Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan
Example Community Stories

Appendix A to the GNMP Consultation & Engagement Outcomes Report

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This document is preliminary unless approved by a Director of City Plan Strategy & Development.
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1. Overview

City Plan Strategy and Development (CPSD) was engaged by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) to assist with the development and implementation of a robust engagement program to inform the preparation of a draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan. As part of this engagement, a series of pop-up sessions were held throughout the GNMP area to raise awareness about the project, and allow people to voluntarily participate in a "map your story" exercise.

Eight pop-up sessions were held in total, with over 100 stories mapped. Summaries of each event, and selected stories were published on the Department's website between February and October 2017. CPSD consolidated facilitator's notes and photographs of each mapped story in a separate report provided to the Department in 2017.

Two examples of community stories are provided below, as an attachment to CPSD's GNMP Consultation & Engagement Outcomes Report. These examples have been chosen for illustrative purposes only, are not intended to represent the full range of issues identified by members of the community.
Juanita has a large family, and chose to live on the Lake because it is central to where everyone needs to go – but notes that, because of poor transport connections, it’s not convenient.

Her typical day involves:
- Dropping off her two youngest kids at school in Fassifern, and two adult children at the train station – one goes to Sydney for work and the other to the University of Newcastle at Callaghan.
- She then drives another adult child to work in Maitland before getting herself to work in Hamilton.
- Her husband works at Wallsend (he drives there).

In her downtime, Juanita enjoys spending time on the Lake and tends to shop at either Glendale or Charlestown. She doesn’t often go into the Newcastle City Centre.
Paul & Brad

Couple living at Merewether

- Paul and Brad come from very different places – Paul grew up in London and Brad in small-town NSW. Paul moved to Sydney in 2004, and was re-located to Newcastle for work. Brad intended to move to Sydney but came to Newcastle first to ‘acclimatise’ to a bigger city.

- They’ve both found the lifestyle they were looking for here in Newcastle, and plan to stay. They like the balance and diversity of things to do around the area, and that there is still freedom to move around conveniently to use the whole of the city. They said they have social connections to every ‘place’ listed on the Greater Newcastle area map.

- They are excited about the City’s transformation and are outgoing supporters of everything the metropolitan area offers. They attend every event and festival they can get to. They also regularly host visitors from Sydney and overseas, and usually take them to city beaches, Nelson Bay, Blackbutt, Glenrock, the Vineyards, and Dungog.

- Paul works in health, and Brad works in community services. Both recognise the influence of the built environment on people’s wellbeing through their jobs. They would like to see more investment in infrastructure that supports people’s health, including cycleways and green spaces. Brad also values the role planning can play to support issues of social equality, such as through the distribution of social and affordable housing.