

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

NeW Space Project

Community Engagement Strategy

OUTCOMES REPORT – JUNE 2014



Artist's impression

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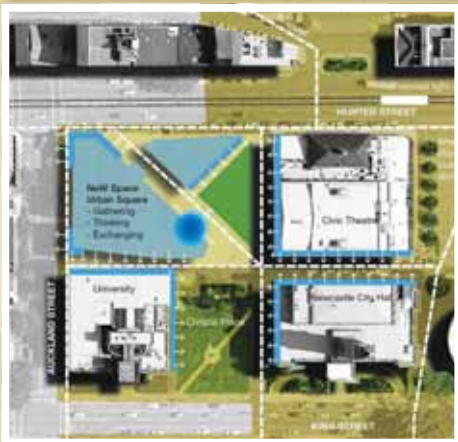
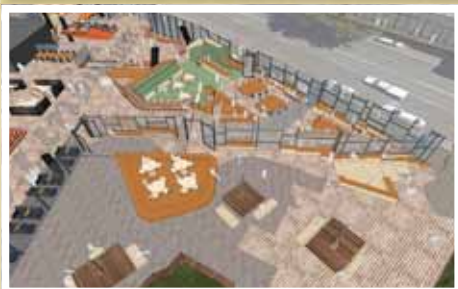
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This report was prepared by Bell Communications Pty Ltd
on behalf of the University of Newcastle.

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Artist's impressions

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Artist's impression



introduction

NeW Space is a \$95 million landmark education precinct under development by the University of Newcastle in the Newcastle central business district.

The precinct will host a range of university supported activities, including:

- **Business and Law programs**
- **Digital library services and information commons**
- **Collaborative learning and research spaces**
- **Facilities for engagement with industry, business and the community, and**
- **Social learning spaces**

Developed as a technology-rich and engaging demonstrator site, NeW Space will provide a unique platform for staff to develop and test innovative ideas to deliver a ‘next generation’ university experience for students.

NeW Space will be a resource for the entire university community, across different disciplinary and knowledge fields.

The University has selected a site on the corner of Hunter and Auckland Streets, adjacent to the university-owned building, University House.

The NeW Space project achieved a major milestone on 12 March 2014 with the public release of an early concept plan for the site.

This report details the range of community engagement activities undertaken by the University of Newcastle to inform local residents, the business community and other key stakeholders and to obtain their views, in order to ensure all relevant issues are considered.

The University's NeW Space project is one of several major initiatives that are identified in the NSW Government's Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy as principal drivers to revitalise the Newcastle central business district.

These initiatives include the truncation of the heavy rail at Wickham and the introduction of a coordinated bus and light rail system within the central business district, each of which has significant relevance to the NeW Space project.

In the course of community engagement, questions were raised about these transport initiatives and associated issues. While they are matters for other bodies to consider and progress, the University has and will continue to be involved in discussions as part of a range of planning processes.

Both transport and parking are two important issues that the University is considering as part of its strategies being developed for car parking and



Artist's impressions

background

integration of transport solutions.

The NeW Space project is supported by Australian Government funding of \$30 million through the Education Investment Fund Regional Priorities Round, NSW Government funding of \$25 million through the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and \$40 million invested by the University of Newcastle.

Earlier milestones included the securing of project funds from government and university sources, the engagement of an architect and the appointment of a private sector project management company.

A number of specialist consultants have also been appointed to the project team.

Significant milestones have been publicly announced over two years in the lead up to the release of the concept design.

These included the decision to locate a university campus in the Newcastle central business district, the securing of funds and selection of a suitable site.

The release of the concept design for the building generated a considerable amount of interest within the community.

Most of the comments were directed to the innovative design, with the majority of commentators in support of the contemporary, sustainable building and the benefits it will bring to the central business district of Newcastle.



consultation objectives

The University developed a Community Engagement Strategy in order to build greater awareness of the NeW Space project and to engage with the community through:

- Establishing standard processes for community engagement
- Ensuring those processes are implemented by university/project staff and, where relevant, by external consultants and firms associated with the project
- Ensuring the community and stakeholders are kept informed of decisions emanating from the community engagement processes

For the duration of the project, the University will regularly engage with the wider community and all stakeholders who have a direct or indirect interest to ensure they are kept informed and have an opportunity to participate in the realisation of the NeW Space precinct.

A broad range of stakeholders have been identified, including but not limited to:

- Individuals and groups within the community
- External stakeholders – such as government agencies, members of parliament, local government and businesses
- Internal stakeholders – such as university staff, present and future students and alumni
- Media

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consultation approach

The University of Newcastle recognises that extensive community engagement is critical to the successful delivery of the NeW Space project.

A number of techniques were employed to identify and inform stakeholders of the opportunities to engage with the University and its project team.

Responses to questions and issues raised by the community and other stakeholders in the course of discussions and presentations were consistent with the answers contained in the Frequently Asked Questions document at Appendix A.

>community information sessions

Two information sessions have been scheduled to date— one prior to the environmental impact statement being lodged and the second to take place on 26 July 2014 during the public exhibition period conducted by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The purpose of the community information sessions is to:

- Ensure that factual information is available to those people and groups with an interest in the project and Newcastle's future
- Allow the community and stakeholders to express their views and preferences
- Avoid unnecessary delays by addressing community concerns at an early stage

comments

The four main issues raised were transport, parking, building design and community amenities.



TRANSPORT

- Build relationships and trust with the community and other stakeholders by keeping them informed during all important phases of the project

The information sessions are structured as drop in events spread over three hours. As the number of visitors is not expected to be high, visitors have the benefit of more time to discuss any issues with the project team and university representatives.

The first session, held in the evening of 11 June 2014, was widely promoted via:

- Display advertisements appearing in local newspapers, Newcastle Herald, Newcastle Star and The Post, (early general news) over a number of days with interested parties asked to register online (see Appendix B)
- A media release distributed to all local media, resulting in news grabs and an extended ABC radio interview with the University's Chief Operating Officer (see Appendix C)
- Telephone calls and emails to all identified groups
- Letters sent to all identified interest groups and individuals
- A letterbox drop to 32,000 ratepayers in the project's post code area (see Appendix D)

'Why is the University not supporting the keeping of the rail line?'

'How are students going to commute between campuses?'

'What about regional access with the changes to transport?'

'The University needs to support dedicated cycleways so students can travel safely to and from campuses.'

'It is important that the University advocate for bicycle lanes around the campus and to and from Callaghan.'

'Some modelling needs to be done to consider likely students' movements and needs.'

'Satisfactory solutions to traffic and parking must be found – can't assume all people will travel east-west. Southern suburbs need consideration – something that does not happen now.'

'To change people's willingness to use public transport, there must be recurrent promotional campaigns.'

'The project looks good, but you need to tell the city planners to leave the transport links.'

'Bikes OK, but vibrant cities need rail.'



PARKING

‘Where are students going to park?’

‘How are you going to handle all the students who want to park?’

‘Why don’t you have more car spaces?’

‘Why are you not having more car parks?’

‘Parking will be an issue, especially if the rail line goes which presently serves students.’

‘Lord Mayor said council will build car park in Honeysuckle – poor planning.’

‘Students will take up residents’ car spots.’

‘Please think carefully about transport and a car parking aspects, especially for evening students.’

■ Newcastle City Council notifying 2,500 ratepayers via council’s e-newsletter, Newcastle Voice

■ Newcastle MP, Tim Owen notifying his constituents by e-newsletter

The first information session attracted 23 registrants, comprising members of the general public, along with members of local community groups and businesses.

Visitors to the sessions were welcomed on arrival and asked to confirm their registration details and have their details added to a database in order to facilitate keeping them updated in the future.

They were also offered light refreshments.

There were a number of static displays in the room with sets of poster size artist’s impressions and plans for visitors to view.

There were also a number of tables set up in the room to spread out plans and allow more discussion with visitors, either one-on-one or in small groups.

As the visitor numbers were relatively small, a project team member was assigned to each party as they arrived to explain the displayed information



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

‘Important that NeW Space contributes to the area, perhaps by the availability of meeting rooms.’

‘I think the University should give thought to the community’s ability to utilise campus facilities.’

‘Connectivity to Civic Park and public spaces is important in the overall design.’

‘Although there will be public access through the site, it should be clearly identified that those accessways are on private land in order to manage expectations for ‘freedom.’



BUILDING DESIGN

in detail, listen to their views and to answer any questions.

This personal attention was welcomed by the visitors as it allowed effective two-way dialogue and there was ample time for visitors to express their views and to have all their questions answered.

Most visitors engaged in conversation for up to an hour and obliged by filling out feedback forms before they left.

These community information sessions have been and will continue to be supported by other briefings and consultations, for example, to business and industry groups, local councils and local members of parliament.

The community can also access the University's website where they will find the latest information on the project.

'Concept of open spaces, shared spaces and moderately sized learning environments coupled with new learning technologies all looks good – however, the building may not age well.'

'Overall, I think the look and feel of the space is commendable.'

'Please make the building 5 star green – genuinely do it and hold the building up to the world.'

'I find the exterior fussy – understand the environmental awareness input into the design, but feel it is not integrated.'

'Although the height is being exceeded, the site is used creatively by having lower height buildings next to the arcade.'

'I do like the focus on the rear at Christie Place.'

'I am pleased with the architectural statement the building makes – it will provide a much-needed landmark for the CBD.'

'Internal open spaces are most commendable – no 'sardinisation' of student spaces. Please keep the 'economic rationalists' right away from the place.'

'I look forward to the positive impacts of this very significant development – social life, city identity and pride.'

'I like the design, but the building needs to deliver on sustainability, eg UTS in Sydney.'

'Be proud enough to have very conspicuous signage, tastefully done of course.'

'I find the building creates an uneasy balance with the grounded part – lacks grace.'

'No doubt the spaces will work for the learning/teaching methods.'

'Congratulations to the architects – Newcastle needs more of this type of thinking as its urban built environment develops.'

'A bold, visually engaging building which will be an icon for Newcastle in the future. Well done.'

>local community groups

Extensive enquiries were made to identify and contact all local community groups who would likely have an interest in the project.

The following groups were identified:

- Newcastle East Residents Group
- Cooks Hill Community Group Inc.
- Honeysuckle Residents Group
- Newcastle Inner-City Residents Alliance
- Rotary Club of Newcastle
- Newcastle Cycleways Movement
- Glovers Lane Residents Group

All identified community groups were contacted by telephone or email and informed of the upcoming community information sessions.

This was followed up by a letter from the University inviting group members to the information sessions.

A number of community group members attended on 11 June 2014 and their comments are included in the Community Information Session outcomes (pages 11-13).

Newcastle Cycleways Movement has accepted an offer of a briefing and arrangements are in train.

>business & industry groups

A number of business and industry groups considered to have an interest in the project were identified (see below) and advised by mail of the June information session and offered an update briefing at a time convenient to them.

- Hunter Business Chamber
- Hunter Business Chamber Regional Infrastructure Committee
- Newcastle Now
- Urban Development Institute of Australia
- Newcastle Business Club
- Regional Development Australia Hunter

- Master Builders Association (Newcastle)
- Property Council of Australia (Newcastle)

A number of briefings have occurred to date and others are in train (see Appendix E).

Among those to receive recent briefings were Hunter Business Council Regional Infrastructure Committee, Ausgrid, Newcastle Now, Urban Development Institute of Australia and the Property Council of Australia.

A briefing to the Regional Development Australia Hunter Board will take place in the near future.

comments Hunter Business Chamber Regional Infrastructure Committee

'I'm impressed with the open urban design.'

'It's a building that makes a statement which fits the CBD of the future.'

'The open spaces in the building are very positive.'

'Energy rating is high, but I have some concern about the amount of glass and glare.'

'The campus will be a catalyst for urban regeneration in the CBD.'

'There's the question of impact of parking on surrounding businesses.'

'The project fits neatly with the light rail project which will be integral to managing the transport outcome.'

Continued from previous page

comments Hunter Business Chamber Regional Infrastructure Committee

'The University's presence will result in a strong economic benefit to the CBD and wider city.'

'I see one of the major issues to be how the building will interface with surrounding streets.'

'It's a great design, but there is an opportunity to redesign the surrounding streets of Hunter and Auckland. In particular, Auckland Street could be revitalised by being a part pedestrian thoroughfare, including pedestrian ramps to slow traffic.'

'Hunter Street is very wide so there is a real opportunity to modify the traffic flow and improve pedestrian access which should include the integration of public transport stops.'

> heritage groups

Contact has been made with the following heritage groups and meetings are anticipated to take place in early July 2014:

- Hunter Heritage Network
- National Trust Hunter Region Committee
- Coal River Working Party



Artist's impression

> local councils and government bodies

Letters were sent to Newcastle City Council and to Hunter Councils Inc. flagging the June information session and offering an update briefing on the project.

Hunter Councils Inc. represents the following 12 councils in the Hunter region:

- Cessnock City Council
- Dungog Shire Council
- Gloucester Shire Council
- Great Lakes Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Maitland City Council
- Mid Western Regional Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Newcastle City Council
- Port Stephens Shire Council
- Singleton Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council

Hunter Councils Inc. has responded to the University's invitation and arrangements are in hand to make a presentation in late July when all mayors and general managers will be in attendance.

Discussions with Newcastle City Council staff are ongoing and occur on a regular basis.

There has been a meeting with Ausgrid in relation to the Christie Street substation and several meetings have taken place between the project's hydraulic consultant and Hunter Water.

Consultation with relevant government authorities will continue to take place as the project progresses.



>members of parliament

All members of parliament with electorates in the Hunter region (six state and one federal) were contacted by letter, informing them of the information sessions and asking them to pass on details of the information sessions to their constituents if possible.

The members of parliament in the Hunter region are:

- Tim Owen, State Member for Newcastle
- Garry Edwards, State Member for Swansea
- Robyn Parker, State Member for Maitland
- Greg Piper, State Member for Lake Macquarie
- Sonia Hornery, State Member for Wallsend
- Clayton Barr, State Member for Cessnock
- Sharon Claydon, Federal Member for Newcastle

Each has been offered an update briefing on the project and to date the State Member for Newcastle, Tim Owen has received a briefing. He also advised his constituents of the June information session in his regular e-newsletter.

The University is following up its offers to brief the other members of parliament at a time convenient to them.

comments from State Member for Newcastle, Tim Owen

'Transport and parking will be major challenges.'

'Park and ride options require close consideration.'

'I am very supportive of the NeW Space project and recognise its importance to revitalising Newcastle.'

'Light rail is seen as an advantage to solving transport issues.'

'The community engagement plan is being professionally organised and managed.'

>neighbouring businesses

A total of 33 local businesses along Hunter and in Auckland Streets, in close proximity to the project site, were visited in mid June 2014 (see list at Appendix F).

The businesses were handed the latest project fact sheet and updated on the current status of the project.

Many owners and managers expressed their appreciation for the visits and the opportunity to find out more firsthand about the project.

Some acknowledged that while their own businesses may not directly benefit from the presence of the campus and its students, they felt it was good for the local economy.

Many business owners think more retail and residential developers will

be attracted to the area as a result of the influx of students on a daily basis.

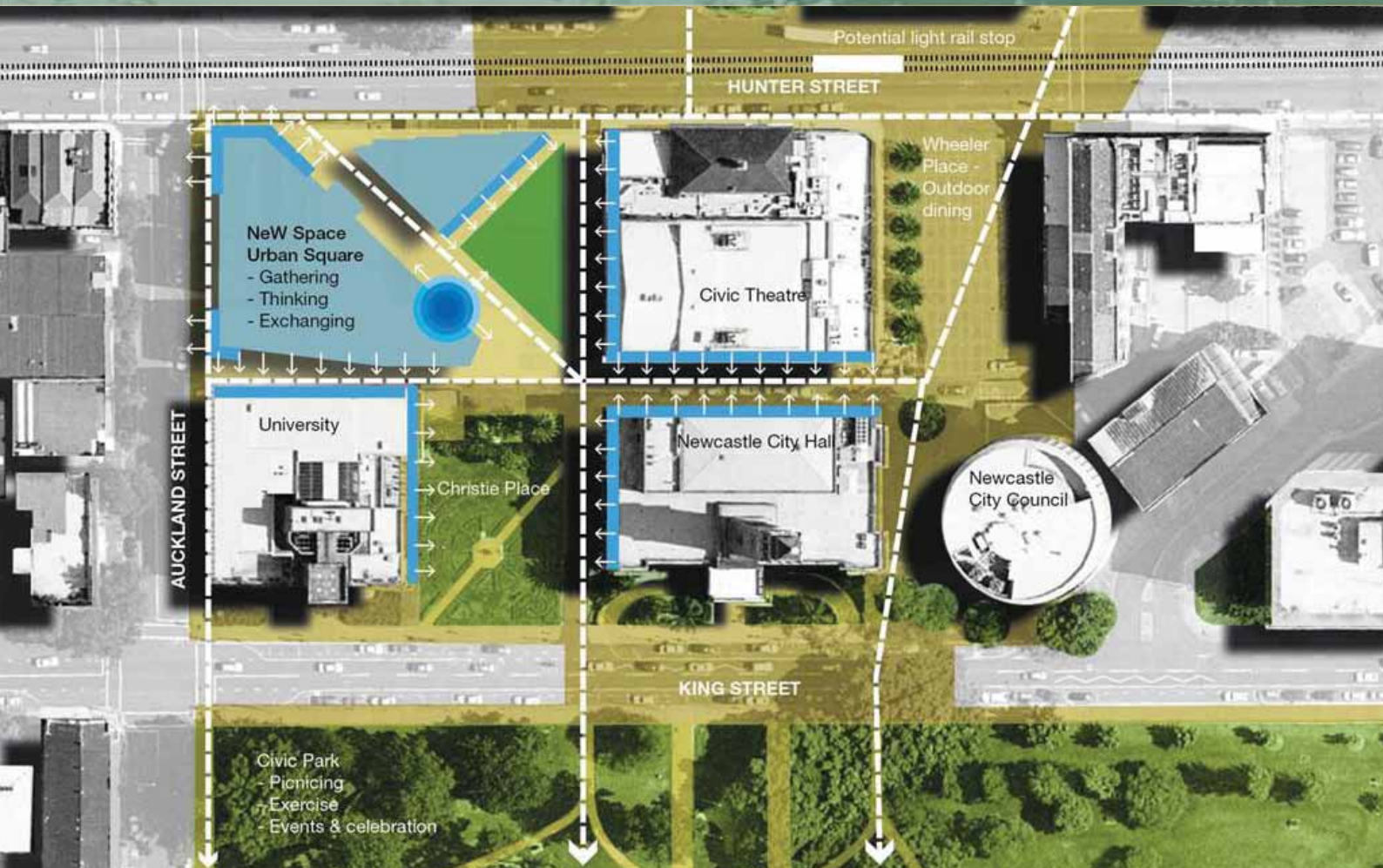
They also commented on the short term benefits to some businesses during construction, with workers patronising nearby food outlets and cafes.

The general consensus was that the university campus was a great positive for Newcastle's central business district as a whole. Most concerns were about the ability of public transport to cope and the limited amount of parking around the precinct.

Some businesses that rely on clients being able to access on-street parking were concerned that students might take up all timed parking.



Artist's impression



comments

'The campus coming to Civic is great news – can't happen soon enough.'

'The University and its students will bring the area alive.'

'We welcome the extra business that hopefully will come our way.'

'I like the modern design, very fresh.'

'Is there going to be retail on the ground floor?'

'When the project is finished business should benefit.'

'I'm worried about how they will solve the transport problem.'

'I hope the light rail is up and running in time, they're going to need it.'

'Hopefully the students won't take up timed parking spaces used by our clients.'

'I imagine there will be lots of young people around.'

'Thanks for the visit and thinking of us – doesn't usually happen.'

'The campus will lift this derelict area and attract new developments.'

'Will mean more businesses that universities tend to attract, like food and coffee shops – not that we need any more.'

'The University will smarten up this end of town and bring more night time activity, which will make the area safer.'

'I really love the building – it's about time we got away from boring blocks.'

'Activity breeds activity, good for our business – I can't wait.'

'The Uni should lift real estate business – new residential developments are already underway and investors are around looking for student and affordable accommodation sites.'

'The character of the area is changing – probably for the good, I would say.'

>media

The University has welcomed media coverage of its project, which has been facilitated by the release of media statements and events to mark each key milestone.

The University has made its Vice Chancellor and its Chief Operating Officer readily accessible for radio, print and television interviews on many occasions and will continue to do so for the duration of the project.

The University's media release on 10 June announcing the launch of a series of community information sessions and the awarding of the early works contract was covered by NBN TV, local radio news and an extended interview on ABC radio with the University's Chief Operating Officer.

Media also received a full briefing following the release of the concept plan in March 2014, which resulted in extensive coverage.

Overall, media coverage continues to be positive.



HERALD
Your 4-day local weather forecast

OPINION: NeW Space to embrace techno-teaching

By Professor Corinne Millen
April 18, 2013, 10:32 a.m.

THIS week, the University of Newcastle, and the wider community, celebrated the news that the Australian government was backing the development of an education precinct in the heart of our great city.

Together with the \$25million committed by the NSW government and the university's investment of \$40million, the federal government will provide \$30million for our NeW Space learning and teaching facility.

It will be a \$95million landmark precinct that will harness the latest in technology and innovation in teaching and learning to deliver a world-class student experience.

New technologies are reshaping and transforming how great universities are approaching teaching and learning, and these new technologies are challenging and exciting for educators as we look to deliver a 'next generation' university experience for students.

Today's students not only want but also expect that their learning experiences will be as dynamic and enabled by technology as every other aspect of their world.

The 2012 Study of Undergraduate Students and IT by the EDUCAUSE Centre for Applied Research in the United States found that two out of three students reported thinking technology elevates the level of teaching.

The study also found that open educational resources and game-based learning were at the top of the list of what students wished their teachers would use more.

MOOCs – or massive open online courses – are one example of initiatives that are opening access to knowledge for students across the world.

These courses have stimulated much debate and are just one example of how technology is driving the move to a 'democratisation of knowledge'.

Front Page News Sport Opinion Community Life & Style Entertainment Classifieds Multimedia Search

HERALD
WEBSITE OF THE YEAR
Friday June 20, 2014

Business Listings

Multimedia | News Video

Uni CBD campus plans, video, pics, poll

By SAM RIGNEY March 12, 2014, 2 p.m.


LATEST NEWS

- Cyclist killed in crash with bus at Mount Druitt
- Environment Protection Authority to be investigated following string of controversies
- ISIL seizes Saddam Hussein's former chemical weapons plant
- US concern as ISIL militants seize former chemical weapons plant
- Man dies after Singleton ute rolls

EDITOR'S PICKS

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NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY CITY CAMPUS CONCEPTS RELEASED

Posted by Georgina Smyth March 12, 2014 16 Latest NBN News, Newcastle News, Latest's comment

PHOTO: Artistic impression courtesy of The University of Newcastle.

The University of Newcastle has released the early concepts for its \$95-million CBD city campus project.

'NeW Space' will include a 10 storey campus building on the corner of Hunter and Auckland Streets.

The project has been pencilled for completion by the start of the 2017 academic year.

We'll have more tonight at 6.

SHARE | Tweet | Like | D+

LEAGUE HQ FOOTY FORM GUIDE **HERALD** **RED & BLUE HQ VIDEO SHOW**
EIGHT-PAGE LIFTOUT theherald.com.au

HERALD
THURSDAY March 13, 2014 VOICE OF THE HUNTER \$1.50 (GST incl)



HIGHER learning

By SAM RIGNEY
A 10-STORY 'vertical' campus has been unveiled as the University of Newcastle's concept for the \$95 million CBD education precinct.

The NeW Space design, to be built at the corner of Hunter and Auckland streets in time for the 2017 academic year, includes several 'urban rooms' with spectacular views and technology-embedded areas for formal and informal learning.

Designed by Melbourne firm Lyons Architecture and Newcastle's EJE Architecture, the rather daring concept aims to connect the community and the campus through open and green spaces and non-traditional and informal learning initiatives.

The project, with state and federal funding, is seen as a key element in the bid to revitalise the city centre, with more than 2600 students and 400 staff expected to occupy the precinct.

VIDEO TOUR | PICTURE GALLERY | POLL theherald.com.au | REPORT Page 9 | EDITORIAL Page 10

< How the media has covered the project, including the release of campus concepts

>university website

The University's website, www.newcastle.edu.au, has a link to the NeW Space project page, where information on the project is regularly updated.

The link provides a range of information under the following headings:

- NeW Space at a glance
- Construction timetable
- Community engagement
- NeW Space drawing on local talent
- Strong support from a strong community
- The development application process
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Interested parties are able to obtain further information or make enquiries online at newspace@newcastle.edu.au or by telephoning 4921 5000.

The University plans to produce a regular project newsletter from late 2014 with updates as the project progresses.

Interested parties can pre-register online to receive the newsletter.

The newsletter will also be sent to those individuals and groups on the University's database who have already indicated they would like to be kept informed.



< The University's website www.newcastle.edu.au is regularly updated with the latest project information

>evaluating feedback process

The University's Community Engagement Strategy aims to ensure all relevant issues are considered and that factual information is widely available to individuals and groups with an interest in the project.

Feedback forms are distributed at community information sessions for visitors' comments as well being distributed to neighbouring businesses. The feedback forms are also available at briefings and presentations. Comments can also be lodged online at newspace@newcastle.edu.au

The University will continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its community engagement methods throughout the course of the project in order to ensure full accountability and transparency on an ongoing basis.



Artial's impression

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

**A New Space
for the city**

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE IS HOSTING INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT OUR NEW CITY EDUCATION PRECINCT THAT IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEART OF NEWCASTLE'S CBD

NeW Space is a \$95 million landmark education precinct that will host a range of University-supported activities including:

- business and law programs
- digital library services and information commons
- collaborative learning and research spaces
- facilities for engagement with industry, business and the community
- social learning spaces

Information sessions will be held at Newcastle City Hall on: Wednesday 11 June from 6-9pm and Saturday 26 July from 2-5pm

To register your interest in attending the sessions, send us an email at newspace@newcastle.edu.au and let us know which session you wish to attend.

NeW Space is jointly funded by the Australian Government through the Education Investment Fund, the New South Wales State Government through the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, and the University of Newcastle.

For more information about the project, visit us at www.newcastle.edu.au/newspace

2014/00146 | C2003/Private Cook 00102

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

FEEDBACK FORM
New Space Education Precinct – Community Engagement

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

**Community Information Session
11 June 2014, 6pm – 9pm, Newcastle City Hall**

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback to help The University of Newcastle understand your priorities, issues and ideas relating to the NeW Space Project

Please send your comments to newspace@newcastle.edu.au

Alternatively you will find a space at the bottom of this form that allows you to tell us in detail about your feedback.

Post to: **The NeW Space Project**
University of Newcastle
Infrastructure and Facilities Services
University Drive, Callaghan NSW

Resident Student Business Owner Other Postcode

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Would you like to receive more information and updates in this project in the future? Post Email

Contact Details

Name

Address

Email

YOUR COMMENTS

Please use reverse side for additional comment

>appendices

- **Appendix A**
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
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>appendix A

frequently asked questions

What is NeW Space and what does it comprise?

NeW Space is a \$95 million landmark education precinct being developed by the University of Newcastle in the Newcastle CBD. The precinct will deliver a technology focused learning institution providing a world-class experience for students. The precinct will offer:

- Business and Law programs
- Digital library services and information commons
- Collaborative learning and research spaces
- Work integrated learning
- Facilities for industry, professional and community engagement, and

■ Social spaces

A minor refurbishment to University House will also be undertaken as part of the project in order to integrate University House with the new building.

Where is the precinct located - what area does it cover, how high is the building, are there open spaces, amenities, etc.?

The precinct is located on the corner of Hunter and Auckland Streets and covers approximately one hectare. The teaching and learning spaces are spread over the 10 levels of the building. The precinct design includes provision for open spaces and a landscaped campus green.

What is the cost of the project and how is it being funded?

The estimated cost of \$95 million is being funded as follows:

- \$40 million from the University of Newcastle
- \$30 million from the Federal Government's Education Investment Fund
- \$25 million from the NSW Government's Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund

Why is the project necessary?

The University of Newcastle's New Directions Strategic Plan outlines a number of objectives to increase student success and retention rates above national and international averages and expand and enhance the quality of online and blended teaching approaches. The further development of research excellence is also an important part of the Strategic Plan. The delivery of the NeW Space precinct will see a number of these strategies realised.

Where is the project up to and what are the key milestones to come?

Current Position

- Funding has been secured

- A suitable site has been selected
- A project manager has been appointed
- Architects have been appointed
- A concept design has been completed and was unveiled on 12 March 2014
- Director General's Requirements requested and received from Department of Planning and Environment
- An Environmental Impact Statement is currently being prepared to support the State Significant Development application with the Department of Planning and Environment in late June
- Mine rectification works commence in mid 2014

Future milestones leading to construction

- State Significant Development application lodged
- Planning approval granted
- Main contractor tender process conducted
- Award of contract to successful main contractor
- Construction underway



When will construction commence and when will it be completed?

An early works program will commence mid 2014, with main works commencing early in 2015. The project will be completed in time for the 2017 academic year.

How will people be kept informed of progress?

The University and project team have developed a comprehensive Communications Plan to ensure that all stakeholders are kept informed of progress throughout the life of the project.

In addition to a number of public information sessions for the

community and business sector, progress on the project will be updated regularly on the University's website for the benefit of internal and external stakeholders and key milestones will be marked with events and media statements.

A project newsletter will also be developed and distributed for the duration of the project.

Will there be a contact point for the project?

Details of a contact point for the project will be provided on the University website and in project information literature, as well as on information panels at the site. The main contact is via email at newspace@newcastle.edu.au

Who is the project manager?

The University selected APP Corporation after conducting a competitive tendering process. APP has a strong track record of successfully managing projects of this size and is currently project managing the Newcastle Court House project and recently completed the Magnetic Resource Centre project in Newcastle.

Who is the architect?

A team of architects, consisting of leading Melbourne firm, Lyons Architecture and Newcastle innovators, EJE Architecture, were appointed after a competitive tendering process.

Who is the builder?

The main contractor has not yet been appointed for the project. The procurement process, consisting of three stages, commenced in June 2014. The first stage, the Expression of Interest (EOI) will evaluate interested parties against set criteria to provide a shortlist. A Request for Proposal, then a Request for Tender process will then allow the University to select and award the contract. This process will be completed by early 2015.

Does the design incorporate environmental features?

NeW Space is focused on a sustainable design and is targeting a 5 star Green Star rating for the building, aligning with the

Artist's impression



University's sustainability objectives. The proposed façade design will incorporate external sun shading, high performance double glazing and thermally engineered aluminum frames. Dual directional sun shading system will wrap around the building form providing sun shading from all orientations. The building has also been designed to maximise the use of natural ventilation.

Will the construction project go to open tender?

Initially, Registrations of Interest will be called from companies wishing to construct the building. A number of those respondents with the appropriate capabilities will then be shortlisted and invited to submit formal tenders.

Will preference be given to local companies, trades and suppliers?

The building and construction industry in the Hunter region is very skilled and competitive. It is anticipated that the majority of trades and suppliers will be drawn from the region. A number of regional businesses are already involved with the project.

How many jobs will the project generate during construction?

The project will generate hundreds

of jobs onsite and offsite throughout the course of construction. As well, there will be additional long-term jobs created post-construction in operating and maintaining the building.

What will be the hours of construction?

The hours of construction will be set as part of the planning approval conditions.

What will be the hours of operation once the university buildings are in use?

The NeW Space building will operate on a 24/7 basis with access to the library and information common.

Are there benefits for the general community?

Benefits to the community include:

- Increasing numbers of domestic and international students attracted to the city and surrounding suburbs
- Increased student numbers in the CBD lead to flow-on spending in the local economy
- More people on the streets out of normal business hours will make the city more vibrant
- This flagship development will encourage further investment in the CBD

- Universities traditionally attract associated businesses such as cafes and restaurants, travel agents, bookshops, banks and other financial institutions that can also service the broader community.

How many students will attend daily?

Up to 3,500 students will attend daily when the building commences operation in 2017.

What are the benefits for the students?

- By providing a ‘next-generation’ learning experience, the city campus will become increasingly attractive to both domestic and international students
- CBD campus locations are attractive to students who work and study part-time
- The facility will support online and blended learning as well as technology enabled delivery models of teaching. These are highly desirable methods of learning for students
- Collaborative spaces will enhance the overall student experience
- There will be more opportunities to be associated with research in the city

Are there any plans for student accommodation close by?

The establishment of a university campus in the area will be a catalyst for future investment in suitable accommodation. The area is already seeing more residential developments underway or planned. As the project progresses it is expected more developers will be looking to supply this market.

What transport will be available – existing and planned?

The Newcastle CBD is currently serviced well with public transport in the form of bus, rail and ferry services. The NSW Government has released its Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy to revitalise Newcastle over the next 25 years.

The strategy includes a range of integrated transport initiatives to improve access to the CBD and the waterfront, including the construction of a new multi-modal transport interchange at Wickham and a light rail between Wickham interchange, the city centre and the beach. We feel the light rail solution and proposed route is favourable to the needs of our students and staff.

Newcastle City Council’s Cycling Strategy and Action Plan also builds on existing cycleway infrastructure, with future plans to expand cycleways as a viable transport option.

Will there be dedicated parking for students/staff?

Given the expected range of travel options, the NeW Space project will include only limited operational vehicle parking. This decision has been benchmarked against comparable projects in other Australian cities and regional centres. The University understands the transport and parking needs of a city campus are different to those of its Callaghan campus is committed to implementing a range of travel solutions for our staff and students and not just offering additional parking spaces.

If not, what parking is available in the vicinity?

While there is limited street and commercial parking available, people attending the University will be strongly encouraged to use public transport.

Is there provision for full disabled access within the building?

The design is such that disabled access and facilities will be available in all public areas within the precinct.

How will students manage their commitments between Callaghan and the city?

A robust planning process will be developed looking at timetabling

to facilitate attendance at the two campuses. It is also anticipated that with a technology-rich space, the way lectures and tutorials are delivered will be different.

What will be the impact on local businesses?

The University will liaise closely with neighbouring businesses prior to and during the construction phase to minimise any impact on their business and inconvenience to their customers. It is anticipated that many existing businesses will benefit from the increased pedestrian traffic and that new businesses will also be attracted to the area.

What will happen to University House adjacent to the new building?

University House, formerly Nesca House, will be retained by the University of Newcastle and a minor refurbishment will be undertaken within the scope of works associated with the NeW Space precinct development.

What will happen to the vacated space at Callaghan Campus?

It is expected that the vacated space at the Callaghan campus will be refurbished and developed for the delivery of enabling programs and for the Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education.

>appendix B

Display advertisement promoting Community Information Sessions



Artist's impression



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

A New Space for the city

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE IS HOSTING INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT OUR NEW CITY EDUCATION PRECINCT THAT IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEART OF NEWCASTLE'S CBD

NeW Space is a \$95 million landmark education precinct that will host a range of University-supported activities including:

- business and law programs
- digital library services and information commons
- collaborative learning and research spaces
- facilities for engagement with industry, business and the community
- social learning spaces

**Information sessions will be held at Newcastle City Hall on:
Wednesday 11 June from 6-9pm and Saturday 26 July from 2-5pm**

To register your interest in attending the sessions, send us an email at newspace@newcastle.edu.au and let us know which session you wish to attend.

NeW Space is jointly funded by the Australian Government through the Education Investment Fund, the New South Wales State Government through the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, and the University of Newcastle.

For more information about the project, visit us at www.newcastle.edu.au/newspace

2014/B604E1/CRCOS/Provider Code 001/09U

>appendix C

Media release announcing Community Information Sessions

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 June 2014



NeW Space on solid ground

Mine rectification works will commence on the University of Newcastle's NeW Space education precinct in the coming weeks, following the appointment of Heatherbrae contractor - Bulk Flyash Grout.

The commencement of rectification works signals the next phase of the project and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

This week, the University will also launch a series of community information sessions and stakeholder briefings for its landmark NeW Space precinct. The first public community information session will be held on Wednesday 11 June at Newcastle City Hall between 6pm and 9pm.

Chief Operating Officer, Nat McGregor said the sessions were an opportunity for the community to find out more about the project and provide feedback to inform the development process.

"The community engagement sessions encourage two-way information exchange and will feature artist's impressions and architectural plans of the building and precinct."

A second drop-in information session will be held at Newcastle City Hall on Saturday, 26 July between 2pm and 5pm.

"We will also offer briefings to community groups and Hunter businesses, as well as other key stakeholders," said Mr McGregor.

Mr McGregor said the project was on track and, subject to planning approval, was expected to be ready for the 2017 academic year.

The University is preparing to lodge plans for the State Significant Development following the community engagement period.

For more information [visit the project website](#).

>appendix D

Flyer letterboxed to 32,000 local ratepayers



>appendix E

List of briefings completed and scheduled

DATE	AUDIENCE
TBA	Hunter Heritage Network
04/08/14	National Trust Hunter Region Committee
04/08/14	Coal River Working Party
31/07/14	Hunter Councils
31/07/14	Federal Member for Newcastle – Sharon Claydon
17/06/14	Design Review Panel (determine competition approval)
17/06/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Sewer)
10/06/14	Regional Infrastructure Committee
06/06/14	State Member for Newcastle – Tim Owen
22/05/14	Foundation Advisory Board
15/05/14	Newcastle City Council – Parks/ Recreation/Asset Management (external issues)
12/05/14	Newcastle City Council - Property Division (general status update)
06/05/14	FBL Board of Advice Members
11/04/14	Ausgrid (Christie Place substation)
11/04/14	Property Council of Australia
10/04/14	Newcastle City Council – Flood Level Meeting
10/04/14	Singapore Donors
08/04/14	Alumni Advisory Committee
04/04/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Water Tapping)

DATE	AUDIENCE
01/04/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Water Tapping)
26/03/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Water Tapping)
25/03/14	Heritage (State)
25/03/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Water Tapping)
19/03/14	Urban Design Consultative Group
12/03/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Water Tapping)
12/03/14	Concept Design Media Briefing
12/03/14	Concept Design Business Briefing
12/03/14	Concept Design NCC GM, Mayor, HDC, HBC CEO
19/02/14	Hunter Water phone calls and correspondence (Water Tapping)
18/02/14	Newcastle City Council - Property Division (general status update)
10/02/14	Newcastle Now
17/12/13	Newcastle City Council - Property Division (general status update)
05/12/13	Urban Development Institute of Australia
26/11/13	Newcastle City Council - Property Division (general status update)
13/09/13	Coordination and Development Group

>appendix F

List of neighbouring businesses visited

No.	Business name	Location
1	Express Liquor	516 Hunter St Newcastle
3	Snap	500 Hunter St Newcastle
4	Newcastle Bridal House	486 Hunter St Newcastle
5	Raine and Horne	480 Hunter St Newcastle
6	Belles and Beaus	464 Hunter St Newcastle
7	Diamant Coffee	488 Hunter St Newcastle
8	The Press	462 Hunter St Newcastle
9	Advanced Careers College	450 Hunter St Newcastle
10	Hills in Hollywood	444 Hunter St Newcastle
11	Passmore's Real Estate	432 Hunter St Newcastle
12	Tracks	430 Hunter St Newcastle
13	In Touch	426 Hunter St Newcastle
14	Tim Owen MP	414 Hunter St Newcastle
15	Clarendon Hotel	347 Hunter St Newcastle
16	Digital Print Services	357 Hunter St Newcastle
17	McGourty's Cafe	373 Hunter St Newcastle
18	Wilson's Florist	385 Hunter St Newcastle
19	Civic Lunch Delight	389 Hunter St Newcastle
20	Sharon Claydon MP	427 Hunter St Newcastle
21	Allure Skincare	429 Hunter St Newcastle
22	Jobseekers	433 Hunter St Newcastle
23	Calabro Bridal	437 Hunter St Newcastle
24	Walkom Real Estate	449 Hunter St Newcastle
25	Kerryon Gallery	451 Hunter St Newcastle
26	Hamburger Haven	451 Hunter St Newcastle
27	Aboriginal Employment Strategy	461 Hunter St Newcastle
28	Vodafone	430 Hunter St Newcastle
29	Joblink Plus	473 Hunter St Newcastle
30	Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service	1/8 Auckland St Newcastle
31	Department of Veterans Affairs	2/8 Auckland St Newcastle
32	Advanced School of Beauty Therapy	1/14 Auckland St Newcastle
33	University House Cafe	Auckland St Newcastle