

Newcastle City Council is beginning the preparation of a draft Management Plan, a blueprint to deliver services over the 2008 – 2009 financial year.

Every year, the Management Plan is a careful balance between providing services required by law, providing services that contribute to a better community and working towards a sustainable future.

Council is looking for your input into next year’s plan. There will be a number of opportunities over the coming months including a pre-draft stage and during the formal exhibition.

Legislation & Process

Local Government Act 1993 Part 2, Clause 402

Each year, Council prepares a Management Plan showing activities, programs, services and a revenue policy. The Management Plan is built around a four year cycle matching the term of the elected Council.

The current plan is built around **five strategic priorities**. These priorities are:

- ESD Leadership (Environmentally Sustainable Development)
- City Wide Revitalisation
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Compassionate Community
- Effective & Efficient Governance

The **key areas** targeted in the 2007/2008 Management Plan included:

- a commitment to maintaining city infrastructure,
- responding to community demand to retain current service levels,
- identifying further savings within current operations,
- basing funding on a strategic and risk approach, and,
- developing multi-year projects and services for better forward planning.

The 2008/2009 Management Plan is the last Management Plan for the current Council with local government elections being held in September 2008.

Timeframe

Discussions with Councillors on strategic direction and financial constraints.	December
Pre-draft community consultation	February
Officers consider community input in developing draft Management Plan. Feedback provided to community.	March
Councillor workshops	March/April
Draft Management Plan exhibition	April/May
Community consultation	May
Adopt Management Plan	June

You can download copies of previous Management Plan at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au and go to *Management Plan*.

Have your say

Council would like your input into shaping the future of our city. We want to make sure our activities and priorities represent the needs of our community. See over for details on how you can have your say.

1. Attend a community meeting

Attend a workshop to discuss what you would like to see achieved in Newcastle by the end of June 2009.

6 February 11am to 1pm	Bimet Lodge, Union Street, The Junction
11 February, 4pm to 6pm	Uniting Church Hall, Grinsell Street, New Lambton
13 February, 5.30pm to 7.30pm	Wallsend District Library, Bunn Street, Wallsend
14 February, 2pm to 4pm	Mayfield Senior Citizens, Association Hall, Hanbury Street, Mayfield

The workshops will discuss the:

- the management planning process
- current strategic focus and priorities
- planning for the 2008/2009 Management Plan, and
- what the community wants to see achieved by the end of June 2009.

Further information sessions will be held in May during the formal exhibition of the draft plan.

2. Online consultation

Information on the process and opportunities for input are also being provided online. You will be able to fill in a feedback form on Council's website at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au or join a discussion forum at www.bangthetable.com/newcastlemanplan Your input will be collated, provided to officers and Councillors for their information and feedback will be online.

3. Send an email

Email your comments to managementplan@ncc.nsw.gov.au

4. Call us

Call for further information on 4974 2821.

Keeping you informed

The issues, comments and feedback gathered throughout the Management Plan process will be communicated back to the community.

You can visit Council's website for updates at: www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au and go to *Management Plan*.

Looking to the Future

The way Council develops its Management Plans is soon to change. The Department of Local Government has asked all Councils to prepare long term (10 years plus) Community Strategic Plans with broad community consultation.

Council will also have to prepare a four year Delivery Plan (in line with Council terms) and one year Operational Plans reflecting the priorities and goals of the Community Plan.

Our Strategic Community Plan will set out the community's vision for the future development of Newcastle, including health transport, sport, the environment, business growth, education and city services.

Council will start work on the long-term plan after the 2008/2009 Management Plan is adopted.