

7.3 LMM 26/09/2023 - NEWCASTLE WILLIAMTOWN AIR SHOW 2023

MOTION:

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that for the first time in more than a decade, City of Newcastle will host the free, family-friendly Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Aircraft Flying Display on Saturday, 18 November 2023, with up to one hundred thousand Novocastrians and visitors expected to line Newcastle Harbour to catch a glimpse of aerial displays and flypasts at the Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023;
2. Notes that attracting major events of this calibre is a testament to Newcastle's growth as a world-class events and cultural city and indicative of a thriving local economy, and welcomes the significant economic boost that this major event will provide for Newcastle's visitor economy, for local businesses and for the jobs that they sustain;
3. Thanks our delivery partners at the RAAF, Port Stephens Council and the NSW Government for their wonderful collaboration to secure this thrilling event for Newcastle;
4. Thanks the NSW Government, particularly Minister for Transport, the Hon. Jo Haylen MP, for providing additional transport services including rail, light rail, bus and ferry services as well as a Park and Ride service from McDonald Jones Stadium, and Park and Walk Areas from Stockton, as well as Minister for the Hunter, the Hon. Yasmin Catley MP, and the Minister for Regional NSW, the Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC.

BACKGROUND

Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023



Almost one hundred thousand spectators are expected to line Newcastle Harbour to catch a glimpse of thrilling aerial displays and flypasts as part of the Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023.

City of Newcastle has partnered with the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) to host the one-off event on Saturday 18 November, with a RAAF aircraft flying display at 10am to 12.30pm and again at 1.30pm to 4pm.

Formation and aerial displays will feature heritage and vintage aircraft like the Harvard, Winjeel, Spitfire, Mustang and Canberra in addition to flypasts from F/A-18F, EF/A-18G Super Hornet and the Growler.

City of Newcastle will host free viewing areas at Nobbys Beach, Foreshore Park and Stockton, featuring family-friendly activities to create a festival atmosphere at the free community event.

Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the spectacular community event was not to be missed, offering something for both die-hard aviation enthusiasts and families looking for a fun weekend out.

"City of Newcastle is proud to partner with the RAAF to deliver the Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023," Cr Nelmes said.

"Newcastle's spectacular coastline will be on display for tens of thousands of visitors to see all the action over Newcastle Harbour, Nobbys Beach, Foreshore Park and Stockton.

"Attracting major events of this calibre is a testament to Newcastle's growth as a world-class events and cultural city and indicative of a thriving local economy.

"Newcastle continues to shine as a destination and we look forward to welcoming locals and visitors to both air displays on Saturday 18 November and showcasing the diversity of what our city has to offer including its rich heritage, natural scenery and vibrant cultural scene."

A Park and Ride facility will operate from McDonald Jones Stadium with parking available at Stockton located within an easy walk to prime vantage points.

"We encourage spectators to make the most of public transport options available to ease traffic congestion with the crowd numbers we are anticipating," Cr Nelmes added.

A ticketed premium viewing area at Fort Scratchley will provide access to the only licenced viewing site for both air shows, with a variety of food and beverage options available to purchase. Tickets are on sale now and are restricted to patrons 18+.

Tickets to the RAAF Open Day at Williamtown on Sunday 19 November will go on sale on 1 October.

For more information about the Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023, 18 to 19 November 2023, visit www.visitnewcastle.com.au/air-show-2023 or www.airforce.gov.au/news-and-events/newcastle-williamtown-air-show-2023

Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023 flying display

Air Force and the City of Newcastle will present a fantastic opportunity to watch the fleet of Air Force aircraft from around Australia in action.



Vintage World War II and Vietnam War era planes will also perform exciting air displays and flypasts.

There are two flying sessions, which are a similar format and where feasible will feature the same aircraft:

- 10am – 12.30pm and
- 1.30pm – 4pm

In addition to flying displays, there will be ADF and community displays at the Newcastle Foreshore.

Where to watch - Newcastle's Nobby's Beach and Foreshore Park are the best places to watch the over-water flying displays. Stockton Foreshore also offers the chance to see the aircraft as they fly over the ocean and along the Hunter Estuary.



Aircraft

Air Force will showcase the full suite of current aircraft and some historic aircraft from No. 100 Squadron.

Find out more about our aircraft:

- F-35A Lightning II
- E-7A Wedgetail
- F/A-18F Super Hornet
- EA-18G Growler
- C-17A Globemaster III
- C-27J Spartan
- KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport
- Air Force Roulettes
- P-8A Poseidon
- C-130J Hercules

The flying program will be finalised two weeks prior to the air show, with aircraft availability subject to change.

Transport

There will be significant road closures within the Newcastle CBD, with all roads east of Watt Street closed with access to residents only.

Public transport is the best way to get to and from Newcastle, with extra train, bus, ferry and light rail services scheduled.

We recommend you plan ahead, and allow extra time and be patient. Plan your journey by using the tools available. More public transport information will be available closer to the date at transportnsw.info and newcastletransport.info.

Information on road closures will be available on www.livetraffic.com closer to the event.

Train. In addition to the regular timetable, extra trains will run along the Central Coast, Newcastle and the Hunter lines, to coincide with show times. The closest train station to Foreshore Park is Newcastle Interchange. From there, catch the light rail to the Newcastle Beach stop, which is a short walk to the event. You can also walk to the foreshore from the interchange, following the signage in place.

A Park and Ride option will be available at McDonald Jones Stadium with buses travelling between the Stadium and Newcastle all day. Motorists could also consider parking at commuter carparks at key stations along the Central Coast, Hunter and Newcastle lines including Wyong, Morisset and Fassifern then continue the remainder of the journey up to Newcastle by train.

A Park and Walk option is available at Stockton, where viewing areas are only a short walk.

What to bring

- Cameras, but no drones
- Hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Ear muffs or plugs
- Water
- Picnic food or take advantage of the many food vendors, cafes and restaurants
- Fold-up chairs or picnic blankets