

Response given to the Newcastle Herald re the Newcastle city centre plans

Response given to the Newcastle Herald on 25 August in response to a request for an update about the Newcastle city centre plans:

There's been a lot of work happening to progress the Newcastle city centre plans.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has been working closely with the Project Steering Committee (which includes the City of Newcastle and Hunter Development Corporation) to establish the key issues which the urban renewal study needs to examine.

These include:

- reviewing the LEP and DCP controls, including consideration of environmental impacts
- looking at opportunities to improve the public domain
- examining options to encourage adaptive re-use of the city's heritage
- undertaking a strategic economic feasibility analysis
- reviewing and consolidating existing city centre traffic and transport studies

There are a number of existing specialist studies and strategies for the city centre which will inform the urban renewal study. The following consultants have been commissioned by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to support the urban renewal investigations (including the issues listed above):

- Economic consultant
- Urban design landscape architect
- Heritage architect

Reports by the consultants will be made public as part of an exhibited urban renewal study.