

Item 16 - LMM 28/07/2020 - Infrastructure Australia 2021 Priority List

MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List provides evidence-based advice to support an informed discussion about Australia's spending priorities.
2. Notes that Infrastructure Australia Chief Executive Officer, Romilly Madew AO, has written to the City of Newcastle, seeking a submission for the next update of the Infrastructure Priority List, which will be published in February 2021.
3. Notes that our infrastructure priority projects have been endorsed by Council and the City Taskforce, and sent to the New South Wales and Federal Treasurers, as well as the local Members of Parliament for consideration as stimulus projects to assist the economy recover from the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic;
4. Prepares a submission for consideration for the 2021 Infrastructure Priority List publication, outlining projects of significance to the City of Newcastle, and the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area (as outlined in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036), including:
 - Coastal Management Planning and Erosion Management at Stockton Beach
 - Flood mitigation at Wallsend
 - John Hunter Hospital - Stage 2
 - Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion
 - Newcastle Ocean Baths restoration
 - Lower Hunter Freight Corridor
 - Greater Newcastle Light Rail Expansion
 - Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct
 - Port of Newcastle Diversification
 - Newcastle Airport Expansion
 - University of Newcastle's Science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) facility
 - Affordable housing initiatives
 - Local Sporting Amenity Upgrades
 - Local Playground upgrades for Disability Inclusion
 - Ferry Terminal at Wickham
 - Active Transport (Walking & Cycling) Improvements

BACKGROUND:

July 2020

Call for submissions to the 2021 Infrastructure Priority List

Key dates

31 August 2020: **Close of submissions**

September–October 2020: **Assessment period**

December 2020: **Consideration by the Infrastructure Australia Board**

February 2021: **Publication of the 2021 Infrastructure Priority List**

Supporting the infrastructure pipeline

Infrastructure Australia is now calling for submissions for the next major publication of the Infrastructure Priority List in February 2021.

It is crucial that Australia retains a comprehensive and robust infrastructure pipeline to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery from the bushfire crisis. The [Infrastructure Priority List](#) provides evidence-based advice to support an informed discussion about Australia's spending priorities.

Last year we received a record number of submissions across social, transport, water, energy and telecommunications infrastructure. This culminated in the February 2020 Infrastructure Priority List, which contained 147 nationally significant proposals – the largest in its history.

Submissions

We welcome submissions in all infrastructure sectors – energy, water, transport, telecommunications and social infrastructure.

We are also calling for submissions in response to new national initiatives that Infrastructure Australia included in the latest Priority List:

- Ensuring access to secure water supplies for towns and cities
- Developing a national strategy for water
- Safeguarding coastal regions from inundation
- Responding to the waste and recycling management challenges
- Addressing road maintenance issues
- Establish a program for Indigenous art and cultural facilities
- Broadening mobile telecommunications coverage in regional and remote areas.

We encourage you to consider these and previous national initiatives identified by Infrastructure Australia when developing submissions. We would also welcome the opportunity to provide advice on responding to these national initiatives, or on other submissions that are being developed.

How to make a submission

We have attached our combined template and checklist for **Stage 1 (Problem identification and prioritisation)** submissions to Infrastructure Australia. For detailed guidance on preparing a submission, please consult our published [Assessment Framework](#).

We encourage you to discuss submissions with us as they are being prepared. To engage with us, please contact Rob Busch, Manager – Infrastructure Prioritisation, on (02) 8114 1913, or email us at IPLSubmissions@infrastructure.gov.au.

To formally lodge a submission, please send your completed template and checklist to IPLSubmissions@infrastructure.gov.au and we will keep you updated as we assess and consider each proposal.

The Priority List is a 'live' document and is open to submissions at any time, but **to be considered for the 2021 publication, submissions must be received before 31 August 2020.**

We look forward to engaging with you and your officers over the coming months on potential submissions.



Romilly Madew
CEO, Infrastructure Australia

RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS:

- LMM xx/xx/2018 – City of Newcastle Budget submission 2018/19
- LMM xx/xx/2019 – City of Newcastle Budget submission 2019/20
- LMM 27/08/2019 - Infrastructure Priority List 2020 update
- LMM 28/04/2020 - City of Newcastle Fast-track Infrastructure Stimulus Opportunities

ATTACHMENTS:

- City of Newcastle Budget Priority Projects
- City of Newcastle Budget Priority Fact Sheet

Priority Projects



newcastle.nsw.gov.au



City of
Newcastle

Executive Summary

City of Newcastle encourages the implementation of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036, The Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan, The Hunter Region Plan 2036 and the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct Concept.

The City of Newcastle has identified a number of major projects it believes will help the NSW Government achieve the various plans' objectives, ensuring in particular that the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan delivers the outcomes identified for the region.

While the resources required to deliver the priority infrastructure within a timely manner are beyond the means of City of Newcastle alone, there is an opportunity for relevant projects to be undertaken in partnership with the NSW Government, and the Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City, Maitland City, and Port Stephens communities. To this end, assistance to deliver the following projects is now being sought from the NSW Government:

1. Stockton Coastal Erosion
2. Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion
3. Lower Hunter Freight Corridor
4. Greater Newcastle Light Rail Expansion
5. Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct
6. Port of Newcastle Diversification
7. Newcastle Airport Expansion
8. Affordable Housing Initiatives
9. Sporting Amenity Upgrades
10. Local Playground Upgrades for Disability Inclusion
11. Ferry Terminal at Wickham
12. Active Transport Infrastructure Improvements
13. Flood Mitigation at Wallsend
14. Pensioner Rate Rebates

Coastal Management Planning and Erosion Management at Stockton Beach

Project Description:

Development of a Coastal Management Program under the NSW State Government Coastal Management Act 2016 to inform long-term management solutions to address coastal erosion issues at Stockton Beach. The project will also include the implementation of the identified long-term management solution, which could involve a variety of options, but the community is seeking beach nourishment to rebuild and restore beach amenity and address on-going shoreline recession which currently impacts community assets and private property and will increase into the future. The City of Newcastle is currently completing the planning process under the Coastal Management Act 2016.

Benefits to be realised:

- An appropriate long-term management solution is identified and agreed to by all stakeholders.
- A range of social benefits due to the re-establishment of the beach and improvement/retention of local communities coastal identity, economic benefits from increased tourism and environmental benefits from improvement of local coastal habitats.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 16 – Increase resilience to hazards and climate change

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 14 – Improve resilience to natural hazards

ASK: The City of Newcastle asks the NSW State Government to increase their Coastal and Estuary Grants program and prioritise investment at Stockton Beach. The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal Government provide the state government with the resources and framework required to effectively deliver for their local communities.

Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion

Project Description:

The Newcastle Art Gallery is Australia's first purpose-built regional art gallery and is a custodian to a nationally recognised permanent collection of over 6,600 works of art valued at \$95 million. The collection is significant and diverse, providing a time capsule of Australian art dating back to the earliest days of Newcastle more than 200 years ago. The Newcastle Art Gallery is an important part of Newcastle's growing cultural diversity and has been active in purchasing the work of emerging artists, with a focus on artists who have lived and worked in the Hunter region. To meet the growing expectations of the community, the existing building requires upgrading and expanding to provide modern facilities such as a new café and retail shop, multi-purpose and educational program space, improved display and secure international standard loading dock.

Benefits to be realised:

- A strategic business case has been completed with a preliminary Cost / Benefit Ratio of 1.77 representing a Net Present Value of \$24.1 million.
- Double the size of the exhibition space to provide the public with increased access to the Gallery's highly valuable collection.
- Further develop a culture and arts precinct with the Newcastle Art Gallery within a short walking distance of Newcastle City Hall, the Civic Theatre, Newcastle Library and Newcastle Museum.

For further information see Attachment: Newcastle Art Gallery Strategic Business Case.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 9 – Grow tourism in the region

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 6 – Promote tourism, major events and sporting teams on the national and international stage
- Strategy 11 – Create more great public spaces where people come together
- Strategy 19 – Identify and protect the region's heritage

Estimated total project cost	\$36.6 million
City of Newcastle commitment	\$6.4 million
Federal Government commitment/request	\$14 million
NSW State Government commitment/request	\$14 million

ASK: The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal and State Government prioritise funding the expansion of the Newcastle Art Gallery noting the significant benefit it will provide to the local economy.

Lower Hunter Freight Corridor

Project Description:

Greater Newcastle is the only place in regional NSW where the national road and rail trade routes intersect with an international trade port and airport. There are opportunities to better connect these trade movements through improvements to the rail corridor. The existing Main North railway line services coal freight movements to the Port of Newcastle, interstate freight movements from Sydney and Melbourne to Brisbane, as well as intrastate freight and passenger trains. Specifically, all rail freight needs to cross the Hunter River or travel through the metro core to reach the trade gateways of Newcastle Port and Newcastle Airport. Line congestion, and the priority given to passenger trains on shared parts of the rail network, reduce the efficiency and cost effectiveness of freight movement in the region. This results in more trucks on the road, which increases congestion, vehicle emissions and reduces amenity. The Lower Hunter Freight Corridor would separate most of the freight and passenger rail services on the congested area between Fassifern and Hexham. The project is for Transport for NSW to expedite the development of a feasibility study for the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor.

Benefits to be realised:

- Growth in both passenger and freight train services, as well as enhance urban amenity and liveability in the Greater Newcastle region.
- Improve access to the trade gateways of Newcastle Port and Newcastle Airport. This would reinforce the region as the global gateway and service centre for North-Western NSW.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

NSW Economic Blueprint 2040

- Recommendation 4.2 – Improve freight networks from regional New South Wales to global gateways to increase exports

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 4 – Enhance interregional linkages to support economic growth
- Direction 26 – Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 23 – Protect major freight corridors

ASK: The City of Newcastle ask that the Federal and State Governments provide expedited funding to Transport for NSW to complete a detailed Feasibility Study for the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor.

Greater Newcastle Light Rail Extension

Project Description:

The delivery of the initial 2.7km of the Newcastle light rail system is the first step towards creating an expanded and integrated light rail network linking the city centre with suburban hubs and key infrastructure. Light rail operations in Newcastle are providing a high-capacity and frequent service throughout Newcastle's city centre. The Greater Newcastle Light Rail Extension project would develop a Strategic Business Case for future developments, including the completion of detailed design work and the rezoning of corridors for the future extension.

Benefits to be realised:

- The Strategic Business Case will identify improved access to various destinations across Greater Newcastle.
- The Strategic Business Case will complement existing initiatives including the Lake Macquarie Interchange project, the expansion of Newcastle Airport and the Broadmeadow Arts & Entertainment Precinct.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan

- Customer Outcomes 3 – The appropriate movement and place balance is established enabling people and goods to move efficiently through the network whilst ensuring local access and vibrant places
- Customer Outcomes 4 – Supporting centres with appropriate transport services and infrastructure
- Customer Outcomes 5 – Changes in land use, population and demand, including seasonal changes, are served by the transport system

- Customer Outcomes 6 – Economic development is enabled by regional transport services and infrastructure
- Customer Outcomes 9 – Accessibility to employment and services such as health, education, retail and cultural activities within Regional Cities and Centres
- Customer Outcomes 10 – Customers enjoy improved connectivity, integrated services and better use of capacity

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 1 – Grow Greater Newcastle as Australia's next metropolitan city

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 1 – Reinforce the revitalisation of Newcastle city centre and expand transformation along the waterside
- Strategy 20 – Integrate land use and transport planning

Estimated total project cost	\$5 million
City of Newcastle commitment	To be confirmed
Federal Government commitment/request	\$2.5 million
NSW State Government commitment/request	\$2.5 million

ASK: The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal and State Government prioritise funding for the development of a Strategic Business Case to inform the future direction and potential benefits of light rail expansion in Newcastle. A partnership approach between all levels of Government will deliver the best outcomes for the community.

Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct

Project Description:

To ensure Australia maintains a competitive edge in the national and international sporting and event market there is a need to be able to cater for large and diverse crowds, provide an improved game day experience and provide a range of venues to attract international events that provide significant economic benefit to the Australian economy.

The Broadmeadow Sports and Entertainment Precinct proposes an integrated development that combines contemporary residential and community spaces with cafes, restaurants, commercial uses and first-class sports and entertainment facilities which would create a new destination point for the city, complementing the revitalised CBD. A draft concept plan has been developed and included significant community consultation. This project is to support the development of an implementation-ready business case.

Benefits to be realised:

- Provision of a world-class first choice sporting, leisure and entertainment destination that is accessible, sustainable and commercially viable
- Provision of elite training and game day facilities
- Enabling the provision of high-density housing and the creation of a new destination precinct in Newcastle

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Sport 2030

- Priority 4 – Strengthen the Australian Sport Industry

Hunter Regional Plan

- Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces
- Direction 20 – Revitalise existing communities
- Direction 26 – Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 11 – Create more great places where people come together
- Strategy 17 – Unlock housing supply through infrastructure coordination and delivery
- Strategy 20 – Integrate land use and transport planning

Draft Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan

- Strategy 4.1 – Establish a Regional Sporting Hubs at the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct at Broadmeadow and explore locations for sub-hubs

ASK: The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal and State Government prioritise funding for the development of an implementation-ready Business Case for the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct. A partnership approach between all levels of Government will deliver the best outcomes for the community.

Port of Newcastle Diversification

Project Description:

The Port of Newcastle is a major Australian trade gateway handling 4,600 ship movements each year. With its annual trade worth more than \$29 billion to the NSW economy, the Port enables businesses across the state to successfully compete in international markets. The deep-water shipping channel is currently operating at 50% of its capacity with significant land available and existing national rail and road infrastructure. The Port of Newcastle is positioned to expand and diversify its product away from reliance on coal as identified in its Master Plan 2040. In particular, the Port of Newcastle has developed a concept plan for a staged container terminal development at its Mayfield site. Furthermore, the Port of Newcastle has identified the opportunity for the construction of a Newcastle Cruise Terminal.

Benefits to be realised:

- A Newcastle container terminal would be a complementary option to Port Botany, create genuine competition between the two port operators and allow NSW importers and exporters to choose the most efficient and cost-effective supply chain for their cargo. A Newcastle container terminal would also save the NSW government billions in infrastructure spending and help reduce Sydney road and rail congestion.
- A Newcastle Cruise Terminal would help to ease congestion on the cruise facilities in Sydney.

For further information see Appendix: Complementary Freight and Supply Chain opportunities in the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

NSW Economic Blueprint 2040

- Recommendation 4.2 – Improve freight networks from regional New South Wales to global gateways to increase exports

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 4 – Enhance interregional linkages to support economic growth
- Direction 26 – Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 23 – Protect major freight corridors

ASK: The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal and State Government provide co-contributions to the Port of Newcastle to develop a Newcastle Container Terminal and Newcastle Cruise Terminal. A partnership approach between all levels of Government and the Port of Newcastle will deliver the best outcomes for the community.

Newcastle Airport Expansion

Project Description:

Newcastle Airport is a global transport gateway that is significant to unlocking the potential of the Hunter region's tourism industry and providing an opportunity for the Hunter and regional NSW to export services and skilled labour to other parts of Australia and internationally. Newcastle Airport requires a runway upgrade and terminal expansion to accommodate long range aircraft (Code E). The required upgrade work includes both airfield and substantial terminal upgrades. The Williamstown site is also home to Astra Aerolab, a new innovation hub for aviation, defence and aerospace-related manufacturing, and the RAAF Base Williamstown, Australia's primary Defence Fighter Base and home to the country's new fleet of F35 Joint Strike Fighters. In partnership with these two organisations, the infrastructure upgrade would enable Newcastle Airport to become a globally significant precinct for aerospace innovation and connect the Hunter region to global markets.

Benefits to be realised:

- An upgraded runway and terminal expansion is estimated to provide an economic uplift of +4,410 full-time jobs and +\$12.7 billion over the next 20 years to the regional economy of northern NSW.
- The Astra Aerolab precinct will become a globally significant space for innovation in aviation, defence and aerospace-related manufacturing, maintenance, research and education. The precinct will ultimately deliver 5,500 new jobs and global connectivity for the region.

For further information see:

- Appendix 1: Complementary Freight and Supply Chain opportunities in the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport
- Appendix 2: Airport Runway Upgrade Economic Impact Statement
- Appendix 3: Newcastle Airport Terminal Upgrade Stage 1 Business Case

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

NSW Economic Blueprint 2040

- Recommendation 4.2 – Improve freight networks from regional New South Wales to global gateways to increase exports.
- Recommendation 7.6. Commit to sustainably resourcing implementation of the 2017 Defence Industry Strategy and the Defence Industry Sector Investment Attraction Plan.
- Develop targeted advocacy strategies for NSW to offer the necessary capabilities required for upcoming short-term and long-term major defence procurements.

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 4 – Enhance interregional linkages to support economic growth
- Direction 26 – Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 23 – Protect major freight corridors

Estimated total project cost	\$254 million
City of Newcastle commitment	\$50m plus \$50m from Port Stephens Council
Federal Government commitment/request	\$150 million for runway upgrades
NSW State Government commitment/request	\$4 million for drainage projects

ASK: The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal and State Government collectively provide \$154 million to provide runway and terminal upgrades. A partnership approach between all levels of Government and Newcastle Airport will deliver the best outcomes for the community.

Affordable Housing Initiatives

Project Description:

Newcastle could establish a stand-alone social and affordable housing scheme to deliver close to 25,000 affordable homes and enable those on low to moderate incomes to rent at an affordable rate and save for a home or purchase one at below the market rate. Between 2011 and 2017 rents in Newcastle increased by almost 25 per cent while household incomes have increased by only 16 per cent. Strong demand for affordable housing in Newcastle is set to continue.

Benefits to be realised:

- Access to secure, appropriate and affordable housing is not only a basic requirement for all people, it is an essential component of an inclusive, dynamic and sustainable city.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 22 – Promote housing diversity

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 16 – Prioritise the delivery of infill housing opportunities within existing urban areas
- Strategy 17 – Unlock housing supply through infrastructure coordination and delivery
- Strategy 19 – Prepare local strategies to deliver housing

Newcastle Affordable Living Plan 2018

Next step

The City of Newcastle is currently implementing a range of programs identified in our Affordable Living Plan 2018.

ASK: The City of Newcastle asks the Federal Government to develop and fund a range of affordable housing schemes such as bond aggregation and rent-to-buy schemes. Furthermore, CN requests both the State and Federal Government develop legislation requiring a minimum of 10% affordable housing to be provided in appropriate scaled residential and mixed use development.

Sporting Amenity Upgrades

Project Description:

Support the asset renewal program of the City of Newcastle's [CN] extensive sporting ground amenities due to ageing assets and increased demand for provision of amenities that are female friendly to support trend towards greater female participation in sport. CN is currently developing a comprehensive long-term strategic sports plan that includes extensive stakeholder engagement. The initial key directions highlight the need for a significant amenity upgrade program due to the age, condition and suitability of existing assets at our 64 sporting ground complexes.

Benefits to be realised:

- Support the ongoing and strong level of participation in sport in Newcastle that contributes to healthy, active and connected communities.
- Contribute to the NSW Government *Sport Her Way* strategy, with the vision of enabling women and girls to be valued, recognised and have equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate in sport in NSW. With specific benefit to the 'places and spaces' pillar.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design
- Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 11 – Create more great public spaces where people come together

Her Sport Her Way – Shaping the Future of Women's Sport in NSW 2019-2023

- Initiative 2 Places and Spaces Pillar – Improve places and spaces across the sport facility hierarchy: National / State (Stadia); High Performance; Regional; District; and local to better support women and girls

Next step

The City of Newcastle is currently developing a 10-year Strategic Sports Plan, which will include a prioritisation matrix for our sporting amenities.

ASK: The City of Newcastle asks the NSW State Government increase funding to their Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Grants & the Her Sport Her Way Grants and the Federal Government to increase their Community Development Grants program. CN has identified projects and will be seeking additional funding through these programs. A partnership approach between all levels of Government will deliver the best outcome for the community.

Local Playground Upgrades for Disability Inclusion

Project Description:

Support the asset renewal program of the City's extensive playground network to include greater accessibility and inclusion elements to these important community assets. Many of the assets were constructed before disability inclusion was considered in planning and design of facilities. Major improvements are required across the network to cater for a range of access issues to both the play equipment and to the surrounding supporting assets such as access paths, provision of shade and seating.

Benefits to be realised:

- Maximise ongoing contribution towards creating liveable communities where community places, neighbourhoods and facilities promote health, happiness and wellbeing and contribute to social connectedness. This includes important liveability factors such as community recreation and social inclusiveness.
- Create places and spaces where all members of the community can get to, play and stay.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design
- Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 11 – Create more great public spaces where people come together

Next step

The City of Newcastle is currently implementing a range of programs identified in our Disability Inclusion Program.

ASK: The City of Newcastle asks the NSW State Government increase funding to their Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Grant & the Her Sport Her Way Grant and the Federal Government to increase their Community Development Grants program. CN has identified disability inclusion projects and will be seeking additional funding through these programs. A partnership approach between all levels of Government will deliver the best outcome for the community.

Ferry Terminal at Wickham

Project Description:

The Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan identified options to extend the Newcastle Ferry Network by providing ferry services between Stockton and Queens Wharf to Wickham. This will facilitate interchange with heavy rail services. There could also be consideration of an on demand, special events ferry service between a new ferry wharf at Wickham and the Newcastle Cruise Terminal in Carrington.

Benefits to be realised:

- The new ferry terminal will facilitate interchange with other transport services, particularly at the emerging multi-modal Newcastle interchange.
- Creating new ferry connections will improve the sustainability of our transport system by attracting more customers to use public transport.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan

- Customer Outcomes 3 – The appropriate movement and place balance is established enabling people and goods to move efficiently through the network whilst ensuring local access and vibrant places
- Customer Outcomes 4 – Supporting centres with appropriate transport services and infrastructure
- Customer Outcomes 5 – Changes in land use, population and demand, including seasonal changes, are served by the transport system
- Customer Outcomes 6 – Economic development is enabled by regional transport services and infrastructure

- Customer Outcomes 9 – Accessibility to employment and services such as health, education, retail and cultural activities within Regional Cities and Centres
- Customer Outcomes 10 – Customers enjoy improved connectivity, integrated services and better use of capacity

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 1 – Grow Greater Newcastle as Australia's next metropolitan city
- Direction 9 – Grow tourism in the region
- Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces
- Direction 20 – Revitalise existing communities
- Direction 26 – Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 1 – Reinforce the revitalisation of Newcastle city centre and expand transformation along the waterside
- Strategy 11 – Create more great public spaces where people come together
- Strategy 20 – Integrate land use and transport planning

ASK: The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal and State Government prioritise funding for the development of an implementation-ready Business Case for the new Ferry Terminal at Wickham. A partnership approach between all levels of Government will deliver the best outcomes for the community.

Flood Mitigation at Wallsend

Project Description:

Support infrastructure improvements for Wallsend floodplains. Wallsend is heavily impacted by flash flooding and high velocity flows, and events larger than the 10 per cent AEP currently exceed the channel capacity and flood the CBD. The 10-year Wallsend Floodplain Risk Management Plan Implementation Study was adopted by City of Newcastle in 2015 to reduce flood impacts to the CBD and risk to life. It includes the reconstruction of Tyrrell, Nelson and Boscawen Street bridges to raise levels of the underside of bridges, and to provide twin 14m spans. The project also includes the widening of the Cowper Street channel and construction of an additional culvert to the east, and the proposed widening of Hunter Water's existing concrete channel from 12m to 21m, from Cowper Street to downstream of the Boscawen Street Bridge.

Benefits to be realised:

- Reducing the risk to public and private property from frequent flooding and inundation
- Reducing the risk to public health from frequent flooding and inundation, including pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and
- Protecting downstream environments.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 16 – Increase resilience to hazards and climate change
- Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design
- Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

- Strategy 14 – Improve Resilience to Natural Hazards

Estimated total project cost	\$40 million
City of Newcastle commitment	\$20 million
Government commitment/request	\$20 million

ASK: The City of Newcastle asks the NSW State Government to prioritise flood mitigation investment in Wallsend. The City of Newcastle requests that the Federal Government provide the state government with the resources and framework required to effectively deliver for their local communities.

Pensioner Rate Rebates

Project Description:

The Rate Rebate Concession for Pensions should be increased, commensurate to the Consumer Price Index. The Current rebate waste in 1989 and has not increased since that time despite significant increases in the cost of living. The number of older people in Newcastle is increasing and by 2026 will have increased by 17.1% from the 2016 population. A significant proportion of older people in Newcastle live in lone person households. A higher proportion of people in Newcastle live in a household within the lowest quartile of household income (27.7%) compared to NSW (25%).

Benefits to be realised:

- Enables older people to remain in their current home as long as possible (age in place)
- Enables older people to stay financially independent for as long as possible
- Enables older people to maintain solid social ties and contact with family and community (reduce social isolation) and
- ensure housing outcomes for older people are affordable and stable.

Alignment to Strategic Plans:

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

- Direction 20 – Revitalise existing communities

NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020

- Priority 2: Working and Retiring
- Priority 3: Housing Choices

ASK: The City of Newcastle asks the State and Federal Government to develop and fund increased pensioner rebates for local government rates.

1. Catalyst Areas for Greater Newcastle Projects, as identified in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan

2. Large-scale priority infrastructure projects:



Coastal Management Planning and Erosion Management, especially at Stockton Beach



Flood mitigation at Wallsend



Newcastle Airport Expansion



Port of Newcastle Diversification



Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct



Greater Newcastle Light Rail Expansion



Lower Hunter Freight Corridor



Affordable housing initiatives



Metropolitan wide active transport (walking & cycling) improvements



John Hunter Hospital campus upgrades



Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion



Local Sporting Amenity Upgrades



Local Playground upgrades, particularly for disability inclusion



Ferry Terminal at Wickham



Pensioner Rate Rebates

3. Local priority infrastructure projects:



Summerhill Waste Management Centre – Organics Processing Facility



Richmond Vale Rail Trail



Newcastle Beach Community Facility (Stage 2, Newcastle Beach – Bathers Way)



Junction to Merewether Cycleway



Newcastle West Bi-directional Cycleway – West End Stage 2, Phase 1



Newcastle East End Streetscape Upgrades and Cycleway – Stage 1, Phase 1



Foreshore Park All Abilities Playground



Western Corridor Active Hub



Local Centres Program, including: Joslin Street, Kotara; Llewellyn Street, Merewether; Shortland; and Stockton (Stage 1, Queen Street – King Street)