among passengers and crew are common on cruise ships. Cruise ships are responsible for, and have policies to prevent and manage outbreaks of disease on board.

## **Australians on cruise ships**

An outbreak of COVID-19 occurred on the Diamond Princess cruise ship which was docked in Japan. Although initial reports indicated that a person on the Westerdam ship in Cambodia had been infected, the infection has not been confirmed.

If you are concerned about someone on one of the Diamond Princess, please call the [DFAT consular emergency line](#).

For more information see the Australian Department of Health [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

## **What is the public health response to COVID-19?**

Infection with COVID-19 is a notifiable condition under the NSW Public Health Act 2010, so doctors and pathology laboratories are required to notify NSW Health of all people suspected or confirmed to have the infection.

Public health unit staff will investigate all cases to find out how the infection occurred, identify other people at risk of infection, implement control measures and provide other advice.

## **Protecting against COVID-19**

### **How can I protect myself / my family?**

The best way to protect yourself is the same as you would against any respiratory infection. Practice good hygiene by:

- making sure to [clean your hands thoroughly](#) for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub
- cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow
- avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Make sure you stay home if you are sick.

### **Do face masks protect against COVID-19? Which face masks?**

Face masks are not recommended for the general population.

People who have symptoms and might be infected with COVID-19 are required to stay in isolation at home and should wear a surgical face mask when in the same room as another person and when seeking medical advice to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to anyone else.

Health care workers who are caring for patients with suspected COVID-19 should use appropriate personal protective equipment to protect themselves against COVID-19. For more information refer to Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) - [Coronavirus COVID-19](#).

**Are there enough face masks in NSW?**

Additional supplies of face masks have been distributed for specific health workers by NSW Health and the Australian Government to meet current demand. NSW Health will continue to monitor supplies of face masks in NSW.

**How is hospital equipment and furniture being cleaned to protect against COVID-19?**

Hospitals ensure surfaces are cleaned and disinfected after each suspected case, as are ambulances. There is an Infection Prevention and Control Practice Handbook that outlines the appropriate steps for cleaning a room to ensure there are no viruses remaining. Staff also wear protective gear when cleaning to protect themselves and limit any spread of infection.

**Is it safe for me to go to a hospital where a COVID-19 case is?**

NSW Health works with its hospitals to maintain high infection control standards. NSW hospitals and clinicians are well trained in caring for people with infectious diseases, and in preventing their transmission to other patients.

**How do we know the people who have had COVID-19 are no longer infectious?**

People with confirmed COVID-19 infection stay in isolation under the care of medical specialists until they are no longer experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Before they are released from isolation, they have tests to see if they still have COVID-19 and the specialist care team assesses they are no longer infectious. Once they are discharged they have a follow up assessment by the medical team to make sure they remain well.

**Work, university, school and travel arrangements  
I have a holiday / work trip. Should I cancel my trip?**

The Australian Government provides up-to-date information and advice for safe travel overseas. If you are heading overseas to destinations which may have been affected, check the advice on [Smart Traveller](#).

**Can my child attend school?**

Any student or staff member who over the last 14 days has been overseas should be in self-isolation for 14 days after they returned. They are excluded from school and should not return to school or child care services for a period of 14 days after arriving, as the COVID-19 incubation period can be as long as two weeks.

Staff and students who have been identified as close contacts of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 during their infectious period must also self-isolate at home, and should not attend school or childcare settings until 14 days after their last contact with the infected person.

**Can my child visit aged care facilities?**

As children can spread a range of respiratory infections, such as influenza and RSV, with only mild symptoms, we recommend that aged care facilities do not have groups of children attend the facilities as we grapple with an early influenza season and potentially increasing spread of COVID-19.

Anyone who is sick, including children and even with minimal symptoms, should defer their visit until they are well.

**Do I need a medical certificate clearing me for work, school, university or other settings?**

No. If you do not have any symptoms there is no testing that can be done to predict whether or not you will become unwell. It is not possible to issue a 'medical clearance certificate'.

Once 14 days have passed since you returned from overseas, you have passed the time in which you would become sick if you were exposed to COVID-19. If you are still completely well 14 days after you arrived then you will not get COVID-19 from your time overseas, and you can cease self-isolation and return to work, school and university.

**Do I need to isolate myself if I have returned from holiday?**

If you have been overseas in the last 14 days (including transit), you should stay at home and isolate yourself for 14 days after you returned. You should watch out for symptoms.

If you develop a fever, a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath within 14 days of travel, you should:

- Call your doctor or healthdirect on 1800 022 222. When you call, tell them where you have travelled or if you have been in contact with a confirmed case.or (if your symptoms are severe)
- visit your local Emergency Department. When you arrive, immediately tell staff where you have travelled or if you have been in contact with a confirmed case.

It is important if you have symptoms you should not go to work, school/university/childcare, the gym, or public areas, and you should not use public transport, taxis, or ride-sharing services. If you need to seek medical care wear a surgical mask if available when attending.

**If I am worried about having COVID-19, can I ask to get tested?**

If you develop fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath and other symptoms and have travelled overseas in the 14 days before developing symptoms, you should see your GP or visit your local Emergency Department to be tested for COVID-19. If you are visiting your GP, please call ahead before seeing your doctor and tell them where you have travelled.

If you are become unwell with these symptoms without travel you should see your local GP and discuss your symptoms. There are other illnesses such as influenza that your GP may wish to test you for that can cause your symptoms.

**My work is saying that I need to get tested for COVID-19 as I have travelled recently - what should I do?**

There is no need for you to be tested unless you develop fever, cough, runny nose, and shortness of breath or other symptoms and have travelled overseas in the 14 days before developing symptoms. You should see your GP or visit your local Emergency Department to be tested for COVID-19. If you are visiting your GP, please call ahead beforehand and tell them where you have travelled. You should self-isolate and exclude yourself from work until your test result is available.

If you are become unwell with these symptoms without travel you should see your local GP and discuss your symptoms. There are other illnesses such as influenza that your GP may wish to test you for that can cause your symptoms.

**Home isolation**

**Do I need to be separate from other people in my home if I am isolating?**

Yes. If you are sharing your home with others, you should stay in a different room from other people or be separated as much as possible. Wear a surgical mask when you are in the same room as another person, and when seeking medical care. Use a separate bathroom, if available.

Make sure that you do not share a room with people who are at risk of severe disease, such as elderly people and those who have heart, lung or kidney conditions, and diabetes.

Visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home should not visit while you are isolating.

More information about home isolation is available for:

- [people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection](#)
- [close contacts and recently returned travellers.](#)

**Someone in my household recently returned from overseas or has been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case and is self-isolating. Do I need to self-isolate too?**

Other members of the household are not required to be isolated unless they have also:

- been overseas in the last 14 days
- been a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Make sure you maintain a safe distance from that person at all times but support them as much as possible to maintain their self-isolation.

### **How can I access groceries and medicines while in home isolation?**

If you need groceries or medicines (including prescription medicines), ask a family member or friend (who is not in isolation) to deliver them to your home or shop for groceries online. To prevent infecting other people, make sure you wear a mask when receiving a delivery or have the groceries left at your door.

### **When someone has finished 14 days isolation, do they need to see their GP?**

If you are well at the end of 14 days self-isolation, you can resume your normal lifestyle.

Are you worried that you or someone you know may have or has COVID-19; or are anxious about being in isolation and would you like to speak to someone about it?

Contact one of the services below for support or talk to your general practitioner.

- Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14 or [Lifeline Australia](#)  
A crisis support service that provides short term support at any time for people who are having difficulty coping or staying safe.
- Kids Helpline: 1800 551800 or [Kids Helpline](#)  
A free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 years.
- NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 51  
Mental health crisis telephone service in NSW.

## **Social distancing**

### **What is social distancing?**

Social distancing means we reduce the number of close physical and social contacts we have with one another.

When social distancing actions are combined with good personal hygiene measures the spread of a pandemic through the community can be slowed. This helps protect the most vulnerable members of the community and reduces the impact of the pandemic on essential, life-saving health services.

Social distancing is an effective measure, but it is recognised that it cannot be practised in all situations and the aim is to generally reduce potential for transmission.

While practising social distancing, people can travel to work (including public transport). For non-essential activities outside the workplace or attendance at schools, universities and childcare - social distancing includes:

- avoiding crowds and mass gatherings where it is difficult to keep the appropriate distance away from others
- avoiding small gatherings in enclosed spaces, for example family celebrations
- attempting to keep a distance of 1.5 metres between themselves and other people where possible, for example when they are out and about in public place.
- avoiding shaking hands, hugging, or kissing other people.



- avoiding visiting vulnerable people, such as those in aged care facilities or hospitals, infants, or people with compromised immune systems due to illness or medical treatment.

### **Who should practice social distancing?**

Everyone should practice social distancing, as it reduces the potential for transmission.

For more information about social distancing, refer to [COVID-19 - Advice for the NSW community](#).

### **Is it safe for me to go to the gym?**

Keeping fit remains important. If you are well and have not been asked to self-isolate then you can go to the gym. Don't go to the gym if you are unwell.

Try to go to the gym when it's less crowded. When at the gym, you should use wipes provided before you use each piece of equipment. Gym classes are currently OK, but this advice may change.

Gyms should ensure that they are cleaning regularly, using appropriate disinfectant.

### **Bulk-buying**

#### **Should I be bulk-buying items to prepare?**

There is no need to bulk-buy products at supermarkets including toilet paper, paracetamol and canned food.

It is prudent for households to have a small stock of non-perishable groceries to cover the event that in the coming months the household has been asked to self-isolate for 14 days. However, it's important to note the role of family and friends in supporting those in isolation and also to note that online grocery delivery services are now available in most areas of NSW.

### **Pets and animals**

#### **Can pets be infected with COVID-19?**

While COVID-19 seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now mainly spreading from person-to-person. There is no reason to think that any animals including pets in Australia might be a source of infection with this new virus.

There have been no reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19 in Australia.

There is also no evidence that companion animals including pets can spread COVID-19. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it's always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals.

**Can I be infected with COVID-19 from Australian bats?**

At this stage, there is no evidence that bats (or any other animals) carry the COVID-19 virus in Australia. However, Australian bats can carry other serious infections, such as Australian bat lyssavirus and Hendra virus so they are best avoided. You should also avoid bats overseas.

Where can I find more information?

- National Coronavirus Health Information Line 1800 020 080
- Visit [NSW Health - COVID-19](#)
- Visit the [World Health Organization](#)

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**REPORTS BY COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**ITEM-13**                      **CCL 24/03/20 - APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE 2020 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF MOTIONS**

**REPORT BY:**                **GOVERNANCE**  
**CONTACT:**                **DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE / MANAGER LEGAL**

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**PURPOSE**

To appoint City of Newcastle's (CN) voting delegate(s) for the 2020 Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government to be held from 14 to 17 June 2020 and to endorse motions for submission.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1 Appoint the Lord Mayor to exercise Council's voting rights at the 2020 Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly or delegate to the Lord Mayor the appointment of the voting delegate from among the Councillor attendees; and
- 2 Endorse the motions for submission to the 2020 Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly as set out at **Attachment B**.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 3 The NGA is being held from 14 to 17 June 2020 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The theme of this year's NGA is *Working Together for Our Communities*. The full program is at **Attachment A**.
- 4 By memo to all Councillors dated 20 December 2019, Councillors were invited to submit expressions of interest in attending the NGA and propose motions for submission to the NGA.
- 5 Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz has nominated to attend the NGA.
- 6 Four motions were received for consideration and endorsement as set out in **Attachment B**.
- 7 CN is entitled to one voting delegate in the debating session and as such Council will need to determine who the voting delegate will be from among attendees.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 8 Councillors' attendance at the NGA is provided for within the 2019/20 budget and includes registration fees, tickets to the official dinner for Councillors and accompanying persons, travel and accommodation expenses and the reasonable cost of meals not provided as part of the registration fee.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 9 Attendance at the NGA is consistent with the strategic directions of the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan including:

**Open and Collaborative Leadership**

- 7.2a Conduct Council business in an open, transparent and accountable manner.
- 7.2b Provide timely and effective advocacy and leadership on key community issues.
- 7.2c Establish collaborative relationships and advocate for local needs with all stakeholders.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 10 CN staff will make arrangements on behalf of attending Councillors including registration and travel.

**RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 11 Councillors are covered under CN's Personal Accident Insurance Policy for all travel related to their professional development and official duties, as per the terms, conditions, limits and exclusions of the policy wording.

**RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 12 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2019 Council appointed the Lord Mayor to exercise Council's voting rights at the 2019 Australian Local Government Association's NGA or appoint a voting delegate from among the Councillor attendees

**CONSULTATION**

- 13 Nil.

**BACKGROUND**

- 14 The Australian Local Government Association is the national voice of local government, representing 537 Councils across the country. In structure, it is a federation of state and territory local government associations.

## OPTIONS

### Option 1

- 15 Council adopts the recommendation as shown at Paragraphs 1 and 2. This is the recommended option.

### Option 2

- 16 Council adopts an alternative recommendation. This is not the recommended option.

## REFERENCES

- 17 NGA Motions Submission Guide  
<https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairaeuprod/production-conferenceco-public/9d54c2a9f7b446aab1933a83b590c30a>
- 18 Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy  
<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/bf215d59-153f-48bd-8615-3fa781f57e54/Councillor-Expenses-and-Facilities-Policy.aspx>

## ATTACHMENTS

- Item 13 Attachment A:** National General Assembly of Local Government Program  
<https://cdn.alga.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/NGA20-Brochure-WEB-2-003.pdf>
- Item 13 Attachment B:** Proposed motions for endorsement for submission to the 2020 Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly

**Item 13 Attachment B**

**CITY OF NEWCASTLE, NSW**

**i UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

That the National General Assembly:

- 1 Notes that in February 2019, City of Newcastle (CN) endorsed the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Cities Appeal campaign which is aimed at building support and awareness for the Treaty, with 26 local Councils also endorsing this campaign to date;
- 2 Encourages all local Councils to endorse the ICAN Cities Appeal Campaign; and
- 3 Writes to the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader, urging the Federal Government to sign the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

Nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to people everywhere. That is why the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted in July 2017 by 122 member states of the United Nations.

The TPNW is the first treaty to comprehensively outlaw nuclear weapons, setting out a pathway for their total elimination.

Nuclear dangers are increasing worldwide, and with more than 13,500 nuclear weapons still in existence the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons is a humanitarian imperative.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

- All national governments are invited to sign and ratify this crucial global agreement, which prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination.
- It has currently been signed by 80 nations and has 35 states parties. The Treaty will become international law when the number of states parties reaches 50. This is anticipated to occur in 2020/21.
- To date, 26 Australian Councils, including CN, have endorsed the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons 'Cities Appeal,' and have called on the Federal Government to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay.
- Hundreds more cities in thirteen countries have endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal - pledging their support for the Treaty and calling on their governments to join it.

**ii National Communications Charter: A unified approach to mental health and suicide prevention**

That the National General Assembly:

- 1 Notes that in September 2018, Everymind launched the *National Communications Charter: A unified approach to mental health and suicide prevention* (The Charter), aimed at assisting governments, organisations, community groups and individuals to play a role in reducing stigma around mental illness and suicide, while also promoting help-seeking behaviour through its guiding principles and messages;
- 2 Commends Everymind for developing this important tool, and their incredible work to unite organisations across Australia to promote communicating in ways that promote improving our mental health awareness and suicide prevention;
- 3 Encourages all Councils to sign the National Communications Charter: A unified approach to mental health and suicide prevention; and to commit to reducing stigmatising language and promoting help-seeking and help-offering behaviour in communications material; and
- 4 Encourages Council's across the nation to take a leadership role when it comes to breaking down barriers and removing the stigma of mental illness and suicide.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

Suicide is a public health issue that affects individuals, families, workplaces and communities across Australia.

It is an important issue of community concern and needs to be discussed. However, there is often confusion about what is meant by "discussing" or "talking about" suicide, and confusion about the evidence.

The Charter is a document designed to guide the way organisations talk about mental health and suicide prevention, with each other and with the community.

It serves as a formal commitment to working together and developing better structures and processes for collaboration.

The Charter is supporting workplaces, communities and individuals to use of inclusive, safe and positive language around mental illness through the development of a national language guide.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

- Local Councils can play a significant role when it comes to reducing stigma around mental health and suicide.
- The National General Assembly can take an enormous role in advancing this issue by encouraging all local Councils to sign the Charter, and to take a leadership role in every community across the nation to reduce stigma.



**iii Coastal Erosion**

That the National General Assembly

- 1 Notes that coastal erosion continues to worsen throughout Australia and that following the severe and ongoing coastal erosion occurring at Stockton in the City of Newcastle (CN) Local Government Area, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments recently declared a Natural Disaster at Stockton Beach;
- 2 Notes that the NSW Government has committed \$83.6 million through the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program to provide technical and financial support to local government to help manage the coastal zone, while the Federal Commonwealth Government does not have an existing program of funding available to address coastal erosion;
- 3 Notes that Infrastructure Australia's 2020 Infrastructure Priority List has identified coastal inundation as a High Priority Initiative in response to the issue of rising sea levels over the next 15 years; and
- 4 Calls on the Federal Commonwealth Government to implement a national, cross-jurisdictional approach to collaboratively deal with the problem of ongoing and exacerbating coastal erosion.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

Historically, coastal erosion has caused significant damage to properties, infrastructure and public facilities, and the loss of beach amenity. Severe beach erosion caused by extreme coastal storms occurs along most NSW beaches at variable magnitude and frequency, with notable erosion occurring every few to several years.

On some coasts, cumulative erosion (shoreline recession) occurs due to persistent sand loss from the beach caused by a long-term imbalance in the coastal sediment transport system. Over the coming decades, the projected acceleration in sea level rise due to climate change is expected to increase the impacts of beach erosion caused by storms, due to higher storm surge water levels, and increased rates of shoreline recession caused by changes to the balance of sediment transport systems along some parts of the coast.

Coastal erosion is not confined to state boundaries, and in many coastal locations across Australia. The Federal Government currently does not have funding available to assist with addressing coastal erosion. Scientific evidence indicates that coastal erosion is only set to get worse. The Federal Government must intervene to address this problem at a national, cross-jurisdictional level, working collaboratively to protect coastal communities.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

- Coastal erosion is worsening for many coastal Councils, with significant funding required to address coastal erosion in the short, medium and long terms.
- Currently, the NSW Government has \$83.6 million across five years to assist coastal Councils in NSW to help manage the coastal zone.
- Despite coastal erosion occurring across geographical borders, there is no national program, or fund source available to combat worsening coastal erosion.

**iv National Recycling Initiative**

That the National General Assembly:

- 1 Recognises that our national recycling industry is currently under severe strain from the China National Sword policy and a growing priority to increase Australia's recycling rate;
- 2 Notes that Infrastructure Australia recently listed national waste and recycling management as one of five national high priority initiatives; and
- 3 Calls on the Federal Government to develop a national program to assist Councils to combat the challenges Local Government is currently experiencing with recycling management, waste avoidance and resource recovery.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

Until recently, China was a large importer of recyclable materials, accepting more than 30 million tonnes of waste from all over the world every year.

Australia alone sent 1.25 million tonnes of recycled material to China in 2016-17 which is now impacted by the China National Sword policy. At the start of January 2018, however, China began to stringently enforce restrictions on the importation of recycled materials under its National Sword policy. This policy has impacted the global market for recyclable material, including the recyclable material that is currently collected in NSW.

This policy has highlighted the structural deficiencies in Australia's recycling industry at a national level, and the need for this matter to be addressed at a national level.

Additionally, Infrastructure Australia recently listed national waste and recycling management as one of five national high priority initiatives, calling for a new strategy to boost Australia's recycling rate from its current 55% to the target of 70% set out in the 2014-21 waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

- Prime Minister Scott Morrison has said that 'The state of our recycling and remanufacturing facilities, as well as the economics behind our collection systems, are under severe strain.'
- China's National Sword Policy has highlighted deficiencies within Australia's recycling management processes that need to be urgently addressed.
- Infrastructure Australia has listed national waste and recycling management as one of five national high priority initiatives.

**ITEM-14 CCL 24/03/20 - ADOPTION OF FERN BAY AND NORTH STOCKTON STRATEGY**

**REPORT BY: GOVERNANCE**  
**CONTACT: DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE / MANAGER REGULATORY, PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT**

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**PURPOSE**

To advise the outcomes of the public exhibition and adopt the Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy (the Strategy).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1 Adopts the Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy (**Attachment A**), and Implementation Plan (**Attachment B**).

**KEY ISSUES**

- 2 The Strategy was prepared with Port Stephens Council (PSC), who are also considering a report on 24 March 2020. A number of background investigations were undertaken to inform the Strategy. The background investigations report is provided at **Attachment C**. The draft Strategy, Implementation Plan and the Background Investigations report were placed on public exhibition for 28 days. A total of 12 submissions (plus a petition) were received.
- 3 A summary of submissions and responses is provided at **Attachment D**. One submission was received from the Stockton Community Action Group raising concerns about coastal erosion. All other submissions were from either Port Stephens residents or public agencies.
- 4 In response to submissions, the Strategy has been amended to allow a neighbourhood centre in Fern Bay / Fullerton Cove. PSC will be responsible for a planning proposal to facilitate this development.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 5 Implementation of the Strategy will require a number of actions to be undertaken over the immediate, short and longer terms. Programming of infrastructure works will be undertaken as funding is available and consistent with the Implementation Plan.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 6 The Strategy aligns with the following community and City of Newcastle (CN) priorities as highlighted in the Community Strategic Plan:

**Integrated and Assessable Transport**

- 1.1a Support implementation of the regional transport strategy.
- 1.1b Advocate for public transport improvements.
- 1.1c Plan and deliver accessible local infrastructure improvements for public transport.
- 1.2a Continue to upgrade, extend and promote cycle and pedestrian networks.
- 1.3a Ensure safe road networks through effective planning and maintenance.

**Protected Environment**

- 2.2a Provide and advocate for protection and rehabilitation of natural areas.

**Vibrant, Safe and Active Public Places**

- 3.1a Provide quality parkland and recreation facilities that are diverse, accessible and responsive to changing needs.
- 3.1b Enhance our beaches and coastal areas through upgraded facilities.
- 3.2a Celebrate Newcastle's cultural heritage and diversity.

**Inclusive Community**

- 4.1a Acknowledge and respect First Nations peoples.
- 4.1b Support initiatives and facilities that encourage social inclusion and community connections.
- 4.1c Improve, promote and facilitate equitable access to services and facilities.
- 4.2a Ensure people of all abilities can enjoy our public places and spaces.
- 4.2b Improve access to formal and informal lifelong learning opportunities, facilities and services.

**Liveable Built Environment**

- 5.1a Protect and promote our unique built and cultural heritage.
- 5.1b Ensure our suburbs are preserved, enhanced and promoted, while also creating opportunities for growth.
- 5.2a Plan for concentrated growth around transport and activity nodes.
- 5.2b Plan for an urban environment that promotes active and healthy communities.
- 5.3a Ensure sufficient housing diversity to meet community needs, including affordable living and adaptable housing options.
- 5.4b Plan, provide and manage infrastructure that continues to meet community needs.

**Smart and Innovative**

- 6.1b Attract new business and employment opportunities.
- 6.3a Facilitate events that attract visitors and support the local economy and the vibrancy of Newcastle.
- 6.3b Work with the tourism sector to further develop Newcastle as a visitor and event destination.
- 6.3c Work with businesses, planners and government at all levels to facilitate key infrastructure to support business growth.

**Open and Collaborative Leadership**

- 7.1a Encourage and support long term planning for Newcastle, including implementation, resourcing, monitoring and reporting.
- 7.2c Establish collaborative relationships and advocate for local needs with all stakeholders.
- 7.3a Provide opportunities for genuine engagement with the community to inform Council's decision-making.
- 7.3b Provide clear, consistent, accessible and relevant information to the community.
- 7.4a Continuous improvement in services delivery based on accountability, transparency and good governance.
- 7.4b Provide services that deliver on sustainable community service expectations.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 7 The Strategy includes an Implementation Plan which contains a priority list of actions over the short and longer period. CN and PSC will monitor and keep the Strategy under regular review. The Strategy will be reviewed every five years, or as necessary.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 8 The Strategy proposes a range of actions guided by the community priorities, strategic assessments and technical studies to inform an evidence-based plan. Implementation risks will be mitigated through regular monitoring and review.

## **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 9 The draft Strategy was considered at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 May 2019. Council resolved that:

*'Exhibition of the Draft Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy lay on the table pending a workshop with Councillors at City of Newcastle and potentially Port Stephens Council.'*

- 10 A workshop involving CN and PSC Councillors and officers was held at Port Stephens Council on 8 August 2019. The location of the new town centre and road widening / access restrictions to Nelson Bay Road were key matters of discussion and which were reflected in the draft Strategy subsequently place on public exhibition.
- 11 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 October 2019, Council resolved to place the draft Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and receive a report back to Council following the exhibition period.

## **CONSULTATION**

- 12 The Strategy was publicly exhibited from 31 October 2019 to 29 November 2019. On 15 November 2019, the 'Fern Bay Fiesta' was held at the Fern Bay community hall. Planning staff from both Councils attended the event to provide information to the community on the Strategy. During the public exhibition, 30 responses were received to an online survey with participants mostly indicating support for the aims of the Strategy, in particular the identification of a location for a supermarket.
- 13 A petition containing 634 signatures supporting a proposed supermarket at 42 Fullerton Cove Road, Fullerton Cove was received. PSC will consider preparing a planning proposal to facilitate the establishment of a neighbourhood centre on this site.

- 14 Family and Community Services (FACS) have been consulted throughout the Strategy preparation process. FACS's final advice was that they would not engage further in future land use planning for their site while they focus on supporting the existing residents of the Stockton Centre. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will continue liaising with FACS.
- 15 Consultation was also undertaken with Hunter Water Corporation. Results of the consultation and issues raised in submissions are summarised at **Attachment D**.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 16 In 2017, CN and PSC began working together to prepare a joint planning strategy for North Stockton and Fern Bay. The Strategy is the result of the collaborative effort of CN and PSC, detailed background studies and extensive community engagement. The Strategy will be used to assess the strategic merit of future planning proposals.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option 1**

- 17 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

### **Option 2**

- 18 Council does not proceed with the Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy. This is not the recommended option.

## **REFERENCES**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Item 14 Attachment A:** Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy

**Item 14 Attachment B:** Implementation Plan

**Item 14 Attachment C:** Background Investigations

**Item 14 Attachment D:** Summary of submissions

**Item 14 Attachments A to D distributed under separate cover**



**ITEM-15 CCL 24/03/20 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT OUR BUDGET 2020/21 (DELIVERY PROGRAM 2018 - 2022 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020/21) AND DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21**

**REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**  
**CONTACT: DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT / MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING**

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**PURPOSE**

To place the draft 2020/21 Our Budget (2018-2022 Delivery Program and 2020/21 Operational Plan) and the draft 2020/21 Fees and Charges Register on public exhibition as required under the Local Government Act 1993 (Act).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1 Resolves to place the draft 2020/21 Our Budget (2018-2022 Delivery Program and 2020/21 Operational Plan) as at **Attachment A** and the draft 2020/21 Fees and Charges Register as at **Attachment B** on public exhibition for at least 28 days prior to final consideration by Council.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 2 Under section 404 of the Act, councils must have a Delivery Program (DP) detailing the principal activities it will undertake to achieve the objectives identified in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Councils are also required to have an annual Operational Plan adopted by the beginning of each financial year which outlines the planned activities for the year as part of the DP. The DP and Operational Plan are combined into one document, titled '2020/21 Our Budget' (**Attachment A**).
- 3 Under section 608 of the Act, councils may charge and recover an approved fee for any services it provides. City of Newcastle's (CN) draft 2020/21 Fees and Charges Register is provided at **Attachment B**.
- 4 CN has demonstrated its commitment to financial sustainability in the draft 2020/21 Our Budget by maintaining a net operating surplus, renewing and maintaining assets in a sustainable range and utilising evidence-based decision making to ensure sound budget management underpinned by its financial governance frameworks.

- 5 Highlights include: a \$19m commitment to continue the delivery of key initiatives at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre, including expansion of Cell 9 for landfill and construction of an Organics Recycling Facility; a \$9.2m commitment to Urban Centre and City Centre revitalisation; and \$5m to continue the revitalisation of our coastline.
- 6 \$3.5m has been included in the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan for measures permitted under the Coastal Zone Management Program approved by the NSW Government in August 2018 to combat short to medium-term coastal erosion in Stockton. Once long-term measures are approved by the NSW Government via a Coastal Management Program (CMP) due for submission 30 June 2020, CN will consider funding contributions via the quarterly budget review process, along with options for external funding. CN has made a conscious decision not to estimate this figure in the draft 2020/21 Our Budget given the Stockton community is yet to have an opportunity to respond to the draft CMP via the public exhibition period. The CMP will include long-term measures to address coastal erosion at Stockton.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7 The draft 2020/21 Our Budget is based on the financial objectives contained within the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and delivers a net operating surplus, renewal and maintenance of assets within a sustainable range and maintaining strong cash reserves to safeguard the financial legacy of the Newcastle Local Government Area.
- 8 The operating result budgeted for in the 2020/21 financial year is a surplus of \$3.1m. The operating surplus ensures CN has the financial capacity to maintain the City's assets at a safe, reliable and sustainable level while still responding to our commitments to the community.
- 9 The draft 2020/21 Our Budget includes increased revenues from the 2019/20 financial year. This is offset by the higher operational expenditure required to maintain and, in some instances improve CN's service levels to match community expectations, whilst also increasing CN's service delivery, customer experiences and community engagement.
- 10 The 2020/21 works program inclusive of operational and capital expenditure is budgeted at \$82.5m. A list of example community projects to be delivered through the 2020/21 works program is included in each of the 'Our Budget' document themes.
- 11 During the year, CN generates cash from its operating activities which is used as a funding source to deliver the works program. It is forecast that \$72.2m will be generated from CN's operations in 2020/21 to fund the budgeted 2020/21 works program.

## COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

- 12 The draft 2020/21 Our Budget delivers key objectives and actions against the seven strategic directions of the CSP.
- 13 This report aligns to the CSP under the strategic direction of 'Open and collaborative leadership' action:
- 7.1.1 'Encourage and support long term planning for Newcastle, including implementation, resourcing, monitoring and reporting'.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS

- 14 The draft 2020/21 Our Budget (2018-2022 Delivery Program and 2020/21 Operational Plan) and draft 2020/21 Fees and Charges Register are required to be adopted by Council by 30 June 2020 following public exhibition. The Public Exhibition period is proposed from 25 March to 21 April 2020 which meets the minimum 28-day requirement.

## RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

- 15 The development of the financial budget is based on a number of assumptions, including some that are outside of CN's control. This may potentially affect the financial results. The risks associated with these assumptions include:
- i) Grant funding from State and Federal Governments is lower/higher than anticipated.
  - ii) Investment returns are lower/higher than assumed.
  - iii) Contributions, for example local infrastructure contributions (formerly section 94), differ from the level predicted.
  - iv) Cost shifting from other Government agencies without offsetting revenue.
  - v) Inflation increase against costs is higher than anticipated.
  - vi) Legislative changes that may lower income streams or increase expenditure.
  - vii) Natural disasters (storms, pandemics).
- 16 Implementation of the financial budget will be carefully monitored, and necessary adjustments implemented through the quarterly budget review statement. This may include a reduction in forecast income due to the impacts of COVID-19 should the virus continue to affect CN's ability to stage and host sporting and cultural events exceeding 500 people, from July 2020 onwards.

**RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 17 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 June 2019, Council adopted the 2018-2022 Delivery Program and 2019/20 Operation Plan and the 2019/20 Fees and Charges Register.
- 18 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 June 2018, Council adopted the CSP Newcastle 2030.

**CONSULTATION**

- 19 A Councillor Workshop was held on 12 November 2019.
- 20 Councillors were invited to submit a Community Priority Form by 22 November 2019. This deadline was extended to 27 November for five Councillors and then a further week. Ten Councillors submitted a priority form. Ultimately 83% of the initiatives nominated by Councillors have been included in the 2020/21 Operational Plan.
- 21 A two-day Councillor Strategic Workshop was held on 31 January to 1 February 2020.
- 22 A Councillor Workshop was held on 10 March 2020.
- 23 Subject to endorsement of the recommendation detailed at Paragraph 1, the draft 2020/21 Our Budget (2018-2022 Delivery Program and the 2020/21 Operational Plan) and draft 2020/21 Fees and Charges Register will be placed on public exhibition. Community feedback will be considered prior to finalising the documents.

**OPTIONS**

**Option 1**

- 24 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

**Option 2**

- 25 Council resolves to vary the recommendation in the adoption of the report. This is not the recommended option.

**BACKGROUND**

- 26 The Delivery Program is required to be prepared every four years following a local government general election. The DP and Operational Plan are subsequently required to be reviewed annually and adopted by 30 June of the relevant year.

**REFERENCES**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Item 15 Attachment A:** Draft 2020/21 Our Budget (2018-2022 Delivery Program and 2020/21 Operational Plan)

**Item 15 Attachment B:** Draft 2020/21 Fees and Charges Register

**Item 15 Attachments A and B distributed under separate cover**

**ITEM-16 CCL 24/03/20 - PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES - 35 ROBERT STREET AND 22 ANNIE STREET, WICKHAM**

**REPORT BY: INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY**  
**CONTACT: DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY / INTERIM MANAGER PROPERTY AND FACILITIES**

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**PURPOSE**

To seek Council approval to close a section of road reserve at John Street, Wickham, and sell the land as two separate parcels to the adjoining property owners.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1 Endorse the closure of two sections of the John Street road reserve adjacent to Lot 100 DP 808303, subject to receiving approval from the Crown - NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- 2 Approve the sale of the 157m<sup>2</sup> parcel of land (**Attachment A**) to the adjoining owners of Lot 101 DP808303 for \$85,000 (plus GST). The proposed purchase price is based on an independent valuation of the land following the road closure and has been agreed upon by all parties.
- 3 Approve the sale of the 139m<sup>2</sup> parcel of land (**Attachment B**) to the adjoining owner of Lot 100 DP 808303 for \$80,000 (plus GST). The proposed purchase price is based on an independent valuation of the land following the road closure and has been agreed upon by all parties.
- 4 Grant authority to the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to execute all relevant documentation to effect the transactions.
- 5 Endorse the sale revenue be transferred to City of Newcastle's 'Works Program: Specific Projects' internal reserve.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 6 The road closure is subject to approval by the Crown and Ministerial consent, following Council's endorsement to close the road.
- 7 Once closed and transferred the road closure applicants have agreed to consolidate the road closure lot within their respective properties, being 35 Robert Street and 22 Annie Street, Wickham. The applicants have agreed to pay all costs associated with the closure.

- 8 An underground stormwater pipe is located within the subject land on the western boundary. An easement of approximately 2.5 metres wide is required along the western boundary over the stormwater pipe.
- 9 Any development of the land sold to the adjoining owner, or any future successor in title, would be subject to separate development consent.
- 10 The proposed road closure will be advertised for public comment and any submissions received will be forwarded with the application to the NSW Land Registry Services (LRS) for consideration.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 11 City of Newcastle (CN) will receive \$165,000 (plus GST) from the closures and sales, with all costs including legal, survey and service relocation borne by the applicants.
- 12 The revenue received from the sale of the land will be transferred to CN's 'Works Program: Specific Projects' internal reserve.

### **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 13 The road closure aligns with the following Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan directions:

#### **Liveable Built Environment**

5.4b Plan, provide and manage infrastructure that continues to meet community needs

### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 14 The road closure process involves public notification of the proposal for 28 days and CN entering into a deed of agreement with the adjoining owner. The applicant is then required to arrange and provide a survey plan, lodge a Development Application and Subdivision Application for endorsement of the road closure plan, thereby creating a separate lot for sale.
- 15 After endorsement and registration of the plan at the Land Registry Service, the Crown then publishes the closure in the NSW Government Gazette. After amendments to the title, the land will be sold to the applicant.
- 16 The anticipated timeframe for the road closure process is expected to be 24 months.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 17 There is a risk of the road closure not being approved by the NSW Department of Primary Industry - Crown Lands. The applicant will pay all outgoings associated with the application and therefore CN is not financially exposed.

## RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS

18 Nil.

## CONSULTATION

19 The road closure will be advertised for public comment, for a period of 28 days, with the adjoining property owners and relevant authorities notified directly.

## BACKGROUND

20 The road reserve adjoining 35 Robert Street and 22 Annie Street was created for a possible road widening in 1991 by DP 808303 (**Attachment C**). It was subsequently decided that the road widening was not required.

21 The road reserve was identified by CN as being occupied without authority by the owners of 35 Robert Street and 22 Annie Street. Fencing has been erected on the respective parcels and the parcels have been used exclusively by the owners of the adjoining property for an unknown period.

22 The registered title owners of 35 Robert Street and 22 Annie Street were issued with notice that the land is being occupied without authorisation on 20 March 2019.

23 The registered title owners of 35 Robert Street are currently occupying the land under consent pursuant to s.138 Roads Act 1993 on an occupancy fee of \$3,850pa. The registered title owners of 22 Annie Street are currently occupying the land under consent pursuant to s.138 Roads Act 1993 on an occupancy fee of \$3,675pa.

24 A formal application to close and purchase the road was subsequently submitted by the adjoining property owners.

## OPTIONS

### Option 1

25 The recommendation as at Paragraphs 1 to 5. This is the recommended option.

### Option 2

26 Council resolves not to consent to the proposed closure and subsequent sale of part of the road reserve adjoining 35 Robert Street and 22 Annie Street, Wickham. This is not the recommended option.



**ATTACHMENTS**

**Item 16 Attachment A:** Aerial site diagram showing the proposed road closure area adjoining 35 Robert Street, Wickham.

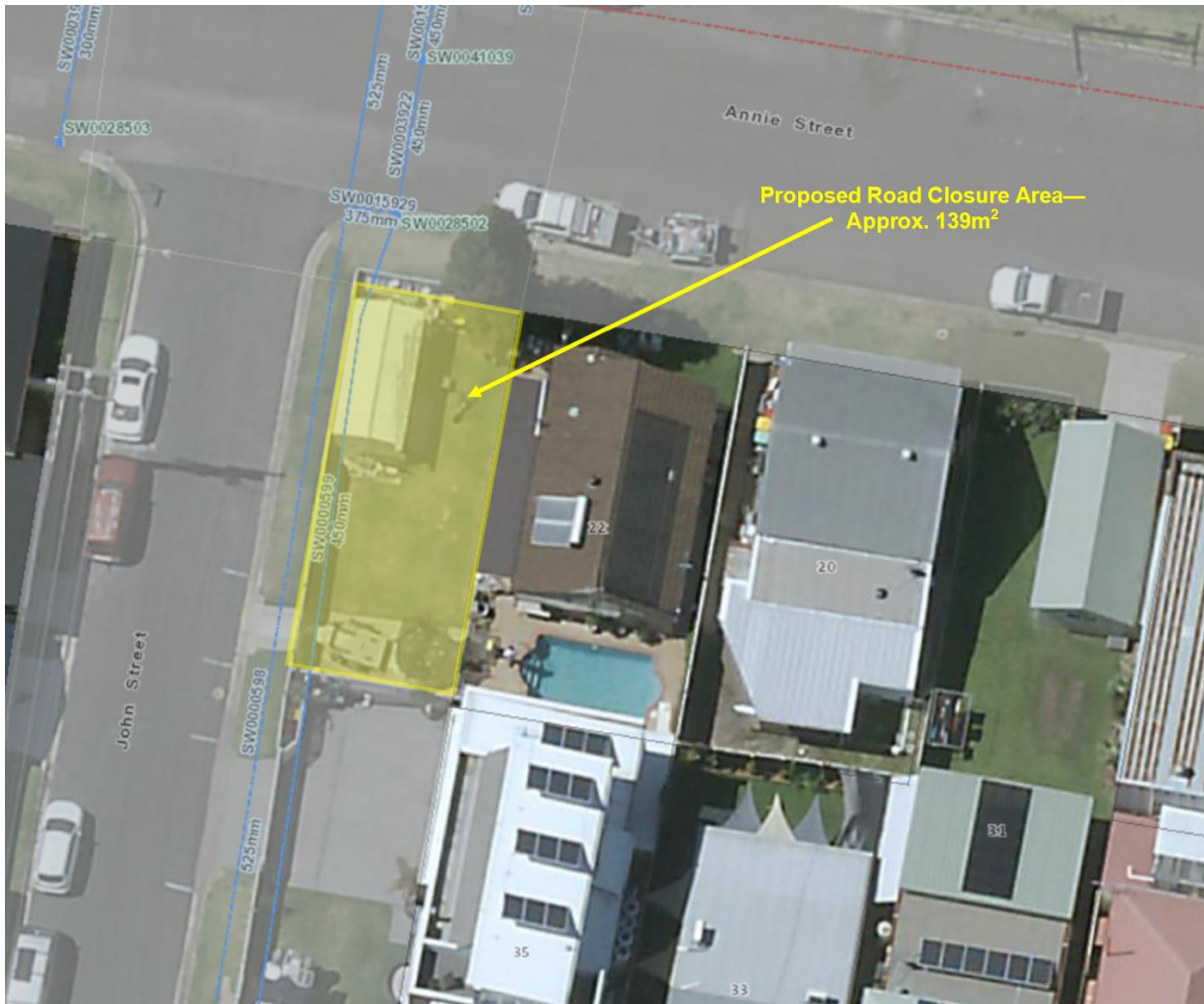
**Item 16 Attachment B:** Aerial site diagram showing the proposed road closure area adjoining 22 Annie Street, Wickham.

**Item 16 Attachment C:** Deposited Plan 808303.

**Item 16 Attachment A:** Aerial site diagram showing proposed road closure area adjoining 35 Robert Street, Wickham.



**Item 16 Attachment B:** Aerial site diagram showing proposed road closure area adjoining 22 Annie Street, Wickham.

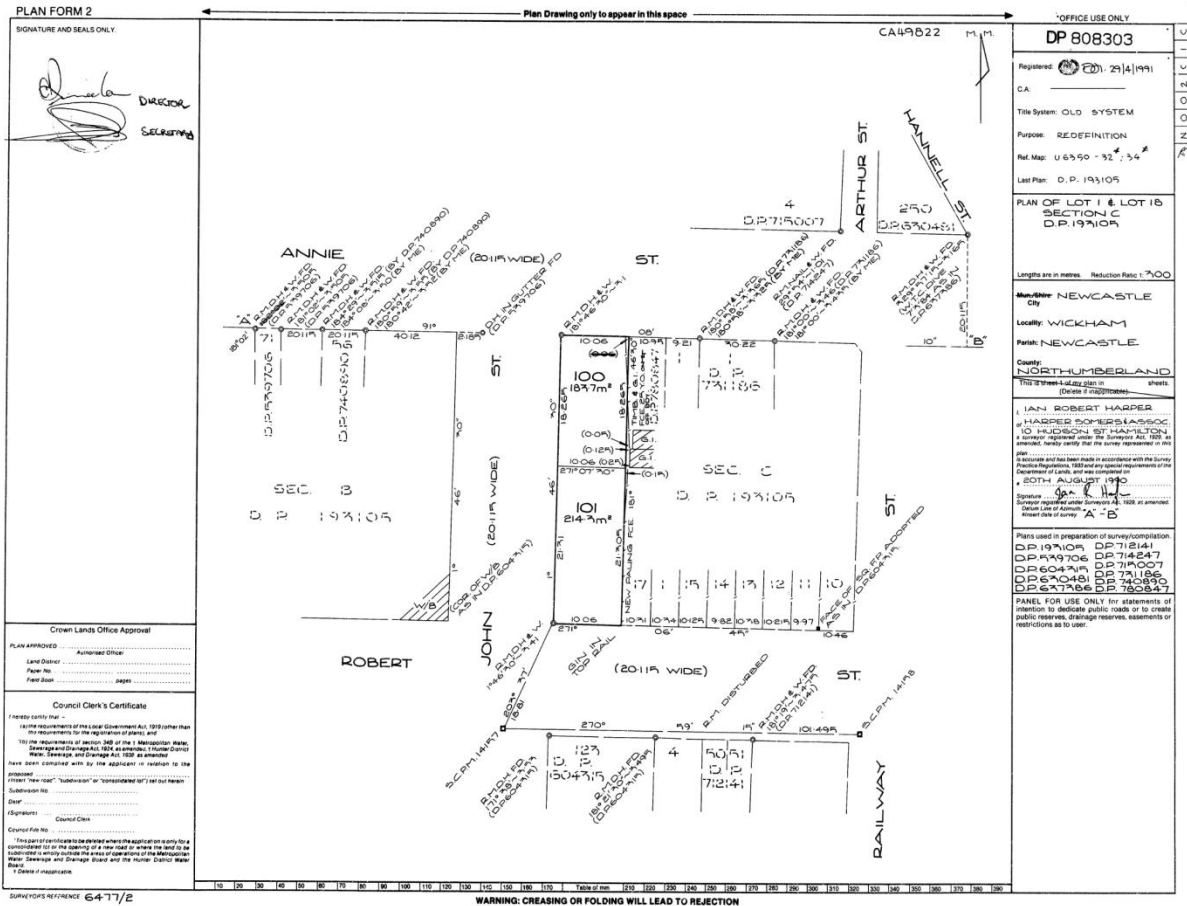


# CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Ordinary Council Meeting 24 March 2020

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## Item 16 Attachment C: Deposited Plan 808303



**ITEM-17                    CCL 24/03/20 - EXECUTIVE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**REPORT BY:                GOVERNANCE**  
**CONTACT:                 DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE / ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

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**PURPOSE**

To report on City of Newcastle's (CN) monthly performance. This includes:

- a) Monthly financial position and year to date (YTD) performance against the 2019/20 Operational Plan as at the end of February 2020.
- b) Investment of temporary surplus funds under section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Act), submission of report in accordance with the Act and clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Regulation).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1 Receives the Executive Monthly Performance Report for February 2020.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 2 At the end of February 2020 the consolidated YTD actual operating position is a surplus of \$11.4m which represents a positive variance of \$7.1m against the budgeted YTD surplus of \$4.3m. This budget variance is due to a combination of income and expenditure variances which are detailed in **Attachment A**. The full year revised budget for 2019/20 is a surplus of \$4.1m.
- 3 The net funds generated as at the end of February 2020 is a surplus of \$11.4m (after capital revenues, expenditure and loan principal repayments). This is a positive variance to the YTD budgeted position of \$1.1m. This is primarily due to a timing variance in the delivery of CN's works program with a higher amount of project expenditure (both capital and operational expenditures) expected to be incurred during the final quarter of the financial year.
- 4 CN's temporary surplus funds are invested consistent with CN's Investment Policy, Investment Strategy, the Act and Regulations. Details of all CN funds invested under s.625 of the Act are provided in the Investment Policy and Strategy Compliance Report (section 4 of **Attachment A**).

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 5 The variance between YTD budget and YTD actual results at the end of February 2020 is provided in the Executive Monthly Performance Report.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 6 This report aligns to the Community Strategic Plan under the strategic direction of 'Open and collaborative leadership' action:

*7.4b 'ensure the management of Council's budget allocations and funding alternatives are compliant with Council policy and relevant legislation to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.'*

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 7 The distribution of the report and the information contained therein is consistent with:
- i) CN's adopted annual financial reporting framework;
  - ii) CN's Investment Policy and Strategy; and
  - iii) Clause 212 of the Regulation and s.625 of the Act.

**RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 8 No additional risk mitigation has been identified this month.

**RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 9 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 September 2018 Council adopted to receive an Executive Monthly Performance Report for July to May no later than one month after the month being reported as part of the annual financial reporting framework.
- 10 The Investment Policy Compliance Report included in the Executive Monthly Performance Report includes a specific confirmation in regard to compliance with part E of the Investment Policy.

**CONSULTATION**

- 11 A monthly workshop is usually conducted with the Councillors to provide detailed information and a forum to ask questions. The workshop materials were sent out via memo this month due to a higher than expected Council workshop schedule.

**BACKGROUND**

12 The presentation of a monthly Executive Performance Report to Council and a workshop addresses the Council resolution for monthly reporting and exceeds the requirements of the Act.

**OPTIONS**

**Option 1**

13 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

**Option 2**

14 Council resolves to vary the recommendations in the adoption of the report. This is not the recommended option.

**REFERENCES**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Item 17 Attachment A:** Executive Monthly Performance Report – February 2020

**Item 17 Attachment A distributed under separate cover**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**ITEM-4                      NOM 24/03/20 - SUBMISSION TO REVIEW DISABILITY  
INCLUSION ACT 2014**

**COUNCILLORS:    M BYRNE, C DUNCAN AND D CLAUSEN**

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**PURPOSE**

*The following Notice of Motion was received on 8 March 2020 from the abovenamed Councillors.*

**MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

- 1    Prepares a submission to the NSW Government's Review of the Disability Inclusion Act.
  
- 2    That the submission includes but not be limited to:
  - a)    Support for ongoing funding to Newcastle based disability advocacy organisations (including Disability Advocacy NSW and Community Disability Alliance Hunter);
  - b)    Concern regarding the lack of NSW Government funding to implement the mandated Disability Inclusion Action Plans, that are required under the Act;
  - c)    The impacts of the changing demographic profile of Newcastle, including its ageing population, which increases pressure on local government to provide accessible services without any additional Government funding;
  - d)    Any relevant feedback from stakeholders, including from CN's Access Inclusion Advisory Committee.

**BACKGROUND**

FACS Review Discussion Paper:

[https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/disability/review-of-the-disability-inclusion-act/discussion-paper?merge\\_chapters=true](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/disability/review-of-the-disability-inclusion-act/discussion-paper?merge_chapters=true)

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil



**REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - NOM 24/03/20 - SUBMISSION TO REVIEW  
DISABILITY INCLUSION ACT 2014**

**REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**

**CONTACT: DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**

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**DIRECTOR COMMENT**

This report provides information on City of Newcastle's (CN) submission to the Review of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014. Submissions close 30 March 2020.

CN staff, in consultation with the Access Inclusion Committee, are drafting a submission to Department of Communities and Justice on the Review of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014.

CN's submission will focus on the following areas:

- General comments on objects and principles, as relevant to local government;
- Advocacy for better vertical alignment between identified state agency Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAP) and local government, notably Transport, Tourism, Planning and Environment;
- Requesting the State to articulate its role in reform at a national level for National Construction Code, design standards and provision of accessibility (or require key agencies to include in DIAP);
- Urging the State to review and articulate its role the delivery and monitoring of affordable and adaptable housing (or require key agencies to include in DIAP);
- Cost shifting from state government to local government;
- Resourcing of the Disability Council and its role in reporting; and
- Better structure around livable communities and the role of key public authorities in infrastructure.



**ATTACHMENTS**

**NOM Item 5 Attachment A:** Cleaning Up Our Act: Redirecting the Future of Plastic in NSW:

<https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.nswdpie-yoursay.files/6115/8338/7047/19p2034-nsw-plastics-plan.pdf>

**NOM Item 5 Attachment B:** Cleaning Up Our Act: The Future for Waste and Resource Recovery in NSW:

<https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.nswdpie-yoursay.files/7515/8338/8082/19p2036-cleaning-up-our-act-20yr-waste-strategy.pdf>

**ITEM-6                    NOM 24/03/20 - SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE CARERS**

**COUNCILLOR:        J MACKENZIE**

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**PURPOSE**

*The following Notice of Motion was received on Thursday 12 March 2020 from the abovenamed Councillor.*

**MOTION**

That City of Newcastle

- 1 Commends the NSW Government on the creation of The Wildlife Heroes Bushfire Emergency Fund 2019 grant program, funded through its Environmental Trust and managed by the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, noting its explicit aims to support wildlife volunteers to respond to emergencies (financially, organisationally, psychologically) and to improve wildlife group emergency response capacity long-term.
- 2 Establish a Caring for Carers Program for wildlife carers in the Newcastle LGA that responds to identified capacity needs, including but not limited to:
  - a. Exemption from waste fees at Summerhill Waste Management Centre, consistent with the requirements for the NSW Community Service Exemption (CSE) from the NSW waste levy for eligible waste collected or received through community services or activities.
  - b. Provision of insurance for volunteers working to support wildlife carers through Council's Personal Accident Insurance or other appropriate method.

**BACKGROUND**

The recent bushfires have had a devastating impact on the native animal species of NSW. The full extent of the impact is still being assessed, but it is understood that more than 800 million animals were killed in the fires, and that the fires impacted the habitat of at least 84 of our most vulnerable animals. Specifically, fires have impacted:

- 25% all modelled koala habitat in eastern NSW;
- 30% of bushland where 32 threatened animal species have previously been sighted;
- 5% of bushland where 114 threatened animal species have previously been sighted
- the long-footed potoroo population, which is likely to be badly impacted as almost every previous sighting of this animal occurs within fire-affected areas; and

- the brush-tailed rock-wallaby population, which is likely to be badly affected as more than 80% of all previous sightings of this animal occurs within fire-affected areas.

Injured wildlife needs specialist care to maximise their chance of recovery. In NSW, this service is provided predominantly by volunteer wildlife rehabilitators and veterinary professionals. There are more than 5,500 wildlife volunteers in NSW alone, who spend thousands of dollars of their own money every year to rescue, treat and rehabilitate native animals. Wildlife volunteers in NSW respond to nearly 180,000 emergency phone calls and rescue around 104,000 sick and injured animals every year. The rescue and care work is unpaid and requires 24 hour a day attention. There are no public holidays for wildlife carers. The value of their contribution is estimated to be \$27 million annually.

The burden of caring for injured, orphaned and homeless animals has compounded for wildlife carers already managing significant mental and financial strain.

In recognition of this invaluable work, the NSW Government is providing resources to support wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Funding has been made available for the supply of necessities for emergency responders including safety equipment, animal food and formula, fuel vouchers, first aid equipment, medications and outdoor work equipment. Further, the \$150,000 from Australian Government funding will be used for mental health services to care for wildlife carers who manage the psychological and health impacts of this work.

Programs from the State and Federal Government can be supported by a small, targeted investment from the City of Newcastle, based on the recent experience of Softy's recent 'care for the carers' program. This program revealed key needs (see attached) that could be met by the City of Newcastle, in order to improve the support provided to wildlife carers so that they are able to continue their vital work.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**NOM Item 6 Attachment A:** Softy's Clubhouse, 2020, Caring for Carers Proposal

## NOM Item 6 Attachment A

# Caring for Carers

In the midst of Australia's bushfire emergency in December 2019, a bunch of us at Softys Clubhouse wanted to help wildlife.

Donating money is a good option - unless you don't have spare money.

Becoming a wildlife carer is also a good option - but training up is a long process and not many people have the practical capacity to take on the responsibility.

We trialled a project where we contacted wildlife carers to see if we could take some pressure off them by doing household chores. We then did a shout out for volunteers and had an overwhelming response.

## A BIT ABOUT WILDLIFE CARERS

Wildlife Rescue organisations are not government funded and are run by volunteers. Volunteers get some goods donated or supplied by their organisation, but predominantly foot the bill for animal feed, medical supplies, enclosures and other requirements. The volunteers work around the clock caring for injured and orphaned wildlife. The bulk of wildlife carers are over 50. More younger people would love to become carers, but job insecurity and housing affordability are huge obstacles. The fires brought the work of wildlife carers to public attention, but the drought, successive heat waves and increased urban development had already increased the workload for carers. Many carers we spoke to were existing on just a few hours of sleep each night.

These unpaid wildlife carers essentially run a vital 24 hour emergency service. With no weekends, no holidays, no pay.

When you're in "emergency mode" all the time, you don't have time to keep up with household chores and yardwork. You generate a lot of washing. You generate a lot of rubbish - unusable or broken donated goods, temporary animal transport boxes, completely ruined sheets and towels, never ending piles of branches and stuff that goes into animal cages.

So - it turns out that most wildlife carers have

- A) a bunch of chores to do
- B) stacks of unusable stuff and green waste to get rid of
- C) specific enclosure building or repair work to be done

# Success Stories

## WOMBAT BURROW PROJECT DAY

A carer out at Millfield has five wombats in care. A small baby, and couple of toddlers and a couple of bigger wombats. The two bigger wombats should have been soft-released\*, but their intended release site was no longer suitable due to drought. So the bigger wombats would need to stay with this carer for longer and they weren't quite getting the idea about digging a proper burrow. A volunteer dug a huge burrow for these wombats to give them a start.

\*soft-release is when you have a carer who lives near a suitable release habitat and they start with the animals in an enclosure and eventually let them escape into that habitat and continue feeding till the animals no longer require feeding. During the drought and fires you may recall a couple of news stories about animals that had been soft-released in the past, coming back to the carer's homes for food and safety.



## CLEAN UP DAY AT MARGARETS HOUSE

Margaret in Lake Macquarie has a broad range of animals in rehabilitation. She has 5-8 joeys, a group of 12 month old roos, baby possums and bats- she has it all! She works round the clock to keep them fed and her dedication is inspiring. We visited her and spent a day cleaning up her garden which had become overgrown. Piles of dry leaves, sticks, and weeds were overwhelming her as she tried to get into her enclosures to feed the animals. She also needs a fence built which we started work on for her. She was beaming when we left the backyard clear and clean for her.





# Our Vision

## **WE HAVE MORE THAN GOOD INTENTIONS**

We have taken the time to sit down and work out how this could logistically become an on-going organisation with regular clean ups that take pressure off over worked wildlife carers.

We have people skilled in wildlife care who know the industry of wildlife rehabilitation

We also have people skilled in administration, marketing and digital media

We also have a lot of volunteers who would love to be a part of it

We are seeking advice and assistance on connecting all of it up to become a volunteer organisation that can on-goingly support wildlife carers.

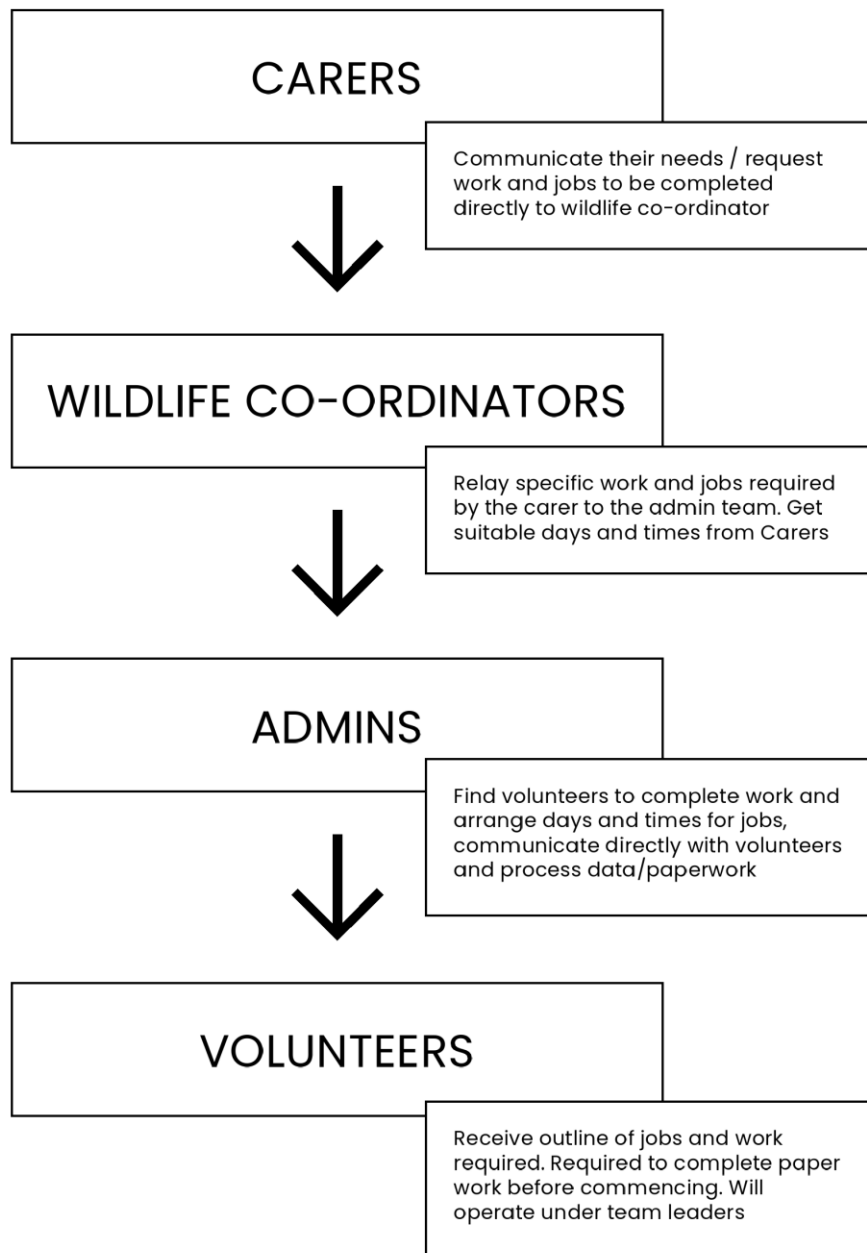
Rehabilitating wildlife is a public service. We would like to offer relief to Wildlife carers who get little compensation for their work that enriches the community by keeping precious wildlife alive.

Ask any Australian and they would agree, rehabilitating wildlife is vital work that should be supported in any way.



# The process

**WE HAVE BROKEN DOWN THE ENTIRE PROCESS INTO FOUR DEFINED ROLES**



**REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - NOM 24/03/20 - SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE CARERS**

**REPORT BY: CITY WIDE SERVICES**

**CONTACT: INTERIM DIRECTOR CITY WIDE SERVICES**

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**DIRECTOR COMMENT**

Blackbutt Reserve was placed in the trusteeship of City of Newcastle (CN) on its inception in 1938. Around 1963 the Council embarked on its Blackbutt program and began the process of restoring the Reserve which had become badly overtaken by weeds. Captive animal displays were introduced to the Reserve in the 1960s and barbecues, picnic tables, amenities and playgrounds have been gradually added to improve the facility.

Blackbutt Reserve has always maintained an extensive volunteer program with participants being able to volunteer within three main areas being:

- 1 animal care and education activities
- 2 maintenance around Blackbutt Reserve
- 3 operation of the Blackbutt Kiosk.

Its volunteer program specifically focusses on animal care and its education activities. This involves animal diet preparation and feeding, exhibit cleaning and maintenance, animal husbandry, environmental education, public presentations/keeper talks and special events/displays. This is consistent with the values of Blackbutt Reserve as captured in the Blackbutt Plan of Management.

The initiative of the Caring for Carers Program differs in that it is a program designed to care for the carers of wildlife.

As noted in the attachment to the Notice of Motion, local not for profit Incorporated Association Softys Clubhouse wishes to form a Caring for Carers organisation.

Softys Clubhouse has identified skills in wildlife care who know the industry of wildlife rehabilitation, as well as administration, marketing and digital media. It also has a sufficient number of willing volunteers.

The group has identified the issues of free access to tipping and public insurance as critical to their formation. CN can potentially assist in these areas without needing to establish the program as suggested in the Notice of Motion.

**NSW Wildlife Heroes Bushfire Emergency Fund 2019:**

The NSW Government's NSW Wildlife Heroes Bushfire Emergency Fund 2019 provides funding from November 1 2019 through to July 2022 and is limited to NSW licensed wildlife volunteer groups and Independent wildlife licence holders. Applicants must have a current group or independent rehabilitation licence issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Local Government is ineligible for funding support.

A Softys Clubhouse formed group is eligible for funding but would be required to first seek NSW licensing as a wildlife group.

**Exemption of waste fees at Summerhill Waste Management Centre:**

CN can support the Caring for Carers initiative to seek exemption from the NSW waste levy for eligible waste where the group meets the requirements for the NSW Community Service Exemption (CSE) in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

**Provision of insurance for volunteers:**

All CN policies cover CN activities or where it has appropriate legal obligations. Its policies do not however cover the activities of third parties that it has no control over nor legal obligations to.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That City of Newcastle

- 1 Commends the NSW Government on the creation of The Wildlife Heroes Bushfire Emergency Fund 2019 grant program, funded through its Environmental Trust and managed by the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, noting its explicit aims to support wildlife volunteers to respond to emergencies (financially, organisationally, psychologically) and to improve wildlife group emergency response capacity long-term.
- 2 Notes the important work undertaken by volunteer wildlife carers to rehabilitate wildlife and writes to wildlife carers in order to establish how CN employees can utilise a maximum of two days (or four half days) from their Personal Leave balance per year to support this program and attend a genuine volunteer opportunity.
- 3 Notes the important work undertaken by CN's own Blackbutt Reserve volunteers who focus on animal care, education activities, maintenance around and the operation of the Blackbutt Kiosk in conjunction with the Blackbutt Plan of Management.

- 4 Works with Softys Clubhouse to assist with the identification of the relevant insurance for volunteers participating in a Caring for Carers program. Further that it works with Softys Clubhouse on the identification of a suitable CN administered grants program that could provide financial support towards the relevant volunteer insurance.
  
- 5 Work with Softys Clubhouse to assist them in seeking an exemption from waste fees at Summerhill Waste Management Centre, consistent with the requirements for the NSW Community Service Exemption (CSE) from the NSW waste levy for eligible waste collected or received through community services or activities.



A Community Pantry was recently installed by volunteers in the small park adjacent to the Hamilton Train Station, and was heavily utilised by members of the community. The success of this community-led installation serves as a demonstration of the value of these facilities as social infrastructure, and is a clear sign of the need for more, permanent installations. Newcastle Council is well-placed as a community service provider to lead in the expansion of community pantry facilities across the LGA in locations of identified need. This is best delivered in a strategic and coordinated way through the implementation of the Social Infrastructure Strategy.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - NOM 24/03/20 - SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: THE COMMUNITY PANTRY**

**REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**

**CONTACT: DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**

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**DIRECTOR COMMENT**

Homelessness is a complex socio-economic issue spanning communities and local government jurisdictions. City of Newcastle (CN) provides support to the NSW Government and its agencies, who have primary responsibility for homelessness across the state; and community agencies that provide on-ground support and assistance.

CN works closely with specialist homeless service (SHS) providers under a 'Housing First' model as current best practice under the [NSW Government's Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023](#). Research shows that this approach, along with accompanying support services, is the best way to reduce homelessness in the long term. Once permanent and stable housing is secured for homeless people, other health and well-being issues can be addressed. It is important that all work undertaken to support homeless people becomes part of the solution and supports the Housing First model.

There has been a notable increase in 'grassroot goodwill' initiatives around the city aimed at helping those in need. The direct delivery of goods and services on the street or within community assets, if done in isolation from housing and other support services, means that the crucial short and long-term support needed to help individuals to exit homelessness is not provided.

In response to the proposal that CN "*installs 'community pantry' facilities through Council's network of community assets at identified priority locations across the LGA, delivered through the implementation of the Social Infrastructure Strategy*", it is proposed that CN explore a sustainable and coordinated way of working with grassroot goodwill initiatives, service providers and SHS to amplify impact and ensure efforts are linked in with existing Newcastle SHS providers.

CN is well-positioned to undertake this given our existing relationships and partnerships with the sector. It is proposed that CN:

- 1 Consult and collaborate with Newcastle's network of SHS and other community providers, who are already providing hampers, parcels and vouchers to rough sleepers and those who are under significant 'living stress', to identify gaps in service provision where potential uses of CN community assets in priority locations may be able to support the distribution of outreach hampers, parcels and vouchers.

- 2 Investigate resources and guidance for grassroots initiatives. CN's website can be utilised to provide a central depository of resources, including information about outreach food and support service availability for users; the Housing First model; ways to volunteer with existing services; links to available community grants; and CN's event licensing process. Website content could be designed to harness the goodwill of the Newcastle community while ensuring that efforts to help are collaborative (linking groups and organisations) and are always aimed at enabling people to exit homelessness, rather than providing short-term relief that enables ongoing homelessness.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That City of Newcastle

- 1 Notes the ongoing work of the Council to address homelessness, including the resolution of the 27 February 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting in support of the Ending Homelessness Pledge, and the resolution of the 10 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting to refer the development of a homelessness and heatwave program to the Strategy and Innovation Advisory Committee.
- 2 Notes the resolved LMM from June 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting to resource and develop a Social Infrastructure Strategy.
- 3 In consultation and collaboration with Newcastle's network of SHS providers, identify potential uses of CN community assets for the distribution of outreach hampers, parcels and vouchers.
- 4 Explores resources and guidance on CN's website to inform the community about grassroots initiatives aimed at helping homeless people.





**MOTION TO PROCEED**

The discussion of the confidential report take place in a closed session, with the press and public excluded, for the following reasons:

- A The matter relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business
  - B The closed session involves only as much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security.
  - C The meeting will discuss a commercial in confidence property acquisition involving third parties.
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