Renew Newcastle

The Seeds of Urban Renewal 2008 - 2018











The Renew model

Empty spaces are lost opportunities

Based around making a city work for people with creativity not capital

Encouraged experimentation not permanent solutions

Borrow empty properties

Rolling 30 day license agreements

Renew managed insurance and

Cost neutral to property owners

Kenew managed insurance and compliance

What can we make easy?

What don't we need permission for?

Identify participants - creative enterprises

Sweat equity – participants carry out basic cosmetic improvements and fit out

Property owner consulted and approved project

Participants required to maintain regular opening hours and public interaction













































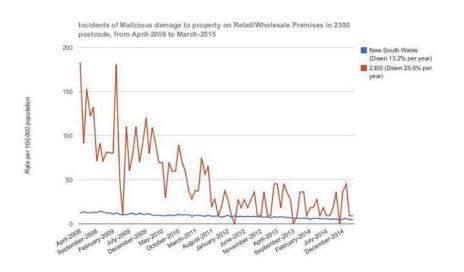








Some of the benefits



60-90% drop in vacancy rates

25.6% decrease in property crime

500,000+ more tourists each year

Lonely Planet top 10 world city

An Economic Evaluation of the Renew Newcastle Experiment - Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE) 2016 listed among the key benefits of Renew Newcastle were...

Creation of job and skills development

Conversion to commercial lease

Volunteer engagement

Mitigation of blight

Improved business and community confidence

Improved regional brand value

2016 Cost benefit ratio of 14.4

Every dollar invested in Renew returned \$14.40 to Newcastle

Creative industries participating in the Renew initiative generated over \$3m to the Newcastle economy in 2016

For 8 years the city was promoted both nationally and internationally as a Creative City



Jetstar Magazine

*Insight NEWCASTLE







NEXT GEN (Clockwise top left) Doughheads; Ali Sobel-Read; Brodie Bannerman

"WHEN I FIRST MOVED HERE, I WAS SHOCKED BY THE AMOUNT OF ARTISTS IN THE CITY"

264 Projects

1 in 3 Renew projects continue to operate after leaving Renew

82 Properties fixed up

67 Commercial Leases signed

48 projects took commercial leases

Renew was about...

Removing the barriers to entry

Lowering the cost and complexity of participation

Allowing people to try stuff

Encouraging creative risk

Make failing cheap

Learning by doing

Government leadership not ownership

Investment in the process

A strong sense of community

Renew Legacy





10 retail maker spaces and galleries continue to trade in the CBD in 2019





The emergence of co-working hubs in the CBD and on the city fringes.

The Renew model is Newcastle's biggest

cultural export over the last 10 years:

39 replications in Australia

9 international

Thank you

www.renewnewcastle.org

christopher@renewnewcastle.org