



City of Newcastle – Draft Local Planning Strategy

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Introduction

The Hunter Region has long held the reputation as the powerhouse of the NSW economy and ranks highly as one of the most valued, diverse and resilient regions in Australia.

The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and was established in 1886. The Chamber represents over 1800 member businesses to all levels of government. The Chamber is the peak industry association in the Hunter which represents all sectors of business in the region.

The Hunter Business Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a brief submission to this paper.

Key Points

The Chamber acknowledges the Local Planning Strategy (LPS) as an important addition to the *Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)*. It further acknowledges the 17 principles of the LPS that have been developed in response to the seven strategic directions of the CSP, whilst not aiming to address each of these principles individually.

Newcastle, as the second largest city of NSW and the capital of the Hunter has the potential to be a world class city. Population continues to grow and importantly the City needs to be able to accommodate and support this growth and the economic growth it brings.

The Chamber encourages land use strategies that provide for mixed, affordable use in and around the CBD along with strategies that recognise growing areas for residential and commercial use in the Newcastle LGA. Integral to this is the need to provide effective and integrated public transport solutions and amenity at those current and growing centres.

Work has already begun in the Wickham area and it will be important to ensure local government planning frameworks complement work already underway with the Wickham Interchange. It is acknowledged that further work will be required in regard to the efficiency of the road network as well as car parking requirements and cyclist and pedestrian networks in and around this area. Planning now provides an opportunity to accommodate greater connectivity to what will become a central and important transport hub in Newcastle.

The Chamber supports the following Local Planning Strategy Principles under *Vibrant and Activated Public Places* as important to ensure an optimal environment for encouraging greater activity and use of public spaces in Newcastle:

P7. Development addresses public spaces and is scaled for the pedestrian to provide vibrant and activated public places for diverse activity and to strengthen our social connections;

P9. The urban form will encourage safe and activated places that are used by people day and night. Streets are the primary public spaces for access and exchange between people, and should be made safe, friendly, attractive and efficient.

It is exciting to see increased activity already occurring in terms of relocation of part of the University of Newcastle's operations to the city; relocation of state and federal justice facilities to the Civic Precinct; and infrastructure investment across a range of health, education and transport projects for the Hunter Region.

Future revitalisation and increased use of residential, industrial and commercial areas around Newcastle will only happen with the right framework in place and actions that complement future planning processes.

Conclusion

The Hunter Business Chamber has long advocated for the urban renewal of Newcastle and supports future planning principles that provide for growth and sustainability of our City. The Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on this Paper and would equally welcome any further engagement with the City of Newcastle around the implementation of these principles.

Contact

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