



2036

GREATER Newcastle Metropolitan Plan

**Consultation Report
2018**





Acknowledgement

NSW Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to all Elders past, present and future.

September 2018

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Cover image:

The Olive Tree Market in Civic Park, Newcastle
courtesy of Little Kite Photography for The Olive Tree Market

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Queen Elizabeth coming into the Harbour, courtesy of Port of Newcastle



Introduction

The NSW Government is committed to planning for the future housing, jobs, infrastructure and environmental needs of Greater Newcastle. To deliver this commitment, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment released the *draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036* in late 2017 for public comment.

Stakeholders and the community were invited to provide submissions on the draft Plan between 30 November 2017 and 28 February 2018. During this time, 94 individual submissions were received from various stakeholders and members of the community. In addition to this, 376 proforma submissions were received from the local community.

The public exhibition followed on from earlier extensive consultation with business and industry, local government and the wider community during early 2017 that informed development of the draft Plan. Details of this earlier engagement is outlined in the separate *Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Consultation and Engagement Outcomes Report, November 2017*.

This Report summarises the engagement undertaken throughout public exhibition of the draft Plan. It includes details of the range of submissions received in response to each Outcome of the draft Plan, the emerging themes, and government responses to feedback. These responses have guided the development of the final *Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036*.

*Scotties Seafood East End, Courtesy of Scotties
Seafood Restaurant, Newcastle, East End*



Engagement Program

Methodology

To raise awareness of the draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and to encourage feedback to help inform the preparation of the final Plan, the Department undertook a wide-reaching engagement program during the exhibition of the draft Plan, which ran from 30 November 2017 until 28 February 2018.

This exhibition period was in addition to earlier consultation with the community that occurred throughout 2017 that raised awareness and informed the preparation of the draft Plan.

To ensure the final Plan responded to a range of needs, a thorough stakeholder analysis was undertaken and a range of stakeholders were consulted, including:

- residents, community and interest groups
- local government staff and councillors
- state government agencies
- business and industry organisations.

Tools and Results

The engagement program during the draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan exhibition involved a number of tools to reach all stakeholders and gather their feedback.

Media

Several media releases were planned throughout the consultation period. The first media release occurred on the launch date with the draft Plan presented by Professor Greg Clark and NSW's Chief Planner Gary White. Media releases were distributed as appropriate throughout the draft plan exhibition. Promotion of the exhibition also occurred through ongoing work with the local newspapers, ABC radio and NBN television to promote local stories.

Advertising and awareness raising

To engage the general community in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan area, the Department have used numerous advertising methods in order to draw attention to the draft Plan and direct people to the website to gather feedback on key concepts. Awareness raising also involved the issuing of emails to key stakeholders and those that participated in previous consultations.

Stakeholder briefings

Stakeholder briefings were held throughout the first half of the draft Plan exhibition to engage groups and people who represented a range of interests. The launch day briefing was aimed towards selected stakeholders and relevant mayors whereas the post launch stakeholder briefings were aimed towards key stakeholders such as business, industry peak bodies, community and interest groups. Briefings for councillors and council staff occurred at request.

Local Government Working Group

A working group made up of staff representatives from each of the local government met regularly to discuss issues relating to Greater Newcastle metropolitan planning prior to and during exhibition.

Website landing page

The website landing page was updated upon the release of the draft Plan in November 2017 in order to include highlights of the draft Plan, maps and fact sheets and a submissions form to make accessing and responding to the draft Plan simple for all stakeholders, and interested parties and individuals.

Merewether Surfhouse at Merewether Beach, Newcastle



Submissions

Summary of Submissions

As a result of the community engagement program, the Department received 94 submissions. 376 proforma submissions were also received from the local community in support of an action to investigate the potential relocation of coal and bulk fuel export facilities away from residential areas.

Each submission was comprehensively reviewed and relevant comments were identified and catalogued to prepare a comprehensive data set by themes that aligned with each Outcome, as well as categories for Implementation and Catalyst Areas as follows:

Outcomes:

- Create a workforce skilled and ready for the new economy
- Enhance environment, amenity and resilience for quality of life
- Deliver housing close to jobs and services
- Improve connections to jobs, services and recreation
- Catalyst Areas
- Implementation and Monitoring

Type of submitters

- Private individuals
- Businesses
- Industry groups and organisations
- Local Government and State Agencies
- Community groups

Location of submitters

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan covers the 5 Local Government Areas (LGAs) including:

- Cessnock
- Lake Macquarie
- Maitland
- Newcastle
- Port Stephens

Additional submissions were received from areas outside of the Greater Newcastle area, including Singleton, Sydney, Gold Coast and Perth.

Fig Tree Point in Toronto, photo courtesy of Fivespice Creative



Submissions: Analysis and Response

Create a workforce skilled and ready for the new economy

Themes that emerged were:

- There was interest in recognising the traditional economic strengths of the region including agriculture, mining, engineering and manufacturing.
- Need to reflect the continued economic contribution and the role of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in high schools and tertiary education in supporting the economic and employment growth.
- The impact of land use conflict and pressure for other uses on economic development was highlighted. This included land use conflict between heavy industry and residential development, commercial and residential uses, tourism and industrial uses.
- There was support for a Plan that facilitated growth of the emerging engineering, innovation and technology industry, while submissions were also received regarding the need to respect the drivers of tourism in the region, including heritage, entertainment, creative industries, art and live music.
- A number of submissions highlighted opportunities for growth of education and both public and private health facilities within Greater Newcastle and sought greater recognition of these specific opportunities.
- Need for focus on planning for jobs closer to homes, and requests for more guidance and recognition of the economic importance of strategic centres in the metro frame including Cessnock, Raymond Terrace, Morisset, and Central Maitland as well as Charlestown (in the metro core).

In response, the Department has:

- Included additional strategies and actions to maximise economic benefits to the region from both the existing and the new economy. This includes greater recognition of the value of transitional industries, a strengthened approach to marketing in the region through a branding program, greater recognition of the role of tourism, facilitating a skilled work force through education, and actions that respond to new retail consumer demand.
- Included additional details of metropolitan health precincts and major tertiary education and innovation clusters in Greater Newcastle as locations to concentrate growth in health and education sectors.
- Recognised the contribution that traditional industries of agriculture, mining, engineering and manufacturing make to Greater Newcastle and the Hunter Region.
- Include an additional strategy and actions to plan for jobs closer to home in the strategic centres of Cessnock, Central Maitland, Charlestown, Kurri Kurri and Raymond Terrace. This includes recognising that these are emerging city centres with the potential to accommodate significant growth.



Riverside Park, Raymond Terrace, courtesy of Port Stephens Council

Enhance environment, amenity and resilience for quality of life

Themes that emerged were:

- Requests to clearly define the blue and green grid and identify new public conservation areas, and recognise the role of urban trees at the local level.
- Need for better recognition of the role agricultural production lands play within the Greater Newcastle Area, and the need to manage these lands from residential encroachment.
- Strong support for the Plan to resolve land use conflict between industrial lands and residential areas.
- Desire for the Plan to reflect more on the impacts of climate change and make the region a leader in energy reform.
- Support development away from all remnant bushland and habitats to protect plant and animal species that are not actively protected.
- Requests to include actions to create healthy and active lifestyles.

In response, the Department has:

- Updated the Blue Green Grid map to indicate future connections, and included actions for the Department to develop and pilot a Metropolitan Greenspace Program for Greater Newcastle.
- Recognised the potential to make the region a leader in energy reform, and included additional strategies and actions to plan for a carbon neutral Greater Newcastle by 2050. This includes working towards reducing waste and consumption and working towards carbon neutral certification.



New housing at Cameron Park, Lake Macquarie

Deliver housing close to jobs and services

Themes that emerged were:

- Need to maintain housing affordability and ensure projected housing demand is met.
- Support for new infill development opportunities in centres and existing urban areas, but greater recognition requested of the need to identify infill opportunities near railways stations. There were also requests from individual land owners to identify all existing zoned release areas and include additional areas for longer term development.
- The identification of priority housing release areas was supported by some but concerns that the proposed biodiversity certification would not apply to all residential areas.
- Need to co-ordinate the delivery of infrastructure, essential services and amenities for all areas including outside priority housing release areas.
- Continue to plan for additional rural residential, large lot residential and greenfield development while protecting rural lands from inappropriate land uses and conflicts.
- Support for inclusion of overall infill and greenfield targets, but some concern that development targets are too ambitious for some council areas. It was suggested that the evidence base that evidence base for setting targets must be transparent and measurable.

In response, the Department has:

- Updated the action to extend the pursuing of biodiversity certification from priority housing release areas to all housing release areas.
- Mapped all existing urban release areas within Greater Newcastle and modified the indicative area to include these, and clarified that councils will identify new urban release areas through local housing strategies. The Department will endorse the land release areas if prepared in accordance with the Plan.
- Maintained actions relating to promoting rural residential, large lot residential and greenfield development and protecting from inappropriate land uses and conflicts.
- Amended approach to individual council infill and greenfield proportions so that the Department and councils work collaboratively to meet overall 40% greenfield / 60% infill split across the metropolitan area by 2036.



Bruce Springsteen concert in the Hunter Valley Vineyards, courtesy of Hope Estate

Improve connections to jobs, services and recreation

Themes that emerged were:

- Strong recognition of the importance of coordinating land use, transport and infrastructure as the metropolitan area grows, including planning for active transport, park and ride and quality public transport options.
- Specific requests for service improvements including high speed rail to Sydney, airport connections, as well as suggested improvements to the bus network, ferries and cycleways. Submissions also suggested improvements to the operation of, and possible extensions to the light rail network.
- The need for protection of future transport corridors was identified.
- The challenges of managing freight to and from industrial areas within a metropolitan area, including Newcastle Port, were recognised. Request to improve last mile freight access and manage freight movements through residential areas.
- The need to adequately fund transport and infrastructure connections and ensure that they are provided in the right locations and in a timely manner was highlighted.

In response, the Department has:

- Provided relevant submissions relating to transport programs and initiatives (such as improvements to bus routes, cycleways and light rail extensions) to Transport for NSW for consideration in the final Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan.
- Worked collaboratively with Transport for NSW to enable strong alignment between the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan, Future Transport 2056 and Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan.
- Included additional actions to protect future transport corridors once identified.
- Recognised that coordination of infrastructure and land use is vital to Greater Newcastle's future success. To assist with coordination, an ongoing program of collaboration has been established that will extend throughout the life of the Plan.
- Progressed work on the Special Infrastructure Contribution plan and other mechanisms as part of the funding and delivery of transport infrastructure.



Market Street Lawn

Catalyst Areas

Themes that emerged were:

- Need for clarification of the relationship between Strategic Centres and Catalyst Areas, and request for more consideration of centres outside Newcastle local government area.
- Suggestion for the inclusion of a Catalyst Area for Lake Macquarie centred on Cardiff-Glendale. Submissions also received on extending Metro Core to include Belmont and Swansea.
- 376 proforma submissions were received from the local community in support of an action in the draft Plan to investigate the potential relocation of coal export facilities away from residential areas at the Carrington Precinct of Newcastle Port. Health impacts from coal dust pollution on residential areas was one of the main reasons cited in support of the action. Potential efficiency gains through consolidation of coal export facilities at Kooragang, and increases in job opportunities that tourism or new export industries could provide were also identified as reasons in support.
- Port of Newcastle, Australian Rail Track Corporation, NSW Minerals Council, Hunter Valley Coal Chain, Port Waratah Coal Services and other representatives from the mining industry raised concerns with the action to investigate the potential for relocation of the coal loader.

In response, the Department has:

- Included additional information on Catalyst Areas being a collaborative approach required for the planning of some strategic centres. Provided more detail of their delivery and relationship to other strategic centres.
- Included North West Lake Macquarie as a Catalyst Area centred on Cardiff-Glendale, and extended the Metro Core to include Belmont and Swansea.
- Responded to community concerns regarding impacts from Carrington Coal Terminal by strengthening actions for the Port of Newcastle to work with the NSW Government and Port tenants to minimise impacts on residential communities.
- Included an action in the final Plan to protect port functions and investigate options for land uses that support growth and diversification of the Port. The community will have the opportunity to be involved in public exhibition of the Port of Newcastle Masterplan (to be released in mid-2018).



Nobbys Lighthouse, Newcastle

Implementation, Monitoring and Funding

Themes that emerged were:

- The need to provide more detail regarding the implementation of the Plan including support available for delivery of actions, responsibilities, funding and action timing.
- Submissions also sought accountability for delivery of the Plan through the identification of a key organisation with the appropriate authority and resources to ensure implementation.
- Submissions also recognised the need for co-ordination between State Government documents and agencies, and clarifying the responsibilities between State and local government planning.

In response, the Department has:

- Prepared a separate Implementation Plan that includes details of including delivery of actions within the Plan, how it would be funded, and timing for each action. This includes details of priority change to actions, implementation and coordination between State Government agencies and councils.



Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery courtesy of Lake Macquarie City Council



For more information about the
Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036
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