



MAYORAL MINUTES 12 NOVEMBER 2024

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MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 1

**FILE NO: 24/305332
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Acknowledges the work of Newcastle Airport in the once in a generation expansion of the airport to be the airport the region deserves, including the significant terminal expansion and Astra Aerolab development.
- 2) Acknowledges the importance of the airport expansion to the Port Stephens Local Government Area through direct and indirect economic investment, continued support of high value job generating industries and opening up our critical tourism industry more directly to international visitors.
- 3) Acknowledges that as a 50% shareholder in the Newcastle Airport the growth and prosperity of the airport is an essential part of Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan, Financial Sustainability Strategy and its recently established Resilience Fund.
- 4) Recognises the prudent management by the airport in the context of universal rising costs pressures for major infrastructure expansion projects as well as managing the significant opportunities for long term property developments.
- 5) Reiterates its support as a 50% shareholder of the Newcastle Airport to the expansion program.
- 6) Acknowledges that a briefing was provided to the Port Stephens and City of Newcastle Councils on 24 October 2024 and requests the General Manager engage with the airport to arrange a program of regular briefings and updates to Port Stephens Council over the coming 12 months as the expansion program continues.

BACKGROUND

Newcastle Airport is undergoing a once-in-a-generation terminal expansion with doors to open 1 August 2025. Cost and supply chain challenges have been felt globally and are not unique to Newcastle Airport. At the same time, Newcastle Airport has been actively pursuing significant property development opportunities focused on defence and airport related industries at its Astra Aerolab precinct.

This expansion program is designed to deliver the airport the region deserves, which will deliver significant economic investment into our region, continue to stimulate growth and generate employment opportunities for many years to come.

For over 20 years, Port Stephens Council has championed not only the growth of the airport but the development of defence and airport related industries in the Williamstown area. This has been through setting the appropriate land use zones, assessing and approving development applications for the establishment of high technology business parks and, in more recent times, direct investment for this growth through the Astra Aerolab development.

As a 50% shareholder of the airport, this support has included reinvestment of profits back into the airport in lieu of dividend distributions since the impacts of the COVID pandemic. Our investment in the business over recent years has increased the value of the airport significantly above the cost of the investment.

Recognising these challenges has formed part of Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan and, through our own smart use of resources as guided by the Financial Sustainability Strategy, Council is well placed to continue with this support in a measured and responsible way. Council has also planned for a future of ongoing growth and prosperity of the airport through the establishment of the Resilience Fund. This fund will provide the mechanism for use of future dividends from the airport to strategically significant projects for Council and across the LGA.

Newcastle Airport's finances are audited by an external independent auditor, as well as being subject to Council's own external audit process. Council notes the airport's statements as to its compliance with financial metrics and that it is confident in being able to maintain this position. As with any business undergoing significant capital expansion and growth, the airport continues with a prudent and measured approach to the ongoing management of operating and administration costs of the business, with the aim to minimise costs and maintain margins.

This perspective on the value of the growth of the airport and how it is managing its resources through the expansion program, has also been echoed by a range of regional stakeholders including Committee for Hunter, Business Hunter and Hunter Defence.

Newcastle Airport provides regular briefings to Port Stephens Council, including with the newly elected Council on 24 October 2024. Recognising the pace of the expansion program it is appropriate for Council to seek additional briefings with the Airport over the coming 12 months during this time of growth.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 2

**FILE NO: 24/305336
EDRMS NO: PSC2024-03152**

MAYOR'S DIARY

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Note the Mayoral appointments for the period 23 October to 12 November 2024.
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BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Mayoral appointments for the period 23 October to 12 November 2024.

This Mayoral Minute aims to inform the Council and community of the key engagements of the Mayor for the preceding period. This is an initiative I wanted to introduce this term to provide a clear record of the engagements undertaken through the Mayoral office.

Wednesday 23 October

- Tomaree Sports Council meeting.

Thursday 24 October

- Hunter Joint Organisation Board meeting.
- Newcastle Airport – Joint Briefing with City of Newcastle.

Friday 25 October

- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd AGM's.
- Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd and Greater Newcastle Aerotropolis Pty Ltd Board meetings.

Saturday 26 October

- Attended sale of land for unpaid rates.

Sunday 27 October

- Hinton Public School – 175th Anniversary.

Monday 28 October

- Catchup with General Manager.
- Hunter Joint Organisation – business case outcomes meeting.
- Communications catchup.

Tuesday 29 October

- Filmed video for 2024 Liveability Survey.
- Property Council of Australia - Meet the Mayors Hunter Lunch – speaker briefing.
- Meeting with Port Stephens Family History Society.
- Facilities and Infrastructure catchup.
- Executive Team catchup with the Mayor.
- DA clarification meeting.
- Code of Conduct training.

Wednesday 30 October

- Karuah Public School Reconciliation Project.
- John Clarke's book launch.
- Meeting with Minister for Industry and Trade, the Hon Anoulack Chantivong, Hunter Joint Organisation and Newcastle Airport.

Thursday 31 October

- On-site inspection – Tomaree Lodge.
- Councillor Induction Session – Planning 101.

Friday 1 November

- Property Council of Australia – Meet the Mayors Forum.

Sunday 3 November

- 40th Anniversary of Tomaree National Park.

Monday 4 November

- Communications catchup.
- Meeting with General Manager.
- Australia Day 355c Committee meeting.
- South Tomaree Community Association meeting.

Tuesday 5 November

- Port Stephens Local Traffic Committee.
- LGNSW Feedback Forum.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Catchup with Community Futures.
- Catchup with the Governance Section Manager.
- Catchup with Cr Wells re Deputy Mayor role.
- Councillor Business Paper briefing.

Wednesday 6 November

- Koala Plan of Management Steering Committee meeting.
- Aboriginal Project Fund Assessment meeting.
- Shoaly Collective – discussion of community issues.

Thursday 7 November

- Communications meeting.
- Councillor Induction Session: Roads.
- Karingal Preschool 50th Anniversary.

Friday 8 November

- Developers Forum – This event brings together the development industry with Council to share information and build collaboration. Discussion took place on the impact of state planning changes on development in Port Stephens, our approach to future housing, biodiversity assessment and environmental outcomes.

Monday 11 November

- Attended Remembrance Day event.
- Communications catchup.
- Catchup with the General Manager.
- Community Support Fund Judging Panel.
- West Ward Sports Council meeting.

Tuesday 12 November

- Business Paper and meeting process.
- Facilities and Infrastructure catchup.
- Newcastle Airport briefing.
- Catchup with the Executive Team.
- Councillor briefing – pre-Council meeting.
- Public Access and Ordinary Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.