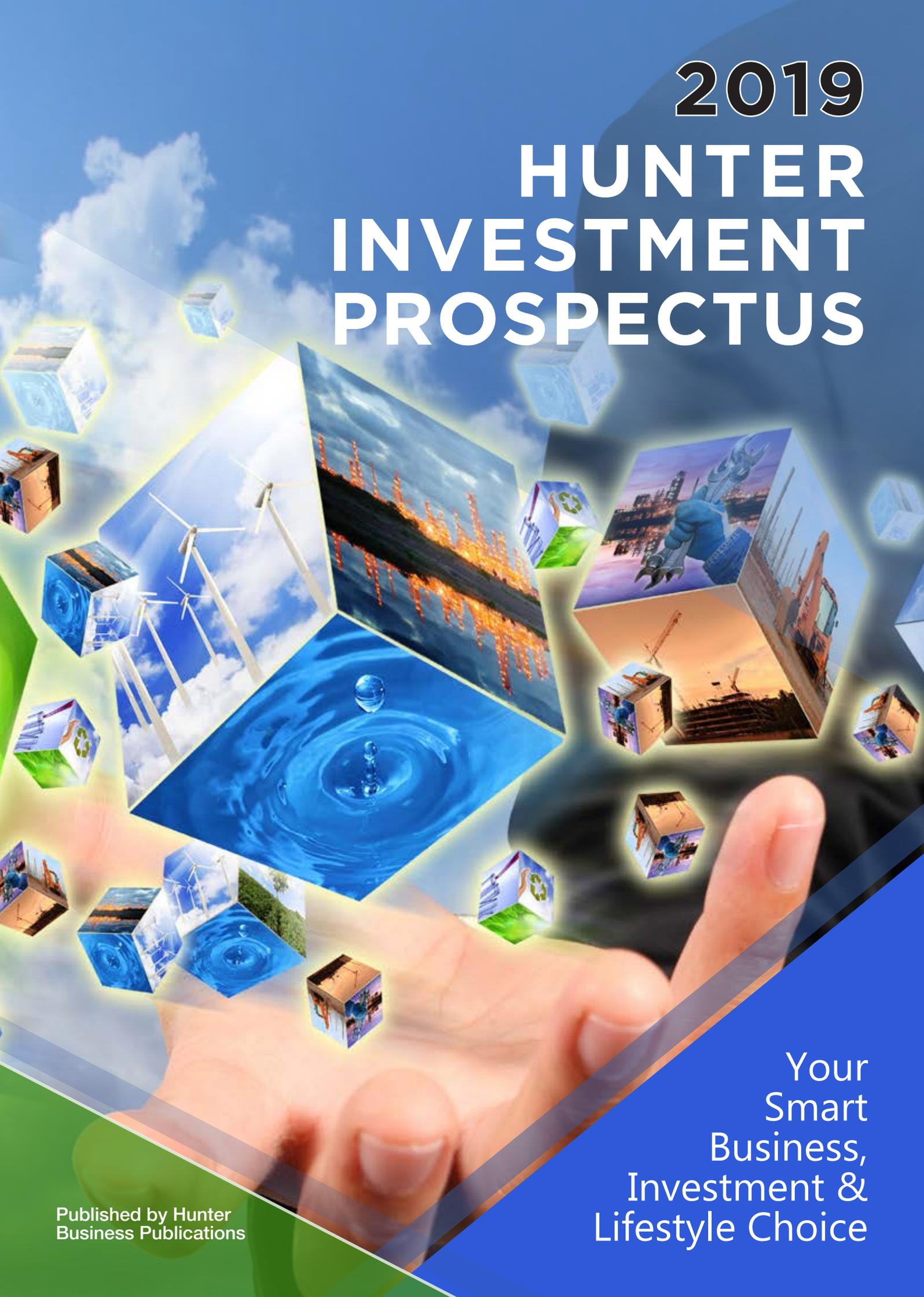


2019 HUNTER INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS



Your
Smart
Business,
Investment &
Lifestyle Choice

THE HUNTER REGION



The Hunter Region in NSW is Australia's largest regional economy, with an economic output of over \$47 billion pa and a population of over 733,000.

It includes Greater Newcastle - the seventh largest urban area in Australia.

It is a vibrant and diverse centre with a focus on technology, research, knowledge, industry and innovation. It has a dynamic start-up sector and many global companies across industries including aerospace, advanced manufacturing, mining and defence.

The region is situated on Australia's main east coast transport corridor. It has sophisticated infrastructure, international gateways including an airport and deep sea port, its own media outlets and university and a talent pool that is increasingly STEM skilled and job ready.

The Hunter combines an innovative economic and business environment with a high standard of living, proximity to Sydney and easy connections to Australia's other capital cities. It's a smart choice for your business.

It's a smart business, investment & lifestyle choice.

For more information, contact Regional Development Australia Hunter, the Hunter's economic development organisation,

E: admin@rdahunter.org.au

Ph: +61 2 4940 8355

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST REGIONAL ECONOMY



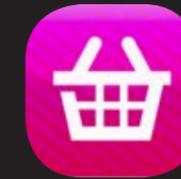
Australia's largest regional economy with over \$47 billion annual output and 50,000 businesses



The Port of Newcastle is third largest in Australia and 24th in the world in terms of trade volume.



Over 1.2 million annual passenger movements through Newcastle Airport



Close proximity to major Australian markets



Global top 250 university



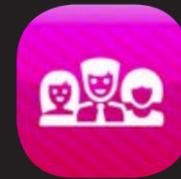
Population of 732,787 (ABS JUNE 2017 ERP)



Much lower property costs than capital cities



Greater Newcastle is Australia's 7th largest city



Highly skilled workforce



Enviably lifestyle

FOREWARD

The Hunter is a strong and vibrant region.

The right mix of investments, high quality goods and services, skilled people and connectivity to markets has created our region's prosperous economy. The Hunter region has developed competitive capacity and industrial capability in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism and health - making it a prime location to live, work and invest.

RDA Hunter values its partnerships to support the economic development of the Hunter. In collaboration with stakeholders, entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders, RDA Hunter is exploring opportunities to build the local economy, create more local jobs, attract investment, foster innovation and, by working with industry and educators, build the skilled workforce of the future.

The pipeline of economic infrastructure projects, supported by the public and private sectors, is improving connections between the Hunter and new markets. The delivery of products from paddocks, workshops and laboratories will occur more efficiently as this program of transformational infrastructure is constructed.

The Hunter Investment Prospectus supports the Australian Government's commitment to growing regions. If you are not yet based in the Hunter, then the information presented in this publication makes a good case for relocating to a superb part of regional Australia. For businesses and organisations setting up in the Hunter region, RDA Hunter is on-hand to connect you to the network you will be looking for to support your move to the region and to have the best go at making it a success.

RDA Hunter thanks its publication partner, Hunter Business Publications, for its work on this Hunter Investment Prospectus, which is a valuable and informative investment tool.



Mr John Turner
RDA Hunter, Chairman

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Hunter is a great place to work and invest - with a thriving economy well positioned for long term growth, and significant advantages compared with many other regions.

These advantages include a skilled workforce, major industries, strong research and development capability, and highly developed infrastructure including; power generation, water distribution and transport connectivity to the globe through coal chain rail infrastructure, the Hunter Expressway, Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.

The Hunter is the largest regional contributor to the State's gross domestic product, contributing around 28% of regional NSW's total economic output.

Agribusiness, resources and mining, tertiary and vocational education, and freight and logistics industries are 'engines' of the Hunter economy. Additionally advanced manufacturing, renewable energy and technology enabled primary industries are poised for growth in the region.

The NSW Government remains committed to the Hunter's ongoing success, and will continue to assist the region with economic diversification, job creation and the revitalisation of the Newcastle city centre.

A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW outlines the NSW Government's vision to accelerate regional NSW's economic growth in key sectors such as agribusiness, tertiary education and health care, and to take full advantage of trade and tourism opportunities with Asia. This will ensure the Hunter continues to play a critical role in the NSW economy.

Additionally the NSW Government has identified significant economic opportunities for the Upper Hunter - which incorporates the Council areas of Dungog, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter - as outlined in the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Action Plan: Implementation Priorities. The plan is a guide for sustainable economic transition economic diversification priorities into regional land use planning.

I congratulate Hunter Business Publications and Regional Development Australia (RDA)-Hunter on the publication of the latest Hunter Investment Prospectus and look forward to continuing our work together to encourage further investment and economic growth in the Hunter region.



Scot MacDonald MLC
Parliamentary Secretary
for Planning, the Central
Coast and the Hunter

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Printed by:

NCP Printing
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Phone: +61 2 4926 1300
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Courtesy of City of Newcastle

Regional Economic Development



Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter works with the three levels of government, industry, other RDAs and local communities to support the economic development of the Hunter.

We identify and communicate the Hunter's competitive advantages and provide advice on critical issues affecting its regional development directly to the Australian government.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders, RDA Hunter is exploring opportunities to sustain a strong local economy, create local jobs, attract investment and foster innovation. And, by working with industry and educators, we are also building the skilled workforce of the future.

The Hunter region is innovative and vibrant with industrial capability in diverse sectors including defence, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism and health - making it a prime location to live, work and invest.

Contact RDA Hunter for more information:

T: +61 2 4940 8355

E: admin@rdahunter.org.au

www.rdahunter.org.au

www.rdahunterstem.org.au

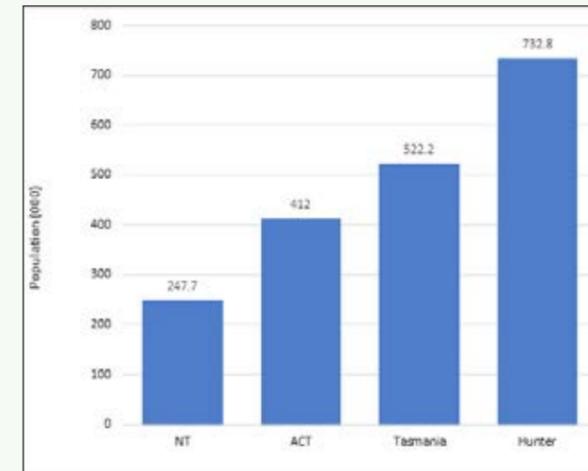
AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

The Hunter Region of New South Wales is unique in many ways. Often referred to as the "powerhouse of New South Wales" and "a State within a State", the Hunter combines a vibrant, diversifying economy with a proud history, strong identity, a great lifestyle and a range of competitive advantages as an investment and business location.

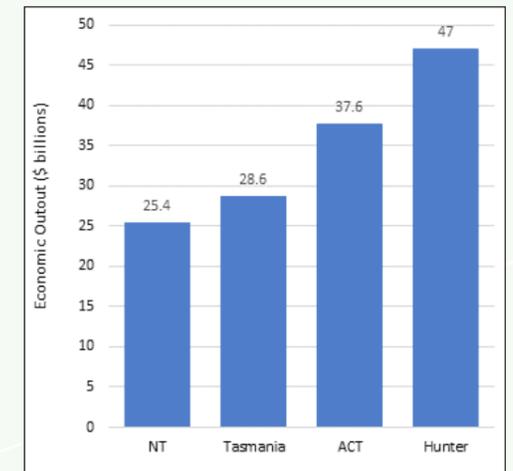
Covering an area of nearly 33,000 sq km, the Hunter is roughly located between latitudes 31.5° and 33° south and longitudes 150° and 152° east. It is the most populous regional area in Australia. With nearly 733,000 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2017 estimated resident population), the Hunter has significantly more people and greater economic output than Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.



The Hunter has significantly more people and greater economic output than Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.



Comparative populations (ABS 2017 ERP)



Comparative Economic Outputs (2016-2017) (NT, Tasmania and ACT: RBA figures; Hunter: Deloitte Access Economics estimate)



Courtesy of City of Newcastle

INCREASE
TEAM
ENGAGEMENT
WELLBEING +
PRODUCTIVITY



If your team love what they're doing, the potential for business success is enormous. Your workplace provides the backdrop for their motivation and passion. It drives them to perform at their very best. At Evoke Projects, we will ensure your office interior design and office fit-out supports and enriches your brand while harnessing the power of your people.

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We employ the Apprentices & Trainees and hire them out to Host Employers, such as you!

Our hourly charge rate means you are only invoiced for the Trainee/Apprentice per hour they are in the workplace with you, therefore you are not charged when your Trainee has a sick day, roster day off or annual leave days, and if it just doesn't work out you can return the Trainee to us and we will move them to another position and supply you with a replacement!

Taking on a Trainee in your Office or workplace has now never been easier!

For further information please contact our friendly office staff on 02 4979 0170.

Our rate is fully inclusive of:

- Trainee Wages
- Annual Leave
- RTO Fees
- Workers Compensation
- Sick Leave
- Roster Days Off
- Superannuation

You are only charged for the hours the Trainee is with you, we cover the rest!

Our Recruitment Officer is waiting to match our fantastic candidates with your Business today!



AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

The Hunter currently comprises over 8% of economic activity in New South Wales, with regional output of approximately \$47 billion (2017 Estimate) — making it Australia's largest regional economy.

According to Deloitte Access Economics, the Hunter economy is projected to grow at around 2.4% pa to the year 2036, significantly higher than the rest of New South Wales where annual economic growth is expected to be around 2.1% pa over the same period.

In October 2016, the New South Wales Government released the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 which aims to strengthen the Region's economic resilience, protect its well-established economic and employment bases and build on its existing strengths to foster greater market and industry diversification. The Plan highlights the growth potential of the Hunter, including an estimated 64,000 additional jobs.

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 was launched in September 2018. This first-ever Metropolitan Plan for a non-capital city in Australia, it sets out strategies and actions that will drive sustainable growth across Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City, Maitland City, Newcastle City and Port Stephens.

The Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Action Plan: Implementation Priorities was also released in July 2018. Covering the Muswellbrook, Singleton, Upper Hunter and Dungog local government areas, the document provides the region's response to the call for action embodied in the NSW Government's Regional Development Framework. It establishes a guide for sustainable economic transition incorporating economic diversification priorities into regional land use planning.

The Hunter economy has quite distinct industry bases. With strong foundations in mining and agriculture it has also undergone substantial structural changes over the past two decades, including considerable expansion in broad service sectors.

Those not familiar with the Region are invariably surprised at the strength, vibrancy and diversity of the Hunter economy which stretches far beyond the traditional industries of coal, steel and wine which are often associated with the Region.

The Region is embracing innovation as a major economic driver, with industries in the Hunter are characterised by a "can do" attitude that is fuelling sustained economic growth and a secure future. These factors, combined with the Hunter's numerous other competitive advantages, have seen billions of dollars invested in recent years by a host of companies, including major national and international corporations.

The Hunter economy's increasing focus on innovation and intellectual resources is making existing industries more efficient, gaining new global markets and creating new industries that will hold the Hunter in good stead for the future. Increased levels of cooperation between industry, government, educational institutions and other organisations are helping to increase levels of local innovation and driving growth.

The Newcastle CBD is in the process of major changes with the NSW Government allocating \$650 million for its revitalisation, including renewing the CBD and building light rail facilities from a new transport interchange. The private sector is also investing hundreds of millions of dollars, with a number of significant commercial and residential developments underway.

There are a number of revitalisation projects underway in other centres around the Hunter, noticeably Muswellbrook, Denman, Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland and Scone.

The Hunter has many advantages as a business location, including a skilled workforce, significantly lower property costs than mainland capital cities, excellent transport links (road, rail, sea and air), proximity to major Australian markets, strong industry networks, world-class educational institutions and much more.

As well as providing an exceptional economic case, the Hunter also offers a quality of life that is hard to match. People relocating to the Hunter experience an excellent lifestyle, with a combination of exceptional natural assets, pleasant climate and a high level of facilities and services. The Region offers very high levels of education and health services, as well as all the services you would expect from a major centre. Relatively low levels of traffic congestion and affordable real estate prices compared to most Australian capital cities are also very welcome.

The Hunter truly has it all — it's a great investment and business location plus a great place to live



Courtesy of City of Newcastle



Maitland's No 1 Sportsground

Thornton Depot



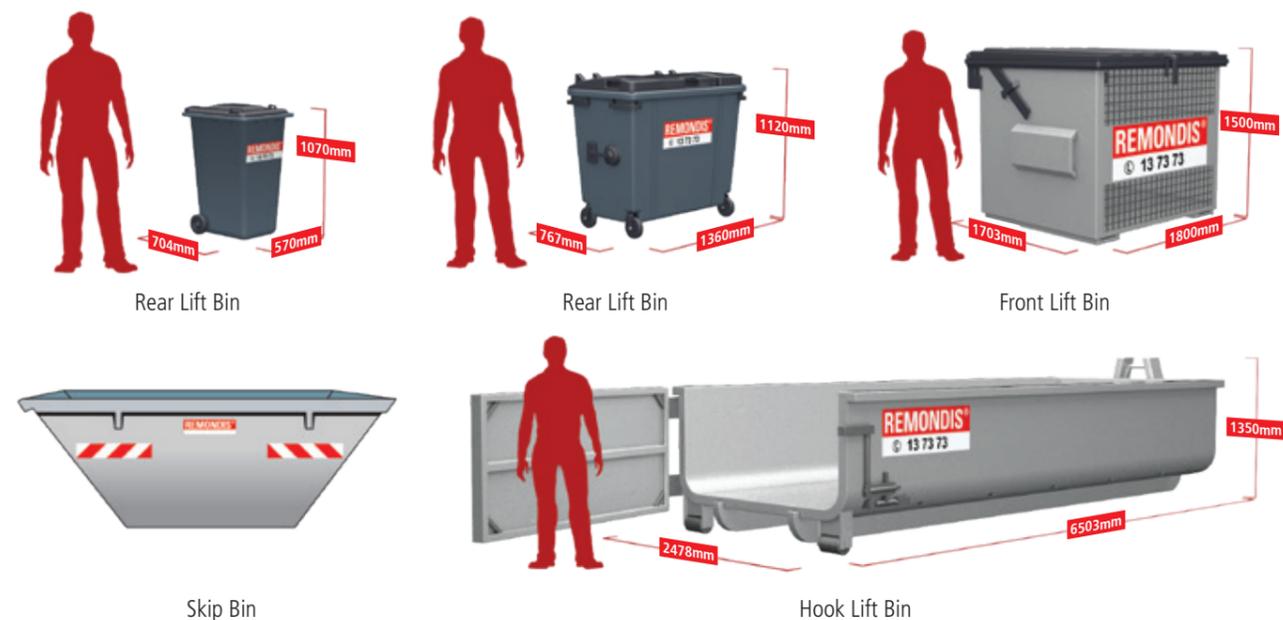
Do you have rising waste costs? Want to recycle more?
Need a better waste management solution?

REMONDIS will assist its neighbours with:

- Cost reductions
- Diverting waste from landfill
- Site specific solutions



CALL US TODAY
☎ 13 73 73



AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

WORKFORCE

The Hunter has a proud reputation for a hard-working, reliable, and flexible workforce that's skilled across a diverse industrial base.

With sustained growth over the last two decades, the Hunter experienced an upward trend in employment. Before this period, unemployment rates in the Hunter were usually higher than state and national averages, which saw many locals moving to Sydney and other major centres for employment. Now an increasing number of people are moving to the Hunter for both work and lifestyle reasons.

In recent years there has been an increasing migration of workers from the large capital cities. According to the ABS some 40,000 people left Sydney in the 2016-2017 financial year to relocate to elsewhere in NSW. With a growing economy, relatively low property prices and an excellent quality of life, the Hunter has been an increasingly popular destination for a significant number of these people.

With technology offering greater opportunities for remote workforces and distributed workplaces, the Hunter is an attractive location for all sizes of workplaces from head offices and major regional offices all the way down to very small workplaces, either as stand-alone entities or reporting to a head office located elsewhere.

The Hunter has an estimated workforce of 373,631 (June 2018, Australian Government, Department of Employment) and is characterised by high skill levels and particularly strong growth in the knowledge based sectors.

Local Government Area	Workforce
Cessnock (C)	28,347
Dungog (A)	4,746
Lake Macquarie (C)	102,029
Maitland (C)	42,982
Mid-Coast	41,248
Muswellbrook (A)	9,185
Newcastle (C)	88,213
Port Stephens (A)	35,237
Singleton (A)	13,703
Upper Hunter Shire (A)	7,941
Total Hunter	373,631

Workforce estimate (June 2018, Australian Government, Department of Employment)



Courtesy of University of Newcastle

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE



Cessnock City Council

The availability of labour in the Hunter is enhanced by an excellent road, rail and public transport network which gives employers access to a very large labour pool. In addition, the adjacent Central Coast Region, with a population of nearly 350,000 and a workforce of around 180,000, has the capacity to add further to the Hunter's labour pool.

A major area of economic growth in the Hunter is in knowledge-based industries. The University of Newcastle and TAFE NSW work closely with regional employers to design courses that meet modern business and industry needs.

Absenteeism and staff turnover rates in the Hunter are low compared with capital cities due to the Region's attractive way of life.

The Hunter has a progressive, co-operative approach to industrial relations and as a result the number of industrial disputes remains low.

The Hunter's unions work together under the auspices of the Hunter Workers (formerly Newcastle Trades Hall Council) and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

Industrial relations support is provided through the two major employer groups - Hunter Business Chamber and Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) - as well as a number of industrial advocates.



Port Waratah Coal Services



Empowering people through their business

Education | Mentoring | Acceleration



businesscentre.com.au

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Hunter Region has a strong emphasis on education and training, at both the personal and organisational levels. It is home to a wide range of quality educational institutions and organisations.

There is a widespread appreciation of its importance as an essential ingredient for economic growth, particularly in the rapidly growing knowledge-based industries.

ABS data demonstrates an increasingly skilled workforce, with an increase in the number of Hunter people seeking higher qualifications.

Additionally, most employment growth has been in the knowledge-based industries, and these new jobs require employees with skills and higher qualification levels.

The education and training sector is also a major employer in the Region, accounting for around 8% of the workforce.



Courtesy of University of Newcastle

The University of Newcastle

At the University of Newcastle, researchers and students are developing new thinking, new ideas and new breakthroughs to solve the world's greatest problems. The University is shaping a new generation of leaders in industry, society and community – pioneers and trailblazers – equipped to meet these problems head on.

The University is committed to realising their bold 2025 vision to stand as a global leader, distinguished by their commitment to equity and excellence.

For over 50 years, the University of Newcastle has delivered exceptional education to talented students from all walks of life. The University's degrees are shaped around global learning, work placements and entrepreneurial opportunities. More than 250 undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs and over 150 research masters and PhD programs are offered across five Faculties – Business and Law, Education and Arts, Engineering and Built Environment, Health and Medicine, and Science. The University's problem-based learning approach, which underpins many of their degree programs, shapes real-world skills for over 37,000 students from 115 nations.

The University of Newcastle has a proud reputation of supporting motivated and talented students, regardless of their background or circumstances, not just to gain entry, but to succeed in their field of study. The University is Australia's largest provider of enabling programs in Australia, and through the work of their Indigenous staff, communities, Elders and the Wollotuka Institute, they have led Indigenous education for more than 30 years.

In their relatively short history, they have developed a strong reputation as an institution dedicated to outstanding education and research. Currently ranked 214th in the world by QS World University Rankings 2019, they are consistently ranked within Australia's top 10 universities, and they have 15 subjects recognised in the top 200 in the world.

To find out more, visit the University of Newcastle website newcastle.edu.au

TOP 10 University in Australia	RANKED 214 University in the world	TOP 200 15 Subjects in the Top 200 worldwide
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Wollotuka Institute

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW is the leading provider of vocational education and training in Australia. Each year, more than 500,000 students enrol into nationally recognised courses and training.

As a part of the state-wide network, TAFE NSW has 14 campuses in the Hunter and delivers into workplaces and communities across the region. As a key business priority, TAFE NSW works closely with industry and employers to ensure that training reflects the changing needs of employers today and for the future.

TAFE NSW delivers high quality nationally accredited vocation education and training programs, be they short courses, school programs, certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas and degrees in hundreds of industry areas not always available through universities or private training organisations. TAFE NSW offers flexible delivery options that continue to be responsive to market demands, relevant to the workplace and utilise cutting edge technology of the highest quality.

For more information about TAFE NSW training options available on-the-job, on campus or online, visit tafensw.edu.au or call 131 601.

University of New England

The University of New England operates the Manning Valley Centre in Taree which is located in the MidCoast Council area. This centre provides access to a range of facilities for further studies. For UNE students, the Centre provides access to course details, undergraduate

and postgraduate information, library services and student support services. The Centre offers facilities including computers, internet, quiet study areas, video conferencing and printers.

Hunter Valley Training Company

HVTC is one of Australia's oldest Group Training Organisation with branches located in the Hunter, Sydney, Illawarra, Northern Rivers, North Coast, Mid Coast, North West, Shoalhaven and Southern Tablelands regions.

HVTC works closely with business and industry to provide flexible and cost effective staffing arrangements, specialising in delivering total workforce solutions including:

- Recruiting and managing quality apprentices and trainees
- Safety inspections, audits, management
- Psychometric testing
- Short or long term labour hire
- Workforce management.

Through its Registered Training Organisation Hunter-V-Tec, the HVTC Skills Centre offers customised and flexible training in:

- Trade
- Post-trade
- Business
- Upskilling courses
- Short courses for job seekers

Contact HVTC on +61 2 4932 4222 or visit www.hvtc.com.au

NEW WAYS TO LEARN

The University of Newcastle's \$95 million NeW Space facility harnesses the latest in technology and innovation in teaching and learning to deliver an exceptional student experience. It is home to our world-class business, law and creative industries schools.

UN 2018 1488 | CRICOS Provider 001093

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

NEWCASTLE.EDU.AU

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative

RDA Hunter leads and facilitates activities to improve economic development in the Hunter Region. Four priority areas of focus have been identified as underpinning regional growth to maintain international competitiveness - innovation, investment, infrastructure and a STEM skilled workforce to enable innovation-driven growth and industry development.

Since 2010, RDA Hunter has been undertaking activities to STEM skill the region's future workforce. These initiatives are collectively known as RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative and comprise Mini ME, ME Program, iSTEM, STEM Industry School Partnerships, Women in STEM, Aeroskills, STEMship, STEMstart and STEM Teacher Professional Development. The school projects are life-stage specific, learning experiences that together create a pipeline of opportunities and activities for students aged from eight to 18.

In close, mutually-beneficial, partnerships with local industry, including defence prime contractors, multi-nationals and SMEs, students are immersed in industry focused and designed curriculum as well as professional work placements beyond the traditional school experience. These activities encourage student interest in STEM careers and ensure their preparedness for the jobs that projects such as Defence's Joint Strike Fighter are creating in the region.

For further information visit the STEM Workforce Initiative visit <http://rdahunter.org.au/initiatives/stem-workforce-initiative>

STEMship

STEMship is one of RDA Hunter's employee readiness programs. It is supported by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Industry (Training Services and Defence NSW). The multi-disciplinary training component is delivered in conjunction with TAFE NSW.

STEMship is an innovative Vocational Education and Training (VET) pre-employment program incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM subjects) with entrepreneurship skills and work place awareness capabilities. STEMship is designed to provide a VET pathway for high school students as an alternate pathway to University. The program promotes job creation in the Hunter Region by providing a talent pool of work ready employees for industries, including Defence Industry and Advanced Manufacturing.

Further outcomes of the program include:

- Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities for participants at the completion of the program;
- Further VET training opportunities for participants in the NSW Government's Jobs of Tomorrow scholarship qualifications; and,
- Awareness of current and future employment opportunities in the Region.

Training is backed by the Department of Industry - Training Services NSW under the Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Pre-Apprenticeship Part Qualifications program.



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



RDA Hunter STEMship



Courtesy of University of Newcastle

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

WEA Hunter

WEA Hunter (Workers Educational Association Hunter) is the fifth largest provider of community based adult learning in NSW. It is also one of the sector's most diverse education providers offering government contract training, vocational education training and youth education.

Well known for its lifestyle programs, WEA Hunter is also a registered RTO delivering specialist skills and VET courses as well as the award winning Alesco education model for young people aspiring to complete high school studies.

Currently WEA Hunter provides learning opportunities for the communities of the Hunter, Central Coast and Mid North Coast regions of the state. Campuses are located at Laman Street Cooks Hill which is also home to the first of WEA's Alesco Senior Colleges, Cessnock, Raymond Terrace, the Tomaree Peninsular and Tuncurry. WEA also owns and operates a Community Arts Space in Newcastle cosmopolitan suburb of Hamilton. This is a working theatre and includes learning spaces for students enrolled in non-accredited and accredited courses including the Diploma of Music Industry. In 2019, WEA will also open a campus in Lake Macquarie where it will run an Alesco College and other lifestyle programs.

For more information contact WEA Hunter on +61 2 4925 4200 or visit www.weahunter.com.au



RDA Hunter

Tocal College

Tocal College is part of the Tocal Agricultural Centre within the NSW Department of Primary Industries. It is a leader in agricultural and conservation land management education. Tocal offers full and part time courses, short courses and distance education.

It delivers highly sought after training, assessment and professional development programs for those entering and working in agricultural industries.

For further information about Tocal College visit www.tocal.nsw.edu.au

Avondale College

Avondale is a private institution of higher education offering a broad range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and vocational courses. It is run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but open to all students. The main campus is located at Cooranbong (Lake Macquarie), with another in Sydney.

For more information visit www.avondale.edu.au

Other training organisations

A large number of other accredited vocational training and development companies specialising in occupational health and safety, management, leadership and a wide variety of other business related subjects operate throughout the Hunter.

Quality learning to support our community

- business and skills training
- community services
- creative arts and music
- food, languages and culture
- home and hobbies
- complementary health

Phone 02 4925 4200
www.weahunter.edu.au

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

WEAHUNTER
QUALITY LEARNING

INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

RDA HUNTER

Innovation is crucial to the Hunter region's future prosperity. In a global economy, competitiveness is dependent on harnessing the region's strengths to take advantage of new opportunities and continually refine systems.

Advancing innovation in the Hunter is an economic development strategic focus for RDA Hunter as it works to increase the Hunter's competitiveness in the world economy. Innovation underpins industry development, diversification and jobs growth. Innovation is a vital part of RDA Hunter's efforts to maintain the Hunter's position as Australia's largest regional economy.

The Hunter's innovative business environment supports collaboration between enterprise, tertiary education, research and government to ensure knowledge sharing, technical development and a positive attitude to new ideas. RDA Hunter facilitates this collaboration through its partnerships across the innovation eco-system, Smart Specialisation Strategy for the Hunter Region, Hunter Innovation Scorecards and STEM Workforce Initiatives.

By benchmarking against the world's best innovators, the Hunter can forge a path for the future that is globally competitive. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and European Union (EU) recognise that innovation improves economic performance and employment opportunities - demonstrated by multi-billion Euro investments in innovation programs. The EU measures the innovation performance of its members with the Innovation Union Scoreboard and the Regional Innovation Scoreboard.

RDA Hunter has applied the EU's lessons in the region by producing Hunter Innovation Scorecards and the Smart Specialisation for the Hunter Region which identifies the Hunter's competitive advantages - areas which are experiencing innovation driven growth and providing high value, high skill jobs growth.

For further information about RDA Hunter's work to advance innovation in the Hunter contact admin@rdahunter.org.au

The University of Newcastle

Through world-class research and strong partnerships with government and industry, the University of Newcastle drives innovation that challenges conventional thinking and changes lives. The University is a world leader in generating new knowledge and translating innovative ideas into real benefits to society.

The University's Creative Arts, Business, Law and Education (CABLE), STEMM Enterprises and Global Impact Clusters help researchers work across disciplines to solve the world's greatest challenges in the fields of Energy, Resources, Food and Water; Better Health, Healthcare and Treatment; Future Industries; and Strong Cities, Communities and Regions. Their research institutes, like the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) and the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), are unrivalled in their impact. The University has 20 Priority Research Centres which drives outstanding research into great innovation.

The University of Newcastle's researchers work in partnership with industry and research groups across the world to strengthen the quality and depth of impact they can make in life-changing research and innovation. They are the number one university in Australia for Innovation Connections for 'industry collaboration'

(League table 2017 Innovation Connections program, Ausindustry).

The significance of the University of Newcastle's research is reflected in the Australian Government's Excellence in Research Australia assessment, which places the University in the top eight Australian universities for research quality 'well-above world standard.'

The University champions the translation of research outcomes and discoveries into innovative products, solutions and policy. This is achieved through collaborative research projects with the University's industry, business and government partners in its local, national and global communities.



Every day, University of Newcastle researchers break new ground and change lives, in Australia and around the world. Some of these researchers include:

- Laureate Professor Nick Talley, a world-leading neurogastroenterologist, was named the 2018 New South Wales Scientist of the Year, in recognition of his ground-breaking research into gut disorders that affect one in five Australians. His work has already changed the way clinicians treat patients here and around the world. This is the fourth time in the award's 11-year history that a University of Newcastle researcher has achieved this honour.
- Associate Professor Darren Shafren developed CAVATAK, an investigational anti-cancer therapy, after he discovered that the common cold virus had the potential to infect and kill cancer cells. In partnership with the University of Newcastle, Professor Shafren started Viralytics Limited - an oncolytic virotherapy firm and began testing CAVATAK globally. In what is now one of the biggest biotech transactions in Australian history, Viralytics has been acquired for \$502 million by world-leading pharmaceutical company, Merck & Co., Inc. Kenilworth, NJ., USA. Currently in global trials, CAVATAK may forever change the way we treat cancer.
- Dr Jessica Allen is reinventing how we create energy with technologies that harness twice as much power from coal, while reducing disease-causing pollution. As a leader on the front lines of the renewable energy revolution, Jess is shaping a better world for today and tomorrow.
- Associate Professor Chris Scarlett and his team are exploring new ways to find a cure for pancreatic cancer. They have scoured the ocean floor in search of one of the planet's simplest organisms, the sea sponge. Chris believes the sea holds undiscovered chemical compounds to unlock new therapies for pancreatic cancer, one of the most aggressive forms of the disease. He's hopeful the ocean's secrets will one day yield a cure.
- Dr Sally Hewat's take on speech therapy education is being heard around the world. Recognised for her award-winning work in Australia, Sally hasn't stopped there. She's connecting with international communities to help children across the globe. Sally's work with Trinh Foundation and their Vietnam partners has helped Vietnamese children with speech disabilities to communicate with their families and friends - some for the first time in their lives. Today, she's assisting to

establish the first speech therapy training programs in Vietnam that will enable teachers and health practitioners there to carry on her work.

To find out more about the above researcher's and their projects, visit Newcastle.edu.au/new

To find out more about the University's research activities please visit www.newcastle.edu.au/research



Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER)

The Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) provides a multidisciplinary model which connects both academia and industry through a common platform for transformational research in core areas of energy and resources. The model facilitates collective capacity and joint branding of industry partners and research groups, enabling them to engage significant national and international research collaborations. The model also enhances client relationship management through a single governance structure, which offers one point of contact for the implementation of master agreements and the resolution of high-level issues.

Newcastle Innovation

Newcastle Innovation is the industry engagement arm of the University of Newcastle. Newcastle Innovation's Business Development Managers are drawn from industry and have relevant technical, business and legal expertise to help industry engage with The University of Newcastle by providing a direct conduit to the University's researchers, by utilising research solutions to solve industry and community problems.

I2N: Integrated Innovation Network

The University of Newcastle is expanding its ability to foster regional SMEs and startups and create innovation clusters across NSW with the Integrated Innovation Network (I2N). Under this initiative, the University is continuing its long-term strategic commitment to the growth and development of the Hunter region by:

- Supporting entrepreneurs from all sectors and at all stages with programs, mentoring and coworking space at I2N Hub Hunter Street, located in Newcastle's CBD.

NEW ATTACKS MELANOMA WITH THE COMMON COLD



THE WORLD NEEDS NEW

Who would have thought something as bothersome as a cold could result in something so promising? Professor Darren Shafren even surprised himself. Darren developed CAVATAK, an investigational anti-cancer therapy, after he discovered that the common cold virus had the potential to infect and kill cancer cells. Currently in global trials, CAVATAK may forever change the way we treat cancer.

NEWCASTLE.EDU.AU/NEW

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- Building on the University's strengths in cybersecurity, control systems, autonomous vehicles, simulation modelling and propulsion and energy storage to engage students and researchers with industries servicing the defence sector at I2N Hub Williamtown.
- Contributing to the diversification goals of the Upper Hunter by assisting existing industries and new business to develop innovative products and services that generate ongoing social and economic benefits at the University of Newcastle Upper Hunter.

In partnership with Muswellbrook Shire Council, the University has established a research and education facility in the Hunter called the University of Newcastle Upper Hunter, located within the Tertiary Education Centre in what is known as the Hunter Region Innovation Precinct – a precinct which also houses TAFE NSW and the Library. The structure of the University of Newcastle Upper Hunter is based on the Newcastle Institute for Energy & Resources (NIER) model and focuses on the delivery of regionally relevant research and engagement activities that help shape the future of the region.

The facility supports the area's diversification goals of becoming an innovation intensive region. It provides a flexible framework for post-graduate students to access opportunities to develop applied research skills and enhance employment opportunities across a wide range of industries, whilst providing a supporting platform for existing research excellence and innovation and enabling the expansion of critical research to benefit the region. It provides a space for University of Newcastle staff and students to work with local industry and community to create, develop and produce ideas and products which generate ongoing social and economic benefits.

To find out more about I2N, visit newcastle.edu.au/i2n



I2N Hub

Dantia Smart Hub (DaSH)

In collaboration with Dantia, the University of Newcastle has developed innovation and entrepreneurial programming with DaSH co-working space in Charlestown. It provides opportunities for SMEs to scale up their existing products and services and help to drive start-up activity in the local government area.

Hunter Innovation Project

A partnership between Newcastle City Council, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle Now and Hunter DiGiT, the \$18 million Hunter Innovation Project (HIP) is providing physical spaces, data connectivity and smart infrastructure to increase productivity and leverage investment in research and technology in Newcastle and the Hunter Region. With a collective vision to establish and nurture an innovation ecosystem within the Hunter Region, the HIP will foster economic growth and employment in the Hunter regional economy particularly in new and emerging industries. It will act as a magnet to attract, retain, and develop talent and additional investment in the new knowledge-based economy and beyond.

The HIP will deliver three key elements by late 2019:

- Smart city infrastructure - digital connectivity through WiFi and LPWAN (low power wide area networks) will link sensors and integrated technology to provide detailed real time city data, facilitating an open-ended range of services and applications to improve the ease of access, efficiency and liveability of the city for residents, businesses and tourists. Initial applications including smart parking, smart lighting and public WiFi throughout the Newcastle city centre is well underway.
- Innovation hub - currently in the planning phase this dedicated CBD based facility will bring together researchers, students, developers, entrepreneurs, investors, technical specialists and business advisors under the same roof to commercialise ideas and promote economic development.
- Digitally connected innovation precinct - a designated zone being planned for the west end, the precinct will deliver high speed fibre broadband providing a competitive advantage in attracting and retaining high-tech, digital and creative industries to stay or locate in the region.

CSIRO

The CSIRO Energy Centre in Mayfield West (Newcastle) is home to Australia's leading energy research initiative, including state-of-the-art testing facilities available to industry and government.

The CSIRO Energy Centre is pioneering energy research to:

- lower greenhouse emissions
- maximise energy efficiency
- reduce impacts on the electricity grid
- drive next generation solar energy
- deliver breakthrough technologies
- manage the future renewable energy mix

The Energy Centre is home to renewable energy technologies, labs and facilities.

The solar thermal research and demonstration fields are the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and contain hundreds of heliostat mirrors that concentrate heat from the sun onto a 30 m tower to convert it to energy. The Centre also conducts solar PV indoor and outdoor testing to set the benchmark for solar manufacturing and development in Australia.

Other facilities include the Climate Controlled Testing Facility to test the performance of air-conditioning components under different conditions to help improve the energy efficiency of residential and commercial air-conditioning systems, the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Test Facility to evaluate conventional and solar-powered air-conditioning systems, the Renewable Energy Integration Facility which replicates a segment of the distribution network to enable evaluation of new technologies, and the Stored Energy Integration Facility which is currently being used for energy arbitrage and peak-demand reduction experiments.

For a virtual tour of the CSIRO Energy facilities at Newcastle visit www.csiro.au/CSIRO-Energy-Centre-virtual-tour/

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), a partnership between Hunter New England Health, the University of Newcastle and the community, is recognised as one of the leading medical research institutes in NSW.

HMRI facilitates relationships between researchers and clinicians to integrate research outcomes into general health care, spanning

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HUNTER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION CENTRE



INFORMED CONVERSATIONS FOSTER COLLABORATION

The Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre, at the University of Newcastle, is a **trusted source of original independent data, analysis and clear explanations.**

HRF Centre works with the region's industry, government and community sectors. Through this 'engaged research', we are informing development of a **shared vision for a region on the move.** Our **economic and social research tracks, evaluates and characterises trends, opportunities and challenges.**

- Network with regional leaders at the **Hunter and Upper Hunter Economic Breakfast Series**
- Make informed decisions using our national and **regional economic indicators**
- Rely on the unique **Pulse survey data on businesses and households** in the Hunter and Upper Hunter
- Become a partner and collaborator in **economic and social research of regional importance**

LEARN MORE AT NEWCASTLE.EDU.AU/HRFC



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biomedical research, clinical trials and public health studies. In 20 years HMRI has grown to more than 1500 researchers who are conducting research of national and international significance. HMRI researchers from the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health and Calvary Mater Newcastle have been instrumental in establishing the Hunter as a place of research excellence.

HMRI brings scientists, researchers, clinicians, policy makers, civic and business communities together to promote collaboration, enhance planning and improve resource allocation at a health-district level. This results in improved training and employment opportunities, improved health care delivery and attracts the best medical professionals to the Region.

For more information visit www.hmri.org.au.

Hunter Research Foundation Centre

The Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre is the result of a partnership forged in 2017 between the long-standing Hunter Valley Research Foundation and the University of Newcastle.

The Centre's researchers have a deep understanding of the dynamics of the Hunter Region, and harness their expertise to deliver independent and insightful research.

In collaboration with industry, government, the community and other research partners, the HRF Centre conducts 'engaged research'. It aims to characterise economic and social opportunities and challenges in regions facing significant transition.

There are a number of ways to connect with, and access the HRF Centre's research.

- Join the region's key decision-makers at the long-running Hunter and Upper Hunter Economic Breakfast Series
- Make informed decisions with independent regional economic indicators and analysis
- Access the regular Hunter and Upper Hunter Pulse surveys of households and businesses
- Build an evidence base by collaborating in economic or social research.

For information on the Centre or its services visit www.newcastle.edu.au/hrfc or call +61 2 4985 4311.

Hunter iF

Hunter iF has been established as a not-for-profit organisation to support, encourage and facilitate investment, jobs and growth as our region undergoes significant change. It will act as a champion for innovation and grow scale of impact by driving strategy for new activity, it will also be responsible for measurement relating to the innovation ecosystem, and promotion of the Hunter region as an innovation powerhouse.

It does this by providing a one stop shop for innovation in the Hunter through a comprehensive, connected and cohesive package of services, programs and opportunities. Hunter iF is accelerating innovative ideas to successful outcomes.

The entity has a broad-based leadership from across the sectors of established industry, new business, government, education and research with over 200 stakeholders that been involved in the project to date.

Hunter Angels

Hunter Angels is a group of angel investors who invest in early-stage innovative enterprises with a proven product and a need for capital to fund expansion. The objective is to help talented entrepreneurs build lasting businesses of significant value and to participate as active investors.

The primary goal is to promote the growth of local emerging enterprises through investments and to provide a good return for investors. The collective experience of the Hunter Angels spans many aspects of growing successful enterprises, from the formative stages through to the management of large enterprises. Hunter Angels look to leverage their experience and competencies through careful investing. They provide enterprises with mentoring in marketing, business development, operations, finance, engineering and management.

Hunter Angels are a diverse group and do not focus solely on one industry. They seek out enterprises that are in the early stage of rolling out a unique product or concept.

For further information visit <http://hunterangels.com.au>

Slingshot

Slingshot is a high tech accelerator that brings Corporates and Startups together.

Slingshot works with the Tier 1 corporates (including News Corp, Lion, HCF and Caltex) running tailored month accelerator programs to help take an idea and build it into a scalable global company as quickly and effectively as possible.

It includes a free co-working space for up to six months, a range of expert help, legals, \$150,000 funding from its own dedicated \$15 million investment fund including the opportunity for second round investment from the Slingshot Fund and access to investors in Australia, the USA and Asia.

The Slingshot Scaleup program is targeted to more mature startups that already have a functioning product, customers and a stable capable team but benefit from a massive customer base to help scale. The program targets scaleups who deliver a product them or service to Slingshots corporate partners and their customers within 3 months of the program starting

For further information please visit www.slingshotstartups.com

Eighteen04

The aim of Eighteen04 Inc. is to support early stage startup seeking to transform the energy economy, environment and build smart and sustainable cities.

The emphasis is on scalable product-based enterprises targeting global markets. Software and hardware startups are welcome as the space will provide affordable office, collaboration and workshop facilities. Our dedicated team and resident cohort will facilitate access to networks and create a focal point for local action with strong linkages to the startup scene in Sydney and Internationally.

Eighteen04 is a curated collaborative working space for technology startups in Newcastle and builds on regional strengths to launch scalable technology startups into a global market.

For more information visit www.eighteen04.com.au

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EXPORTING FROM THE HUNTER

Export businesses find the Hunter is an outstanding location, with excellent transport links, a wide range of available export-related services and readily available assistance from a variety of organisations, including the DPC Regional and Austrade.

Although there are strong road, rail and air links in the Hunter, the major competitive transport advantage is the Port of Newcastle. The Port is the third largest in Australia and 24th largest in the world in terms of trade volume. It is the largest coal exporting port in the world, but is also the distribution point for a broad range of other export goods, including alumina, aluminium, concentrates, grains, fertiliser products, woodchips, steel products plus a wide variety of other bulk and general cargo.

The Hunter is also home to Newcastle Airport – one of the leading regional airports in Australia. It has direct flights to 10 destinations across Australian and New Zealand and acts as a one-stop hub for over 65 other destinations across Australia and the world.

Exporting is one of the most beneficial long-term growth strategies a company can choose, especially in a country with a relatively small domestic market. Export success depends upon having access to practical and reliable information and advice on export planning, finance, markets, distribution and marketing, and political, cultural and legal requirements. The NSW Department of Industry and Austrade both have export advisers and support services and programs in the Hunter Region. They provide advice to local Hunter businesses on export-related issues, including planning for export, market opportunities, market entry and export grants.

The Hunter has a well-established export culture with a growing and diverse base of businesses that take their products and services to the international market. There is abundant support and training available to support and develop Hunter-based businesses to grow and expand as the world becomes a smaller place and competition increases.

For further information please contact:

DPC Regional, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Level 5, 26 Honeysuckle Drive
Newcastle NSW 2300
P: +61 2 4921 2655
E: laila.christensen@dpc.nsw.gov.au
W: www.nsw.gov.au

Austrade

Level 2, 755 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 8777
Email: isaac.court@austrade.gov.au
Website: www.austrade.gov.au



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BUSINESS SERVICES

The Hunter Region boasts a diverse range of high quality business services and is particularly strong in professional services. There is a wide variety of both Hunter-grown business service companies and local offices of national and international companies who have realised the value of doing business in the Hunter.

Almost any business service that is available in the major capital cities around Australia can be found in the Hunter. The quality of these services is also generally at least comparable to those in the large cities. Indeed, many Hunter-grown business service companies are now competing across Australia and overseas, with a great deal of success.

Almost every major financial institution operating in Australia is present in the Hunter, with most having dedicated business banking offices. The Hunter is also home to a number of very successful financial institutions, including the Newcastle Permanent Building Society, The Mutual and The Greater Bank.

The extent of available business services can be easily seen from even a brief visit to online business directories such as www.yellowpages.com.au.



Almost any business service that is available in capital cities around Australia can be found in the Hunter.



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MAJOR INDUSTRIES

The Hunter has vibrant and successful traditional industries as well as a growing knowledge based economy. In order to grow our industry sectors further we need to support the region's areas of strength and innovate to grow as businesses and the economy transitions. This approach inspired RDA Hunter to develop Australia's first Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3). The Hunter's S3 is an innovation plan for future growth and regional leadership. This roadmap is giving the Hunter opportunities to work with policy makers, industry and researchers to manage resources so that innovation and development priorities are future focused.

The Hunter's Smart Specialisation Strategy identifies seven areas of strengths and potential growth that will be important for the Hunter's future.

These are:

- Advanced Manufacturing;
- Creative Industries;
- Defence;
- Food and Agribusiness;
- Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals;
- Mining Equipment, Technology and Services;
- Oil, Gas and Energy Resources.

This smart strategy for innovation-driven growth helps define the Hunter's competitive advantages and establishes priorities for investment and research to reinforce the distinctiveness of the region through innovation and collaboration.

Following are just some of the many industries that contribute to the strength and diversity of the Hunter economy.



School of Infantry Singleton
© Commonwealth of Australia 2017



Port of Newcastle



Quarry Mining



Hunter Valley Wine Region

AEROSPACE

The Hunter has a growing aerospace industry founded around the RAAF's Williamtown Base and Newcastle Airport. A number of Hunter companies provide support for the aircraft that are based at RAAF Williamtown and their success over many years has resulted in a growing aerospace knowledge bank.

Aerospace industries cover both the defence and civil sectors. At Newcastle Airport, through the BAE Systems Fighter facility and at RAAF Williamtown, there is a world-class aerospace industry base. This base includes large global multi-nationals (Boeing, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin) through to specialised niche service providers.

BAE Systems has a manufacturing and support facility at Newcastle Airport. BAE has assembled 22 Hawk Lead-in Fighter aircraft for the RAAF and now provides through-life support for the Hawk.

BAE Systems Australia is the principal subcontractor to Boeing for the RAAF's Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Project Wedgetail. BAE will also sustain the Australian Government's fleet of F35A Joint Strike Fighters, the first of which arrived at Williamtown in December 2018. In all 56 F35A jets will be based at Williamtown.

Boeing Defence Australia is the prime contractor for the F/A-18 TLS and has a significant presence at RAAF Williamtown. Boeing is the Prime contractor for the six AEW&C aircraft (based on the 737 airframe) which entered service in 2009 and also provides engineering, logistics and training support.

Jetstar, Virgin, Qantas Link, Regional Express and FlyPelican operate from Newcastle Airport which is the home of Jetstar's multimillion dollar heavy maintenance facility servicing the A320 fleet.

Williamtown Aerospace Centre

The Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC) includes 89 hectares of industrial land that provides first class facilities and a variety of infrastructure solutions for the aerospace and aviation industry.

The first stage, Technology Place, includes a 95 room Mercure hotel and conference centre, plus completed projects for Raytheon, Bohemia Interactive Simulations, Nova Systems,

Lockheed Martin, Plexsys, Viasat and Boeing Defence Australia. Building Echo was completed in August 2017 and includes tenants Milskil, Redarc Technologies / Hummingbird Electronics, University of Newcastle and Central Health Alliance. The fifth building in the estate, Foxtrot, will complete construction in March 2019 and is now fully leased with Martin-Baker Australia selecting WAC as its first Australian office location. The final new building, Charlie, in the Technology Place precinct will be under construction in early 2019 with completion expected in Q4 2019.

Astra Aerolab

In September 2018 NSW Deputy Premier, John Barilaro MP, announced \$11.7 million in funding to create a world-leading aerospace commercial precinct adjacent to Newcastle Airport. Port Stephens Council and Newcastle City Council, joint shareholders of Newcastle Airport, will contribute \$7.86 million to co-fund the \$19.66 million project to activate the lead-in road from Williamtown Drive and site preparation for four development areas comprising 7.4 hectares.

Expected to generate over 5,500 jobs, Astra Aerolab covers 46 hectares of developable land, with up to 73 lots. It is zoned B7 – Business Park zoning.

With direct airside access from some lots, it will provide a world-leading innovation hub for defence and aerospace, as well as non-aviation related industries such as advanced manufacturing, technology, education, mining and operations.

For further information, visit: astraerolab.com.au or contact John Finn: Executive Manager, Property & Commercial, Newcastle Airport on +61 2 4928 9808, email jfynn@newcastleairport.com.au



The Hunter has a growing aerospace industry founded around RAAF's Williamtown Base and Newcastle Airport.



© Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence
Two F-35A Joint Strike Fighter accompanied by Hornets fly over Newcastle.

COAL MINING

There have been significant increases in global coal prices and more profitable conditions over the last 2-3 years, albeit far below peak prices of 2012.

Coal continues to be a bedrock for the Hunter's economy with over \$19.4 billion in coal exported through the Port of Newcastle in 2017.

It provides direct employment of up to 11,000 and up to 40,000 indirect jobs.

Significant coal mining operators in the Hunter include:

BHP Billiton Hunter Valley Energy Coal operates the Mount Arthur mine with an annual capacity of 36 Mtpa run of mine coal.

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd operates the Bloomfield open cut near East Maitland and the Rix's Creek open cut mine near Singleton.

Centennial Coal is a supplier to local power stations as well as exporting through the Port of Newcastle. It operates Manadalong, Myuna, Newstan and Coorabong mines near Lake Macquarie.

Glencore is a world leader in export of thermal coal and in the Hunter is the operator of Bulga, Ulan, Moolarben, Ravensworth, Integra, Glennies Creek and Mt Owen mines.

Idemitsu Australia Resources Pty Ltd is the operator of the Muswellbrook open cut and the Boggabri open cut (4 Mtpa) in the Gunnedah basin.

Malabar Coal acquired the Drayton Open Cut Mine (5 Mtpa) and proposed Drayton South project from Anglo American in May 2017. The NSW Government ruled against an open cut mine for Drayton South but has renewed an exploration license, leaving open the possibility of an underground mine in the area. Malabar Coal also owns the proposed Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project, an underground mining operation located approximately 3 km west of Denman.

New Hope Coal has an 80% share of the Bengalla mine. Mitsui (10%) and Taipower (10%) are also part owners.



The Coal industry continues to be an important sector in the Hunter's economy with over \$19 billion in coal exported through the Port of Newcastle in 2017.

Peabody Energy Australia (wholly owned subsidiary of US coal company Peabody Energy) operates the Wambo mine (5.4 Mtpa) south west of Singleton.

Whitehaven Coal Ltd is based in the Gunnedah basin and has over 1500 employees. Its operations include Maules Creek open cut mine (11 Mtpa), Narrabri North Underground mine (6 Mtpa), Werris Creek open cut (2.5 Mtpa), and Tarrawong open cut. Sunnyside open cut is currently in care and maintenance.

Yancoal Australia Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Chinese coal miner Yanzhou Coal. It operates Mount Thorley Warkworth, Ashton open cut and underground, Austar underground, Tasman underground, Stratford and Duralie open cuts in the Gloucester basin as well as the Moolarben mine near Mudgee.

The Port of Newcastle

The Hunter's coal mining industry is supported by the Port of Newcastle - the world's largest coal exporting port exporting over 159 million tonnes of coal in 2017.

The rail capacity to handle the increasing coal output is 200 million tonnes per annum following the recent injection of \$2 billion by ARTC.

There are three coal terminals in the port.

Port Waratah Coal Services is the operator of the Carrington (25 Mtpa) and Kooragang (120 Mtpa) coal terminals with a combined loading capacity of 145 Mtpa.

Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group terminal has an installed capacity of 66 Mtpa.

Current port coal export capacity is 211 Mtpa.



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The Hunter is recognised as a hot spot for creative industries. These businesses are often not large, but they undertake business in a highly distributed basis, and generate significant levels of income for the region. In aggregate creative businesses are substantial employers and make significant value contributions to other business through the development of design and creative content for marketing, product positioning and branding.

The Hunter is gaining recognition as a great location for a wide range of creative industries with excellent support through business networks, mentoring and access to business and resource management capabilities. Increasing availability of local high-speed broadband is also allowing creative industries to have a significantly wider commercial reach whilst still enjoying the business and lifestyle advantages of the Hunter.

A strong and growing contingent of locally grown, national and international architects have major operations, with most of the billions of dollars of projects utilizing their quality services.

Supported by Screen Hunter, the Region is a recognised centre for TV and film, being home to some of the finest and most diverse cinematic locations Australia has to offer. The Hunter also has a growing cluster of emerging and experienced screen content producers and crew.

The Hunter has a long history of strengths in the cultural creative industries, including museums, galleries, libraries, music, performing and visual arts.

It is also well serviced in other areas such as marketing, publishing and design.



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DEFENCE

Defence is a critical sector for the Hunter region's \$41 billion economy, injecting over \$1 billion annually and employing thousands of skilled people.

Global Defence prime contractors including Thales, BAE Systems, Boeing Defence, Lockheed Martin, Varley Group, Northrop Grumman, Airbus and Raytheon are based in the region to support Defence's billion dollar presence which is spear-headed by RAAF Base, Williamtown and Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton.

These Defence primes provide through-life sustainment for Defence and market leading niche defence suppliers. The Hunter offers the complete value chain with expertise in:

- advanced and precision manufacturing
- research and development
- diagnostics and prognostics
- specialist engineering and design
- logistics and asset management
- fleet planning
- through-life supply chain management
- capability management
- weapons systems support
- training, accreditation, certification and design approval
- military simulation training

Hunter Defence, built on a joint initiative by the Hunter Business Chamber, HunterNet and RDA Hunter, is a strong and well respected advocacy voice which supports the Hunter's Defence and defence industry presence.

It works collaboratively with industry, State and Federal government to build and promote regional capacity and capability in Defence manufacturing and sustainment procurement; workforce skills development; and global paths to market within the framework of the national Defence industry ecosystem.

Williamtown Aerospace Centre

The Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC) includes 89 hectares of industrial land that provides first class facilities and a variety of infrastructure solutions for the aerospace and aviation industry.

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University of Newcastle

The University of Newcastle has established a number of research institutes and centres in partnership with Government and Industry, which support researchers to deliver a broad range of expertise relevant to Defence, Security and Aerospace that aligns with key areas of national priority:

- Biometric Training Enhancements
- Cognitive Modelling
- Cyber Security
- Security and Trust in Autonomous Systems
- Machine Vision and Learning
- Advanced Energy Storage
- Contaminated Land and Water Remediation
- Functional Advanced Nanostructured Materials for Energy and Environment.

The University of Newcastle's research, education and partnerships drive the kind of innovation that breaks new ground and changes lives. Their proximity to regional Australian Defence Force bases has contributed to close alignment with local, regional and international partners to support the Defence Industry through the Integrated Innovation Network (I2N).

Graduates from the University of Newcastle are career-ready, globally competitive and prepared to meet the needs of the future Defence, Cyber Security and Aerospace workforce.

Through fostered collaboration, innovation and excellence, the University is launching four new defence-driven programs in 2019:

- Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering (Honours)
- Bachelor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Bachelor of Renewable Energy Engineering (Honours)
- Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security

To find out more, visit the University of Newcastle website newcastle.edu.au

Supporting Regional Australia



At Lockheed Martin Australia, we are actively partnering with regional Australia to develop a 5th Generation enabled workforce to support the Defence Force of the future. We are committed to investing in developing the high-value, job-ready skills for future generations right here in the Hunter region.

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ENERGY

The Hunter's power generation industry produces over 60% of New South Wales' electricity grid supply and employs approximately 2,200 people. NSW's large coal-fired power stations produce some of the cheapest electricity in Australia.

Within the Hunter and adjacent Central Coast Region, three generating companies operate four coal-fired power stations supplying power to the National Energy Market. Snowy Hydro also has a gas-fired power station to help meet peak demand.



These companies and their power generating capabilities are as follows.

Generator	Power Station	Type of Station	Location	Capacity
AGL Macquarie	Bayswater	Coal-fired	Muswellbrook/Singleton	2,640 MW
AGL Macquarie	Liddell	Coal-fired	Muswellbrook/Singleton	2,000 MW
Origin Energy	Eraring	Coal-fired	Lake Macquarie	2,880 MW
Sunset Power International	Vales Point	Coal-fired	Central Coast	1,320 MW
Snowy Hydro	Colongra	Gas-fired	Central Coast	667 MW

Clean energy projects

As well as being a state leader in power generation, the Hunter is the home to innovative renewable energy production including the CSIRO Energy Centre, a research hub for clean energy technologies and world-class facilities.

The CSIRO Energy Centre is pioneering energy research to:

- lower greenhouse emissions
- maximise energy efficiency
- reduce impacts on the electricity grid
- drive next generation solar energy
- deliver breakthrough technologies
- manage the future renewable energy mix

The Energy Centre is home to renewable energy technologies, labs and facilities that are available to industry and government for collaboration.

The solar thermal research and demonstration fields are the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and contain hundreds of heliostat mirrors that concentrate heat from the sun onto a 30 m tower to convert it to energy. The Centre also conducts solar PV indoor and outdoor testing to set the benchmark for solar manufacturing and development in Australia.

Other facilities include the Climate Controlled Testing Facility to test the performance of air-conditioning components under different conditions to help improve the energy efficiency of residential and commercial air-conditioning systems, the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Test Facility to evaluate conventional and solar-powered air-conditioning systems, the Renewable Energy Integration Facility which replicates a segment of the distribution network to enable evaluation of new technologies, and the Stored Energy Integration Facility which is currently being used for energy arbitrage and peak-demand reduction experiments.

Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER)

The Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) was established in 2010 with a clear agenda to provide a multidisciplinary model for transformational research in energy and resources. An Australian Government initiative supported by the NSW Government, NIER brings together the University of Newcastle's leading researchers to address regional and global challenges facing resource sustainability, productivity and competitiveness associated with energy and resources infrastructure.

NIER comprises extensive mineral, chemical and related technical laboratories, industrial-scale pilot plant workshops, large scale demonstration units and modern office accommodation for over 300 staff, students and industry partners. The precinct's infrastructure has assisted the institute to leverage major international research projects, support the training of industry-ready postgraduate students and drive the diversification of skills and competitiveness required in the evolving energy and resources sector. These facilities have aided in driving research competitive advantage in areas such as mineral processing and emissions reduction, future alternative energy generation, and technologies for social research into impacts associated with balanced land use. A detailed master plan has been developed to identify opportunities for future expansion as the research capacity of the Institute grows.

NIER's unique engagement model connects academia and industry through a common platform for research in the core areas of energy and resources. The model facilitates collective capacity and joint branding of industry partners and research groups, enabling them to engage in significant national and international research collaborations.

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Vales Point Solar Project

Delta Electricity is about to construct the Vales Point Solar Project, a solar photovoltaic power station of up to 55 MW located on approximately 80 hectares on the rehabilitated areas of the Vales Point Power Station ash dam. The project will deliver up to 110,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy each year which is enough electricity to power approximately 15,000 homes.

Upper Hunter Energy Park

A \$200-250 million wind and solar farm at Scone is being constructed which will provide renewable power to more than 47,000 homes. The Upper Hunter Energy Park is being built by Pamada Pty Ltd, with a generating capacity of up to 113 MW of renewable energy through 34 wind turbines, a hydro electric generator using recycled water and up to 10 MW hectares of solar panels (final mix subject to change). The facility will create 183 construction jobs and 12 ongoing jobs, and save an estimated 6.5 million tonnes of CO₂ abated over the life of the technology proposed.

Summerhill Solar Farm

Newcastle City Council has secured a \$6.5 million loan from Australia's Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to help build Newcastle's biggest solar farm. The 5 MW installation west of the city at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre will significantly reduce Council's annual \$4 million electricity bill. The installation's 14,500 panels will be built by international property and infrastructure group Lendlease, who is teaming up with renewable energy specialists Energy Made Clean (EMC). It will cover an area of around five football fields



Solar Farm at Summerhill Waste Management Centre



NIER

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EQUINE

The Region's equine industry is centred in Scone in the Upper Hunter and extends into the Muswellbrook and Murrurundi areas. It is Australia's Horse Capital and one of only three International Centres of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence in the world - alongside Kentucky in the USA and Newmarket in the UK. It is home to the largest concentration of thoroughbred breeding studs in the world, outside of Kentucky USA, and is Australia's largest producer, supplier and exporter of premium thoroughbreds.

The Hunter Valley produces 50% of Australia's thoroughbred foals and contributes \$2.6 billion to the NSW economy and over half a billion to the regional economy annually, making it an important contributor to the economy in the area and the Region generally.

The Hunter Valley has a rich history of producing horses for nearly 200 years. While breeds such as the Australian stockhorse and the quarter horse are also important for the area, it is the world class and world recognised quality of thoroughbred horses bred and raised for the racing industry that has distinguished it as an industry of state, regional and international significance in the area.

The area is acknowledged as one of the largest thoroughbred nurseries in the world and has attracted substantial investment by international breeding and racing leaders to establish thoroughbred studs.

The industry has seen the establishment of world-class infrastructure that includes modern training and racing complexes, the Hunter Valley Equine Research Centre at Scone and equine-related education facilities with TAFE NSW. The Scone Equine Hospital is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and is recognised as a Centre of Excellence in its own right.



Over 75 studs are located in the area and the majority of these sell horses to both the Australian and overseas buyers.

The thoroughbred industry employs more than 5,700 full-time, part-time and casual employees in the region and supports over 200,000 jobs nationally throughout its value chain. The industry fosters, supports and accesses a sophisticated network of equine support industries including farriers, fodder producers, saddlers, equine transport companies and veterinarians. In addition it accesses and supports a wide range of industries and services that include: adjustment farms, builders and tradespersons, machinery and equipment maintenance, fuel and transport companies, fertiliser producers, accountants, media and marketing, equine auction houses, float builders and drivers, IT specialists, events management, accommodation, fashion, hospitality and tourism industries.



Scone Cup Parade

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FOOD & AGRIBUSINESS

Historically the Hunter Region is an important food and agribusiness Region with billions of dollars of production per annum.

The Hunter is an internationally recognised centre for wine, being Australia's oldest wine growing region and rated by many as Australia's best.

Centred on Pokolbin, near Cessnock, the Hunter Region's wine industry and the tourism industry that complements it are significant contributors to the regional economy. There are also several other important wine sub regions in the Hunter, including Broke Fordwich, Denman and the Upper Hunter.

The Region is also strong in the production of wheat, sorghum, barley and other grain cereals, vegetables, grapes, olives, sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, poultry, eggs (including a strong free-range sector), dairy products and seafood.

Major centres for the beef industry are Scone, Muswellbrook, Merriwa, Singleton, Maitland, Dungog, Gloucester and the Manning Valley while the prime lamb industry is concentrated in Merriwa and Murrurundi.

Local meat production is complemented by EC Throsby Abattoir at Belford, JBS Australia - Scone Abattoir, Steggle's Poultry Abattoir at Thornton and Wingham Abattoir.

The dairy industry is centred around Dungog, Gloucester and the Manning. Tim Bale set up Manning Valley 'Farmers' Own' milk, which distributes through Woolworths. The product has been a huge success with seven Manning Valley dairy farmers producing up to 12 million litres of milk a year (25% of NSW milk).

With a hundreds of kilometres of coastline as well as major rivers and lakes, the Hunter is a significant centre for the production of a variety of seafood. There are also many oyster farmers, including Graham Barclay Oysters, the largest producer of Sydney Rock Oysters in Australia.

The beverage sector is also a significant sector, with a wide variety of breweries, ranging from the award winning Murrays Craft Brewing Company (Port Stephens) down to an array of micro-brewers. Saxbys Soft Drinks in Taree (MidCoast) is a significant manufacturer of soft drinks, particularly ginger beer, and has been operating since 1864.

There is an increasing number of niche businesses in the Region focusing on producing for specific markets. These include: goat milk, goat and rabbit meat, native and fresh flowers, herbs, chillies, echinacea, exotic stud cattle, snails, essential oils, native flowers, viticulture, asian vegetables and alpacas. Many of these operators are developing niche export markets for their products.

Many other areas of the Hunter agribusiness sector are also actively seeking additional global markets. The Australia-China free trade agreement for example is opening additional major market opportunities.



Hunter Valley Wine Region

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HEALTH

Health is a major industry sector in the Hunter Region, employing around 13.6% of the workforce, which is significantly higher than the national figure of 12.0%.

The major provider of health services in the Region is Hunter New England Health which provides a range of public health services to the Hunter, New England and Lower Mid North Coast regions. In total, the organisation has over 16,000 staff (including approximately 2,000 medical officers) and is supported by 1,600 volunteers.

Hunter New England Health operates a wide range of:

- tertiary referral hospitals
- rural referral hospitals
- district hospitals
- community hospitals
- multipurpose services
- community health services
- mental health services and facilities
- residential aged care facilities.

Hospitals operated by Hunter New England Health in the Hunter Region include Belmont Hospital, Calvary Mater Newcastle, Cessnock Hospital, Dungog Hospital, Gloucester Soldier's Memorial Hospital, John Hunter Hospital, John Hunter Children's Hospital, Kurri Kurri Hospital, Maitland Hospital, Manning Hospital, Muswellbrook Hospital, Scott Memorial Hospital - Scone, Singleton Hospital, Tomaree Hospital, Wilson Memorial Hospital – Murrurundi and Wingham Hospital.

Construction will also commence on the new Maitland Hospital in 2019. The state-of-art facility will be built on 40 ha of Crown Land at Metford and offer an extremely wide range of services.



Image: Peter Stoop Photography

The Region also accounts for over 10% of the State's licensed private hospital beds. Most of the private hospitals provide general medical, nursing and allied health care, surgery including day surgery, antenatal care and obstetric care.

The main private hospitals in the Hunter include Christo Road Private, Hunter Valley Private, Lake Macquarie Private, Mayo Private Hospital, Lingard Private, Maitland Private, Newcastle Private, Toronto Private and Warners Bay Private. Other day surgeries and some of the private hospitals provide more specialist services such as in-vitro fertilisation, coronary care, dental, eye, plastic, cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

The Hunter is home to the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), the second largest medical research institute in NSW. HMRI brings together more than 1500 health and medical researchers from the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health and Calvary Mater Newcastle.

HMRI provides a focal point for the coordination of research strategy, resources and funding, attracting community and corporate investment in research and providing central resources for researchers. Additionally, HMRI has also improved research facilities, training and employment opportunities and health care delivery by attracting leading researchers and health care professionals to the Region.

The University of Newcastle's Global eHealth Research and Innovation Cluster's vision is to lead a multidisciplinary approach to research, development, translation and commercialisation of health technology for clinicians, teachers, educators, and the general public.

The cluster facilitates collaboration between innovators from the fields of health and medical sciences, engineering, design, communication, information technology, education, mathematics, business, humanities, and physical, environmental and social sciences.

Cluster participants include UON academic and professional staff, clinical and non-clinical conjoints, representatives from across the relevant industries, and government and non-government organisations.

The Hunter is serviced by the Ambulance Service of New South Wales, providing emergency clinical care, rescue and patient transport. These services are provided out of 24 local ambulance stations which operate ambulance vehicles, other support vehicles and ambulance aircraft.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (WRHS) is an aeromedical search and rescue service that commenced operations in 1975 in Newcastle. Funds from NSW Health, corporate sponsorship and the community allow aeromedical rescue to be provided without charge to patients.

There are a wide range of aged care facilities across the Hunter. Major private, church-based and community-based providers include Anglican Care, Catholic Care for the Aged, Empowered Living Support Services, Churches of Christ, Salvation Army Aged Care Plus and Uniting Care

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MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing has been a major component of the Hunter economy for over 150 years servicing heavy engineering facilities such as ship building, railway rolling stock, mining, steel and chemical industries. In addition, manufacturers are involved in supporting the equipment and technology needs of all three Defence services, including the Joint Strike Fighter program with a squadron to be housed at Williamtown RAAF Base.

The manufacturing industry in the Hunter employs over 20,000 people and is a major driver of the local economy. The region is populated by approximately 600 large and small to medium manufacturing, engineering and technology companies. Small and medium enterprises comprise 80% of regional manufacturing companies. Manufacturing contributes \$2.8 billion in value add to the regional economy and 6.6% of GDP.

Overseas owned companies include: Downer Group, UGL Limited, Thales, Liebherr, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, BAE Systems, Caterpillar, McLanahan Corporation, Rexnord Australia, RCR Mining and RCR Energy, Komatsu Mining, Rema Tip-Top Asia Pacific, Bridon Bekaert Ropes, Liberty Onesteel and Orica Chemicals.

Australian public and major private companies include: Civmec, Ampcontrol, Monadelphous, Whiteley Corporation, Varley Group, Molycop, Bloomfield Group, Westrac and Nepean Group.

Civil and commercial construction employs 31,500 people, has a value-add of \$6.9 billion and 8.7% of GDP. Major construction companies are Lend Lease, Laing O'Rourke, John Holland and Daracon.

Combining manufacturing and engineering together into one sector results this cluster being the largest employer in the region and the largest value add.

Industry is well served in skills training, tertiary education, science and engineering research by the University of Newcastle. The NSW Government has selected Newcastle to be the TAFE NSW headquarters for the Skills Point for Advanced Manufacturing, Robotics and Science.

Advanced Manufacturing – The Future

While the region still has a large footprint in heavy engineering, Advanced Manufacturing has been emerging over several years. With the use of smart technologies, Hunter industries are improving products and processes in many traditional industries including medical, food, supply chains and other industries.

Hunter industries are technologically advanced utilising computing for modelling, simulation and analysis for design, project management, advanced planning and scheduling, finite element analysis, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Manufacturing Resource Planning (MRP). In all facets of manufacturing, local

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companies are now using high precision technologies including advanced CNC, 3D printing, robotics, laser cutting and automation.

Business processes have improved over several years with improved controls and ISO standard quality management systems standards to ensure that they meet the needs of customers, other stakeholders as well as the statutory and regulatory requirements related to their products. Hunter companies are now improving processes by training staff and implementing Lean manufacturing for the elimination of waste in the manufacturing pipe line.

Companies are developing and improving their supply chain performance and relationships, ensuring they remain competitive and capable to deliver increased value over a three-cycle engagement by implementing the Department of Industry, Entrepreneur Development Supplier Continuous Improvement Program (SCIP). This has increased small and medium enterprise productivity within Defence and rail sectors including Blue Zone Group, Puzzle Precision, RPC Technologies, Robotic Systems and the Varley Group.

Many Hunter companies are now increasing the levels of design for technologically complex, innovative, reliable, affordable, and available products, which are newer, better, more exciting and solve a variety of society's problems. The Hunter has the ability to custom manufacture high precision components and to manufacture high or low volumes.

Mechatronics is involved in a diverse range of exciting modern technologies; from the control of robots to the optimisation of

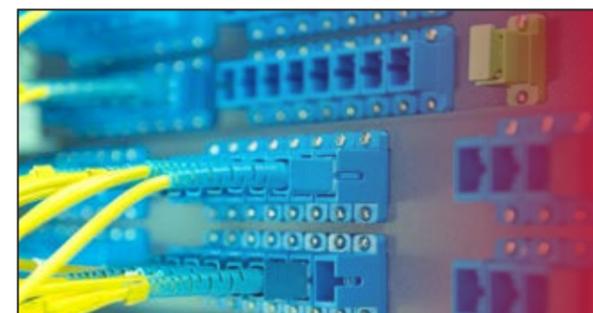


The Manufacturing industry in the Hunter employs over 24,000 people and is a major driver of the local economy.

modern vehicles, the design of appliances to biomechanics. This may also include the design, automation and operational performance of electro-mechanical systems.

By adopting smart manufacturing techniques and investing in the latest technology, many Hunter manufacturers are being invigorated and finding they can compete in many areas around the world. The Region has a global engagement perspective and commitment to being globally competitive.

There is also a vibrant start-up community in the Hunter supported by the accelerator Slingshot and the technology incubator Eighteen04, the four Innovation Hubs of the University of Newcastle and community groups like the Newcastle Pioneers of the Internet of Things and the Ai Group Innovation Cluster.



AiGROUP

Committed to the **success** of Hunter industry

Ai Group is a national peak industry association which represents businesses in many sectors including: manufacturing, engineering, construction, transport, defence, mining equipment and electrotechnology.

Ai Group Hunter is also at the forefront of leading local industry to success through innovation, collaboration and globalisation.

Our services include:

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- Employee relations advice and consulting
- Employment lawyers
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- Business development services
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We also offer support to your professionals through the following networks:

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- Human resources management
- Safety leadership
- Lean Manufacturing
- Industry Skills strategy
- Innovation Cluster

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Adapting to these changes and transformations, the industry member co-operative HunterNet has identified the need for quality leadership and develops the future leaders of the region through the HunterNet Future Leaders Program which has been accredited by The University of Newcastle with two units of Credit towards an MBA. This program is also set to be rolled out on the Central Coast to advance the Future Leaders of that region.

Future Education

Since 2010, RDA Hunter has been designing, creating and implementing initiatives that STEM skill Hunter students to prepare them for the jobs of the future. RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiative programs are designed and updated in direct response



to local industry's urgent need for STEM skilled employees and to boost the growth capacity of the Hunter's innovative defence industry and manufacturing sectors.

RDA Hunter's STEM programs focus on moving students towards future technologies such as 3D Design and Printing, Robotics, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Cybersecurity and Embedded Systems. In less than 10 years, these programs have impacted more than 50,000 school students through innovative, hands-on and fun educational experiences and immersive industry activities that teach the skills young people will need in the future.

The Hunter-developed initiatives grow and diversify as industry and technology advances. RDA Hunter's STEM programs have gained significant national attention and are being replicated and implemented at schools across the country. Elements of RDA Hunter's STEM Workforce Initiatives are backed by the Federal Department of Defence, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Department of Industry, Training Services and Defence NSW and the City of Newcastle. These programs are making a real difference to Hunter students - evidenced in improvements in the uptake and results across the region in STEM based subjects - and Hunter industry that has increased choice due to a growing pool of skilled and ready graduates.

Collaboration

Collaboration between industry and the University of Newcastle is increasing to improve access to the skills and research capabilities which exist in the various faculties - particularly, in engineering, science and ITC, and business. The University of Newcastle, Lockheed Martin and RDA Hunter have formed a partnership, The Altitude Accord, to help meet Lockheed Martin's growing need for engineers, aerospace systems experts and cybersecurity professionals. The University and the Australian Industry Group are also collaborating to develop trade opportunities, in parallel with University research connections, to regions around the world that have an affinity with the history and skills of the Hunter Region.

HunterNet is a co-operative of manufacturers, engineers, IT providers, electrical and consulting companies working together to help develop and strengthen the region's manufacturing capability. They have developed a variety of initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness of the local manufacturing industry. HunterNet is actively engaged in developing export opportunities for members in the energy and resources spaces in South East Asia.

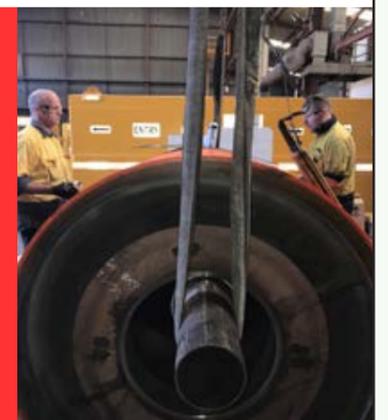
The combined resources and expertise of HunterNet members has enabled many Hunter companies to gain contracts that would otherwise be out of their reach.



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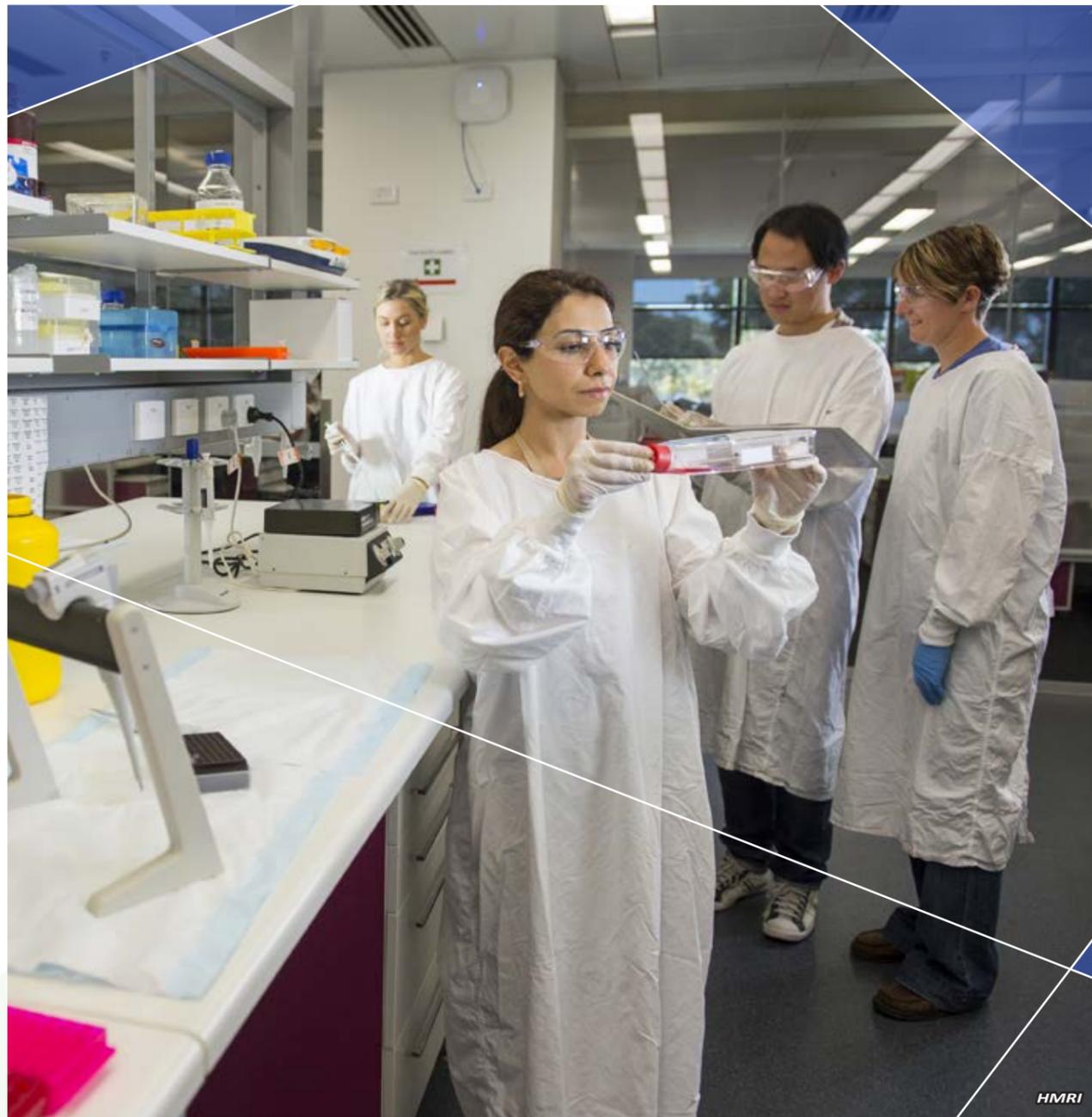
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

Medical Technologies is a high-value industry in the Hunter and is a powerful example of the Region's innovation and entrepreneurship combining to create lucrative new markets.

Organisations such as the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) and the University of Newcastle are conducting a variety of ground-breaking research projects that are not only providing valuable commercial opportunities but providing significant contributions to improve lifestyle.

There are a broad range of innovative businesses that are creating new markets domestically and around the world for both human and veterinary medical technologies.

Competitive advantages for biotechnology businesses being located in the Hunter include powerful local research and education organisations, ready availability of staff with technical expertise, lower operating costs than the major capital cities and high levels of support.



HMRI

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TOURISM

Tourism is a significant contributor to the Hunter Region's economy, directly employing around 18,000 people, attracting around 12.5 million visitors annually and well over \$3 billion annually in visitor spend. It also offers almost limitless opportunities for investors due to the Hunter's close driving proximity to Sydney, easy air access from major domestic centres, great diversity of attractions and its appeal to all market segments.

Although most tourists visiting the Hunter are domestic, international visitors are the fastest growing sector (up around 16% for 12 months to 31 March 2018).

Newcastle Airport offers direct flights to and from ten locations, including a new route to New Zealand which commenced in November 2018. There are good prospects of additional direct flights to and from Newcastle Airport in coming years, providing further growth opportunities for local tourism.

The Port of Newcastle is also increasingly being visited by luxury cruise liners and a permanent multi-purpose cruise terminal is planned, with \$12.9 million so far promised by the NSW Government.

The strength of the Hunter as a tourist location is its quality and great diversity of both natural assets and built facilities.

The Hunter Valley's Wine Country Region is based around Australia's oldest and arguably most famous wine growing region with an array of wineries open to the public. It attracts millions of visitors annually, with many staying overnight or longer at the numerous guesthouses, hotels and resorts. Other major attractions include the 25-hectare Hunter Valley Gardens and hot air ballooning. It also attracts major local and international artists to concerts.

Known as the Blue Water Paradise and covering almost 1,000 sq km, Port Stephens is characterised by breathtaking natural beauty, golden sand, pristine waterways, spectacular scenery, unspoilt national parks and abundant wildlife. Tourists are offered a vast array of water and land activities, including dolphin and whale watching. The famous sand dunes at Stockton cover an area of 4,200 hectares and provide activities such as sand boarding, 4WD beach and dune driving, horse and camel riding, and quad biking.

Newcastle has long been known to the corporate visitor and is now beginning to emerge as a leisure destination with more people becoming aware of its unique attractions. Attractions include The Hunter Wetlands Centre, Blackbutt Reserve, award winning beaches, Fort Scratchley, Newcastle Museum, Newcastle Art Gallery, Honeysuckle waterfront and harbour cruises to name just a few. Venues such as the Civic Theatre and the Newcastle Entertainment Centre accommodate a wide range of concerts, exhibitions and conventions.

Lake Macquarie is Australia's largest salt water lake, over four times as large as Sydney Harbour. It offers a range of water activities, including swimming, fishing, sailing, cruising, kayaking, houseboats and water skiing. Its vicinity to the Pacific Ocean and the Watagan National Park also means that a wide range of other activities are close at hand. The Watagan National Park covers 7,751 hectares of an extensive mountain range north of Cooranbong and Morisset. It is great for touring the forest roads by car, mountain bike or on horseback.

Maitland offers a blend of heritage and contemporary style, encapsulating the best of the past and the present. The street scapes of Maitland and surrounds are lined with historical buildings dating from the early 1800s. Other major attractions include Maitland Gaol and the township of Morpeth.



Courtesy of City of Newcastle

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Tourism is one of the major industries of the Mid Coast LGA. Known for its natural assets, the Manning Valley offers nine stunning National Parks and Reserves, 45 kilometres of pristine coastline and the only double delta river system in Australia. One of the major draw-cards is Ellenborough Falls. At 200 metres, it is one of the longest single drop waterfalls in the Southern Hemisphere. There are also 26 seaside and hinterland villages to explore.

Gloucester is the basecamp for Barrington Tops. At 1,586 metres, the world heritage listed Barrington Tops is the highest point in NSW outside the Snowy Mountains. It varies from subtropical rainforests in the deep valleys to subalpine woodland on the plateau, which regularly has snowfalls in winter. Barrington Tops is also the habitat of an enormous diversity of plant and animal life. It protects more than 50 rare or threatened species. The area is well-known for its bush walking, ranging from short, easy walks to steep overnight treks.

The Great Lakes region is known for its world class waterways, nature based experiences in the many National Parks, diverse landscapes, vibrant culture and year-round program of events. It is a very popular family holiday destination with plenty do including mountain biking, diving, kayaking, whale watching, fishing and more. The Wallis, Smith and Myall Lakes are a unique triple lakes system found nowhere else in Australia.

Other "must see" destinations in the Hunter include Lake St Clair and Mount Royal National Park.

The Hunter Region has a growing reputation as a great destination for both the active sportsperson and the sports watcher. One of the major tourism sports in the Hunter is golf, with the Region boasting numerous world-class golf courses, several of which also incorporate top-quality accommodation facilities.

For those that enjoy watching sport, the Region offers a wide range of sporting attractions, including national rugby league and football matches, professional surfing contests and regular horse racing meetings at Broadmeadow, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Scone, Taree and Tuncurry.



Attracting 12.5 million visitors annually, spending \$3 billion annually, tourism is a significant contributor to the Hunter's economy. The region's tourism industry directly employs 18,000 people.

The Newcastle 500, part of the Australian Supercar Championship, commenced in 2017 and will be run each November until at least 2021. The inaugural Newcastle 500 drew 192,000 people to the city centre to watch the event over three days. Newcastle is also the current host for the FIM Asia Supermoto Championship.

The Hunter is home to a wide range of festivals that attract an increasing number of visitors to the Region. These include Newcastle Jazz Festival, Mattara Festival, Bitter & Twisted International Boutique Beer Festival, Real Film Festival, Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Festival, Upper Hunter Food & Wine Affair, Lovedale Long Lunch, Taree Aquatic Powerboat Easter Spectacular, Forster Dragon Boat Festival, Hunter Valley Steamfest, Dungog Rodeo, Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival, Festival of the Fleeces, Blue Water Country Music Festival and many others.



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MAJOR PROJECTS

Investment confidence in the Hunter is amongst the strongest in Australia with many billions of dollars' worth of private and government projects approved, underway or recently completed.

The following is just a small snapshot of some of the Region's projects. It is by no means complete, but provides an indication of the scale of project activity in the Region.

Further property development projects are also covered in the Development section commencing on page 62.

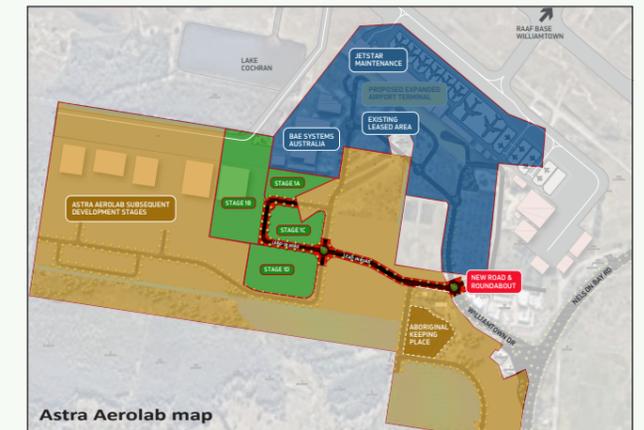
Major redevelopment for Newcastle CBD

The \$750 million East End project will be the largest master-planned mixed-use site in Newcastle. The current development application approves a master plan for a mix of residential, retail and commercial uses across the 1.66 ha site. The approved development application includes 47,800 sqm of residential floor space (approximately 500 apartments), 4,900 sqm of retail floor space and 2,700 sqm of commercial floor space. The \$250 million Stage One of East End, encompassing 155 apartments, was launched in September 2017. A DA for Stage 2 has been lodged with Newcastle City Council.

Astra Aerolab

In September 2018 NSW Deputy Premier, John Barilaro MP, announced \$11.7 million in funding to create a world-leading aerospace commercial precinct adjacent to Newcastle Airport. Port

Stephens Council and Newcastle City Council, joint shareholders of Newcastle Airport, will contribute \$7.86 million to co-fund the \$19.66 million project to activate the lead-in road from Williamtown Drive and site preparation for four development areas comprising 7.4 hectares. Expected to generate over 5,500 jobs, Astra Aerolab covers 46 hectares of developable land, with up to 73 lots. It is zoned B7 – Business Park zoning. With direct airside access from some lots, it will provide a world-leading innovation hub for defence and aerospace, as well as non-aviation related industries such as advanced manufacturing, technology, education, mining and operations.



The future looks bright

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\$510 million transport system for Newcastle

The NSW Government has built a new transport system for Newcastle which involved terminating the heavy rail at Wickham, building a major transport interchange at Wickham and installing a light rail system from Wickham to the eastern end of Hunter Street. Due to be opened in 2019, the new transport system is a major project in the revitalisation of Newcastle and is expected to act as the catalyst for private investment. A range of possible extensions to the light rail systems have also been suggested to further improve transport. Keolis Downer is the Managing Contractor for the Newcastle Light Rail project.



Newcastle Light Rail Infrastructure

The Store site

A \$200 million redevelopment by the Doma Group has been announced for The Store site in Newcastle West. Scheduled to be finished in late 2020, the integrated masterplan includes a new 13,000 sqm standalone office, retail and two residential towers and structured carpark that is built over the Newcastle Bus Interchange (NBI) designed and approved by Transport for NSW. The design accommodates the expansion of the Newcastle light rail.



Artists impression of the Store site

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

\$500 million gas pipeline

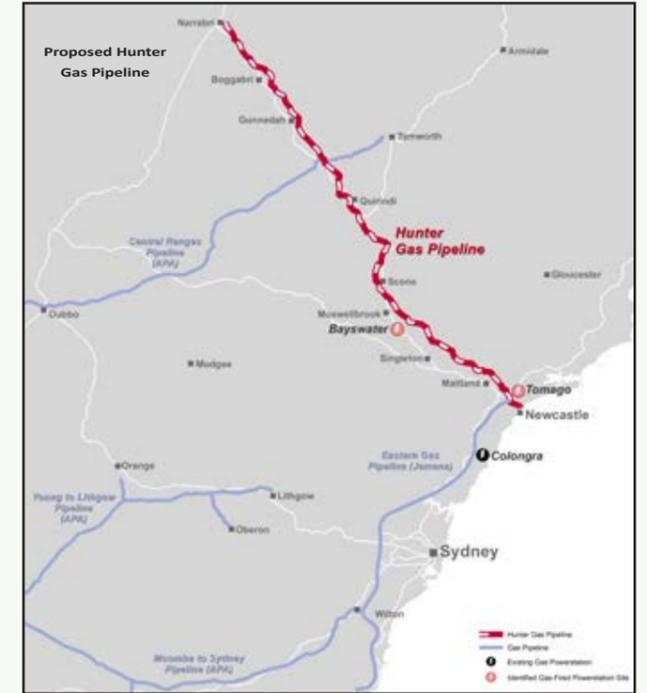
Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty. Ltd. (HGP) proposes with Jemena Ltd. to build and operate a high pressure, underground steel gas pipeline approximately 420 km long to transport gas from the proposed Narrabri Gas Project to Newcastle via, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland. Project value is estimated to be A\$500 million, creating 350 construction, 20 operational and maintenance jobs.

Gas exploration off Newcastle coast

Advent Energy is exploring for natural gas in the offshore 8,250 sq km PEP11 permit which has been estimated to contain over 16 billion cubic metres of prospective recoverable gas resources.

The Newcastle Smart City Strategy

The Newcastle Smart City Strategy (2017-2021) is the roadmap for delivering Council's ambitious Newcastle Smart City Initiative. This initiative is influencing a city-wide revitalisation and regional transformation aimed at establishing Newcastle and the Hunter as an internationally recognised centre for technology innovation. It leverages the smart city movement to improve our liveability, sustainability and economic diversity, develop local innovation, build international profile and attract talent and inward investment to our city.



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AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

\$200+ million clean energy park

A \$200-250 million wind and solar farm at Scone is being constructed which will provide renewable power to more than 47,000 homes. The Upper Hunter Energy Park is being built by Pamada Pty Ltd, with a generating capacity of up to 113 MW of renewable energy through 34 wind turbines, a hydro electric generator using recycled water and up to 10 MW hectares of solar panels (final mix subject to change). The facility will create 183 construction jobs and 12 ongoing jobs, and save an estimated 6.5 million tonnes of CO2 abated over the life of the technology proposed.

Newcastle Cruise Terminal

The NSW Government has committed \$12.7 million towards a permanent multi-purpose cruise terminal facility at the Port of Newcastle. A permanent terminal will strengthen Newcastle as an international cruise destination and secure the long-term future of cruise shipping in the Hunter.



Former Steelworks site

The 150 hectare former BHP Steelworks site at Mayfield is being developed into one of the most strategic and unique sites on the East Coast of Australia. The site includes the 90 hectare port-side portion managed by the Port of Newcastle and the 60 hectare Intertrade Industrial Park managed by Hunter Development Corporation. Positioned at the Port of Newcastle and only 4 km from the Newcastle CBD, the site offers 2 km of water frontage as well as excellent road and rail links.

Honeysuckle City Campus Development

The University of Newcastle is planning to build the Honeysuckle City Campus Development. This initiative is part of the University's long-term vision to grow, develop knowledge and be a driver of the innovative regional economy. It is an integral part of the University's NeW Futures Strategic Plan 2016-2025. The first stage of the project (Stage 1A) includes the Hunter Innovation Project's Innovation Hub, a joint initiative with the NSW Government, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle NOW and Hunter DIGIT, plus additional new facilities for the University's School of Creative Industries.

Hunter Innovation Project

A partnership between Newcastle City Council, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle NOW and Hunter DIGIT, the \$18 million Hunter Innovation Project (HIP) is providing physical spaces, data connectivity and smart infrastructure to increase productivity and leverage investment in research and technology in Newcastle and the Hunter Region. With a collective vision to establish and nurture an innovation ecosystem within the Hunter Region, the HIP will foster economic growth and employment in the Hunter regional economy particularly in new and emerging industries. It will act as a magnet to attract, retain, and develop talent and additional investment in the new knowledge-based economy and beyond.

Williamstown Aerospace Centre

The Williamstown Aerospace Centre (WAC) includes 89 hectares of industrial land that provides first class facilities and a variety of infrastructure solutions for the aerospace and aviation industry. The first stage, Technology Place, includes a 95 room Mercure hotel and conference centre, plus completed projects for Raytheon, Bohemia Interactive Simulations, Nova Systems, Lockheed Martin, Plexsys, Viasat and Boeing Defence Australia. Recent Building Echo was completed in August 2017 and includes tenants Milskil, Redarc Technologies / Hummingbird Electronics, University of Newcastle and Central Health Alliance. The fifth building in the estate, Foxtrot, will complete construction in March 2019 and is now fully leased with Martin-Baker Australia selecting WAC as its first Australian office location. The final new building, Charlie, in the Technology Place precinct will be under construction in early 2019 with completion expected in Q4 2019.



Large wind farm planned for the Upper Hunter

EPURON is planning to build the Liverpool Range Wind Farm, primarily in the Warrumbungle & Upper Hunter Shires. The massive project is planned to include up to 272 wind turbines with a combined output of 979 MW and have a project cost of up to \$1.2 billion.

New facilities to accommodate JSF Fighters

The RAAF Base at Williamtown has been allocated a substantial share of \$1.6 billion of Federal Government funds for new facilities and infrastructure to accommodate the new F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, the first of which arrived at Williamtown in December 2018 and will be in service in 2020.

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

207 hectare development at Boolaroo

The Bunderra site comprises an area of 207 hectares and will include industrial, commercial and residential land. The area incorporates the former Pasminco lead smelter site and former Incitec Fertilisers site which have both been fully remediated. A development application has now been lodged with Lake Macquarie Council to turn almost 70 hectares of land into 680 lots, housing 1,800 residents.

Trinity Point

Located in Lake Macquarie, the \$388 million Trinity Point waterfront master planned community is 88 minutes' drive north of Sydney and 30 minutes' drive south of Newcastle. Trinity Point is situated overlooking Barden's Bay and the wider Lake Macquarie, within the township of Morisset Park. When completed, Trinity Point will consist of a master planned estate, 188 berth marina, a 5 star hotel, a 240 seat restaurant and 300-seat function centre, 250 apartment precinct comprising short stay and residential units, a wide range of resort-style facilities including a pool, gym and Day Spa as well as retail stores, a business centre and conference facilities, marina lounge and sales centre.

Former Hydro site to be redeveloped

Plans for the future of the 2000 ha site of Hydro's former aluminium smelter at Kurri Kurri are progressing and promise to provide a major economic boost to the region. The project, named Regrowth Kurri Kurri, includes plans for business, industrial and residential development as well as conservation of around 1300 ha of the site.



Major upgrade for Cessnock Correctional Centre

The three stage upgrade of Cessnock Correctional Centre will create an additional 1,000 beds. The first stage was completed late 2017 with new inmates arriving February 2018. The second stage is a 330-bed maximum-security facility for male offenders and a new staff administration building which are currently under construction and due for completion mid-2019. Creating some 400 new jobs, the expansion also includes a Corrective Services Industries building; an inmate reception building; playing fields and multipurpose courts; 500 additional staff and visitor parking spaces; and a modified road layout and new main entrance.

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AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

Bennetts Green Retail Development

Construction is poised to begin on a landmark 30,000 sqm retail centre in Lake Macquarie set to create more than 825 full-time-equivalent jobs during construction and more than 600 full-time jobs once complete. Spotlight Group received the green light in September 2018 from the NSW Government to commence work on the first stage of a \$90 million centre. A Bunnings Warehouse and Spotlight and Anaconda stores will anchor the site, with a number of other businesses, including two fast food outlets and a service station, also included in the plans.

Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct

A transformed sports & entertainment precinct is planned at Broadmeadow which aims to improve access to existing facilities and increase employment and economic opportunities. The land is State-owned, with McDonald Jones Stadium and Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground under the management of Venues NSW. The Precinct also contains a variety of other sporting facilities including hockey fields, touch football fields, tennis courts, indoor basketball courts and a harness racing track. It is also home to organisations such as the PCYC and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, as well as a variety of commercial uses. Proposed new facilities include a multi-purpose entertainment and convention centre, a consolidated sports facility, an event plaza, a 3.5 star hotel for tourists and business travellers, landscaped walkways and better connections within and to the Precinct, and a multi-storey car park.

Newcastle Knights Centre of Excellence

The NSW Government is contributing \$10 million towards the Newcastle Knights Centre of Excellence, matched by \$10 million from the Newcastle Knights owners The Wests Group. The state-of-the-art facility will foster rugby league at all levels, with three new training fields and multi-purpose facilities.

Summerhill Solar Farm

Newcastle City Council has secured a \$6.5 million loan from Australia's Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to help build Newcastle's biggest solar farm. The 5 MW installation west of the city at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre will significantly reduce Council's annual \$4 million electricity bill. The installation's 14,500 panels will be built by international property and infrastructure group Lendlease, who is teaming up with renewable energy specialists Energy Made Clean (EMC). It will cover an area of around five football fields.

The Kingsley

The former Newcastle City Council administrative headquarters will be transformed into a five-star hotel to be known as the Kingsley. Purchased by the hospitality group Crystalbrook Collection, the five-star hotel will feature 136 luxury rooms, lobby bar, café with outdoor terrace and a new roof top with restaurant, swimming pool and gymnasium. Construction and fit out of the new hotel will begin as soon as City of Newcastle staff relocate to their new office in Newcastle West. The Kingsley is expected to be operating by November 2020.

AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

Little National Hotel/Halcyon

Doma Group has commenced on a \$45 million development on Honeysuckle Drive in Newcastle which will include a 149 room Little National Hotel, 62 residential apartments, five serviced apartments, 1020 sqm of commercial/restaurant area and car parks.

\$3 billion power station

HEZ Energy is seeking approval for a 2 x 1,000 MW Ultra-supercritical Coal Fired Power Plant with provision for expansion of a further 2 x 1000 MW at a site within the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ) at Weston. Stage 1 is estimated to cost around \$3 billion. The plant will be based around ultra-supercritical pulverised coal (PC) fired technology. In recent years,

\$117 million solar project

Delta Electricity has received approval to build a \$117 million 55 MW solar project at Vales Point on Lake Macquarie. PV panels will be installed on an 80 hectare area of rehabilitated ash dam. The project will support 100 construction jobs and is expected to begin early in 2019.

Scone Airport upgrade

Scone Airport is to have further significant upgrades, including airside infrastructure (runway, taxiways, aprons and lighting) and the construction of a Scone Aviation Visitor Attraction, which will be one of only a few in the world to offer the opportunity for joy flights in World War II aircraft and 'behind the scenes' viewing of aircraft restoration work.



Little National Hotel/Halcyon



Bennetts Green Retail Development



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TRANSPORT & ACCESS TO MARKETS

The Hunter's location and impressive transport infrastructure provide it with a competitive edge in accessing Australian and international markets.

Centrally positioned on Australia's eastern seaboard between Melbourne and Brisbane and close to Sydney, the Hunter is ideally situated to service the 12.1 million people living in these cities (ABS ERP June 2017). Well over half of Australia's population is within an 11 hour drive from Newcastle.

The Hunter has a highly efficient transport infrastructure, providing fast and integrated links within the Region and to the rest of NSW, Australia and the world. This infrastructure includes the Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport and a comprehensive road and rail network.

THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE

The Port of Newcastle is the world's largest coal tonnage port. It is also a growing cargo and general container hub, with further major expansion plans currently in development. Excellent transport infrastructure and ongoing efficiency measures at the Port contribute to a lack of congestion and rapid turnaround compared with Australia's metropolitan ports. Major cruise ships are increasingly visiting Newcastle and construction of a permanent cruise terminal is planned. For more detailed information see page 55.

AIR LINKS

The Hunter has six working airports – Newcastle, Cessnock, Scone, Maitland, Lake Macquarie and Taree. Newcastle Airport is the premier regional facility. It has both civil and defence functionalities and can accommodate large international aircraft such as the Boeing 787 and Airbus A330. Newcastle Airport has direct flights to 10 locations across Australia and New Zealand, and one-stop hub through to more than 65 destinations around Australia or overseas. For more detailed information see page 52.

ROADS

The Hunter has a highly developed network of highways and arterial roads. This combined with over 100 national and regional transport companies operating in the Region, allows for fast and efficient movement of freight.

Once NorthConnex (M1 to M2 link) is completed, it will be possible to drive from Berefield to Newcastle via freeway, with no traffic lights.

All major industrial estates in the Region, as well as those planned, are located on or close to national highways or on main arterial roads with fast links to the highways.

- **Sydney to Newcastle M1 Motorway** is part of the National Highway network. It is the main corridor linking Newcastle to Sydney, providing a driving time of around two hours between the two cities. The M1 has links to the New England Highway, Pacific Highway, Hunter Expressway and numerous other arterial roads.
- **Hunter Expressway** is 40 km of dual divided carriageway between the M1 Motorway at Seahampton and the New England Highway west of Branxton. Interchanges are located at the M1 Motorway, Buchanan, Kurri Kurri, Loxford, Allandale and Branxton.
- **Pacific Highway** runs from Sydney to Brisbane along the NSW coast, passing through Newcastle West.
- **New England Highway** provides passage to Brisbane and to the north-west of NSW via the New England Region. It is the preferred route for road freight through to Brisbane and services the major Hunter centres of Maitland, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Scone.
- **Golden Highway** extends from the New England Highway, near Singleton, to Dubbo in Central NSW. This highway is an important link to the areas surrounding Dubbo and provides a carriageway for the transport of wheat and other produce to the Port of Newcastle.
- **Arterial roads** - The Hunter also has a network of arterial roads that link the major industrial suburbs of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie with the Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport and the major highways. Most arterial roads are four lanes, with adequate capacity to handle the growing Hunter economy.

RAIL

A comprehensive rail network operates within the Region. Passenger and general freight train services link the Hunter with Sydney, Brisbane and North Western NSW including Tamworth and Moree.

The rail network is also linked to the Port of Newcastle, providing a smooth transition between sea and land for the movement of bulk items such as coal, alumina and containerised cargo. Much of the agricultural produce from the North-West regions is exported through the Port of Newcastle via the rail links to these areas.

Pacific National hauls the Hunter's containerised freight, coal, and industrial and agricultural products. AURIZON also hauls coal. Some of the larger coal mines are also currently using or investigating using their own services.

Keolis Downer commenced the construction of the new Newcastle light rail in 2017. First services are expected to commence in February 2019.

BUS & FERRY SERVICES

Keolis Downer operates bus services throughout the Newcastle and adjoining Lake Macquarie suburbs. In addition, a ferry service from Newcastle to Stockton links residents in that area to the City.

The frequent Keolis Downer buses in the Newcastle City Centre are free between 7.30 am and 6:00 pm seven days a week.

Private bus services also provide connections across the Hunter region and beyond.



	Distance (by road)	Travel time	Population
Newcastle to Sydney	160km	Driving time approx. 2 hours from Newcastle CBD. approx. 35 minutes from southern Hunter to north of Greater Sydney; air travel time approx. 40 min	Greater Sydney approx. 5.13 million (65% of NSW's population)
Newcastle to Brisbane	774km	Driving time approx. 8.5 hours, air travel time approx. 1 hour	South East Queensland approx. 3.4 million (69% of Queensland's population)
Newcastle to Melbourne	1,028km	Driving time approx. 10.6 hours, air travel time approx. 1 hour 30 minutes	Greater Melbourne approx. 4.84 million (Over 76% of Victoria's population)
Newcastle to Canberra	436km	Driving time approx. 4.8 hours, air travel time approx 1 hour	ACT approx. 419,000

AIRPORTS IN THE HUNTER

NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

The Hunter's Newcastle Airport is located in the Port Stephens Local Government Area at Williamstown, a 25-minute drive from the Newcastle CBD.

As NSW's largest regional airport with passenger throughput of over 1.2 million a year, Newcastle Airport continues to prove itself as a second gateway into NSW and a significant transport hub for the region, contributing \$1.1 billion to business and tourism in the Hunter and the State.

The Airport is served by Jetstar, QantasLink, Virgin Australia, FlyPelican and Regional Express. These airlines offer flights to Adelaide, Ballina, Brisbane, Canberra, Dubbo, the Gold Coast, Melbourne, Sydney and Taree. Virgin Australia has also commenced a direct flight between Newcastle and Auckland, New Zealand.

Newcastle Airport has a 60-year lease – with three 10-year options – on the operating agreement it holds with the Department of Defence for 28 hectares of land. This assures use through to 2075, and potentially 2105. Additionally, the Airport has an option on a further 76 hectares of adjacent land that will cement the Airport's ability to deliver the air services required for the growing region. Newcastle Airport is also planning to develop a defence and aerospace business park to capitalise on opportunities including the arrival of the Joint Strike Fighters to the RAAF Base at Williamstown. Investment opportunities will be available in the precinct as the business park progresses.

Newcastle Airport is a significant economic enabler for the Hunter and nearby regions, generating jobs and economic growth. An aerospace hub, Jetstar's Heavy Maintenance Base has been located onsite since 2005 and BAE Systems has two hangars to build and maintain RAAF fighter jets.

Following the \$14.5 million terminal expansion in 2015 (supported by a NSW Government Hunter Infrastructure Investment Fund grant of \$11.5 million), the terminal now has the capacity to manage additional domestic services and has the infrastructure required for customs, immigration, and quarantine - for international services.

It is a time of transition and great excitement at the Airport with any future development playing a major role in boosting the Hunter's presence as Australia's largest regional economy.

The Hunter Regional Plan 2036 has identified Newcastle Airport as a key asset to link the region with international markets; ground work has now begun to future-proof the region. In 2018 Newcastle Airport launched a 20-year Master Plan and 60 year vision. This provides a framework for ongoing managed infrastructure and development growth. www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan

As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing connectivity into and out of the Hunter, Newcastle Airport recently announced further collaboration with regional communities and air carriers to develop sustainable options for travellers needing to access major population centres, domestically, and to and from the wider Asia/Pacific region.

Newcastle Airport is committed to regional connectivity, ability to complement current capacity into the Sydney basin, and grow to connect the nation's largest regional economy to the world.



HUNTER VALLEY AIRPORT - CESSNOCK

Located near Cessnock, Hunter Valley Airport - Cessnock is managed by Cessnock City Council. It is a major training, sport and recreation airport in the midst of wine country at Pokolbin.

Cessnock Aerodrome is a registered airport comprising a 1,097 m runway and parallel taxiway, aprons, terminal buildings, refuelling facilities and hangars. It is the base for three flying schools and several aircraft maintenance operations. Joy flights, hot air ballooning, helicopters and business/tourist charters also utilise the airport.

There are several operators of piston and jet vintage and warbird aircraft offering visitors flying experiences with these types. Hunter Valley Helicopters operates tourist flights from the airport.

The airport's sealed runway has night landing facilities. Both jet and avgas fuel are available from a modern facility operated by Skyfuel. Aircraft maintenance and storage hangars are also available.

SCONE AIRPORT

Owned by Upper Hunter Shire Council, Scone Airport includes 1,404 metre fully sealed runway, night landing facilities and a 24 hour fuel depot. Scone Airport is a significant air link to the Upper Hunter area.

The airport precinct includes Scone Airpark, an aviation industry business cluster with fully serviced lots available for purchase ranging in size from 2,600 sqm to 3,500sqm. Several significant aviation businesses have already based themselves at the airpark including aircraft maintenance and manufacture, aerial agriculture, National Parks Fire Fighting centre and charter operators.

Council has completed a master plan for the entire site which will identify opportunities for investment and provide direction for investment over the next 20 years.

In September 2018 the Upper Shire Council announced a further upgrade which will include upgrades to airside infrastructure including runway, taxiways, aprons and lighting, and the construction of a Scone Aviation Visitor Attraction, which will be one of only a few in the world to offer joy flights in World War II aircraft and 'behind the scenes' viewing of aircraft restoration work.

LAKE MACQUARIE AIRPORT

Located on the shores of Lake Macquarie near Belmont, Lake Macquarie Airport is operated by a consortium of tourism, charter and training businesses. As the only coastal airport in the Hunter and servicing the light and ultralight aircraft passenger, tourism and enthusiast market, it is perfectly located to service the requirements of users from northern Sydney in the south to Newcastle in the north.

Lake Macquarie Airport is also the home base of Matt Hall, Australia's only Red Bull Air Race competitor. Matt Hall is a regular visitor to the Airport when not racing, and offers joy rides to the public. Similarly, Lake Macquarie Airport offers tourists and residents the opportunity for ultra-light, fixed wing, sky-diving and helicopter rides above the scenic beauty of the City's beaches, Watagan Mountains and Lake Macquarie as well as quick access to the Hunter and surrounds.

Lake Macquarie Airport is also home to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and NSW Ambulance aeromedical base.

The owner consortium has submitted a expansion Development Applications (DAs) to Lake Macquarie Council, which have been approved. The DAs consist of four buildings adjacent to the Pacific Highway, three of which are hangars with office space and pilot's briefing rooms. The fourth building opposite the main entrance will house a terminal and a two-storey café restaurant.

There are also two hangars on the opposite side of the hardstand area, which will house aircraft and accompanying office and service space.

Whilst Lake Macquarie Airport has limited land available, there is still room for further expansion, including the potential for a regular passenger service to be re-established.



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INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

MAITLAND AIRPORT

The Royal Newcastle Aero Club (RNAC) owns the aerodrome known as Russell Field at Rutherford, near Maitland.

The aerodrome is defined as a registered aerodrome by the Civil Aviation Regulations. It is primarily used for flight training, joy flights, private charter operations and medical patient and family transfers for Maitland and John Hunter Hospitals and private aircraft. The aerodrome is also used as an alternate aerodrome for NETS and the Royal Doctor Flying Service, when Newcastle Airport is not available.

The Airport consists of two sealed and one grass runway, making the aerodrome operational in most conditions. The main runway is 1,290 metres long and provides sufficient take-off and landing directions to allow circuit training to be conducted for most situations. It has facilities for night flying and can accommodate aircraft up to 5.7 tonnes.

RNAC is the home base of Paul Bennet, the Australian Unlimited Aerobatic Champion Pilot. Paul Bennet Airshows, has a worldwide reputation hosting Airshows in China, Korea and Vietnam as well as in Australia and PNG

Taree Regional Airport

Taree Regional Airport, just three minutes from the Taree CBD, is a vital piece of business and community infrastructure that supports local businesses, the medical sector and emergency services. FlyPelican has regular services between Taree and Sydney.

MidCoast Council has completed an upgrade including increasing the RPT apron, PAPI all weather landing solution, replacing and expanding surveillance system, air conditioning the terminal, installing sustainability features, improved visitor information and technology, welcome signage and an out of region marketing campaign with REX Airlines.

MidCoast Council has also completed works on Taree Airport's Aviation Business Park, developed with joint funding from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The \$3.1 million dollar facility will provide businesses and individuals the opportunity to secure hangar space in a major regional centre. The aviation business park features 21 lots. The typical size of these plots is around 850 sqm, which is ideal for a variety of business functions, including warehousing, recreational flight experiences, couriers, freight depots, or light manufacturing.



INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

PORT OF NEWCASTLE

The Port of Newcastle is the global gateway for the Hunter and regional NSW. It is the largest port on the East Coast and Australia's third largest port by trade volume.

The Port of Newcastle enjoys a significant competitive advantage as a major seaport with direct connectivity to a world-class national rail and heavy road system. Its shipping channel is only operating at 50% capacity and coupled with an extensive portfolio of vacant portside land, the future opportunities for the Port of Newcastle are immense.

Geographically, the Port of Newcastle provides a gateway to destinations along the Australia eastern seaboard. Port of Newcastle's catchment area extends west to Parkes and north to Moree, a fertile and diverse region producing world-class minerals, agriculture, meat, timber, steel and aluminium.

While coal exports provide a stable foundation for growth, the Port of Newcastle has embarked on an ambitious diversification strategy. The Port has the ability to accommodate a diverse trade base and is ready to partner with customers and stakeholders in realising its vision to become Australia's first-choice East Coast port.



Newcastle Bulk Terminal

Proud to be here

At Stolthaven we are proud of our connections to Newcastle and the role we play in the supply of fuels to the wider Hunter region.

In recent years we have continued to invest in our facilities, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to the region and enhancing our offer to customers. We have increased our capability through investments in three main areas:

- Significant Diesel tank storage - 130 Million Litres
- Dedicated deepwater bulk liquids berth capable of quickly discharging LR2 size vessels
- Four bay truck gantry – ensuring rapid 30 minute truck loading time from gate to gate

The region has recently seen an increasing demand for fuels, not only from the traditional retail service station market, but also from the mining and transport industries.

At Stolthaven, it is our mission to support customers by providing them with confidence in the continuation of the fuel supply chain.

For more information, please get in touch:

Ben Serong | Commercial Manager
0410 479 177 | b.serong@stolt.com



Stolthaven Terminals 

Port of Newcastle has ambitious plans for the future of freight in regional NSW. Its Port Master Plan provides a blue-print for current and future development and trade. The Port Master Plan 2040 outlines key strategic development opportunities for the Port and broader region, including:

- The Newcastle Container Terminal
- The Newcastle Bulk Terminal
- An Automotive and Ro-Ro hub
- The Maritime Precinct
- The Newcastle Cruise Terminal, and
- The continuation and growth of major bulk trades including coal, LPG, fertiliser, wheat and mineral concentrates.

The success of the Port is inextricably linked to the prosperity of Newcastle and the Hunter region. In 2016/17 the Port's economic contribution was an estimated \$1.8 billion to the NSW economy and \$1.6 billion to the Lower Hunter's economy via direct and flow-on activities. This was equivalent to approximately 0.36% of New South Wales's gross state product, or 9% of gross regional product, and represented 10,000 full-time equivalent jobs across New South Wales.

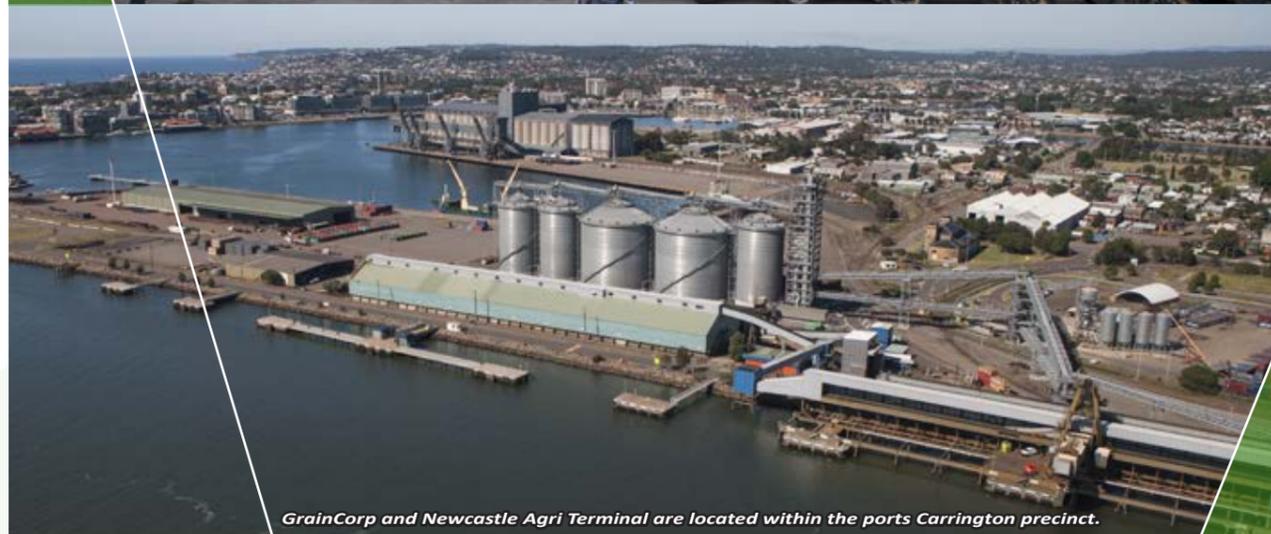
Australian freight is predicted to double over the next 20 years and beyond. The Port of Newcastle is committed to growing all trades and is ready to support the region's freight task, now and in the future.



- In 2017 the Port handled 167 million tonnes of trade valued at \$AU24 billion
- Port of Newcastle is the third in Australia and 24th in the world in terms of trade volume
- 159 million tonnes of coal handled in 2017
- Other key non coal trades: bulk fuels, wheat, fertiliser, steel, project cargo, meals and grains.
- Unconstrained road, rail, berth and storage availability
- Portside land ready for development
- Shipping channel that can handle more than 10,000 ship movements pa (more than double current ship movements)



Port of Newcastle handled tunnel boring machinery for the Sydney Metro rail project.



GrainCorp and Newcastle Agri Terminal are located within the ports Carrington precinct.

GLOBAL GATEWAY FOR THE HUNTER



The Port of Newcastle enjoys significant competitive advantages as a major seaport with connectivity to a world-class national rail and heavy vehicle road system.

With its shipping channel currently only operating at 50% capacity, vacant portside land and market interest, the opportunities for Port of Newcastle and the wider Hunter region are immense.

The Port of Newcastle has the connectivity, capacity and capability to support the prosperity and diversity of the Hunter region - now and into the future.

Find out more

+61 2 4908 8200

info@portofnewcastle.com.au

www.portofnewcastle.com.au

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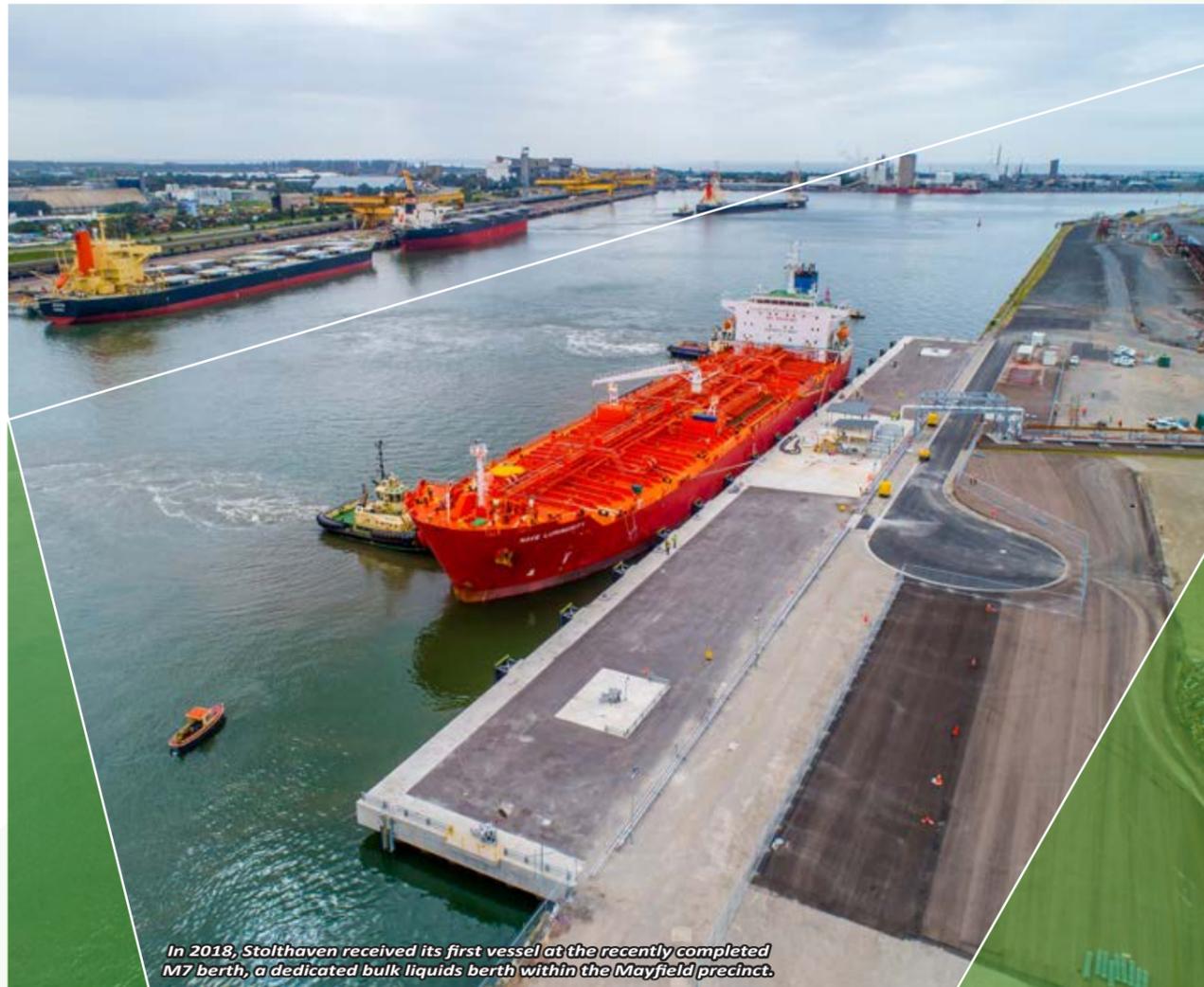
INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

2017 EXPORTS

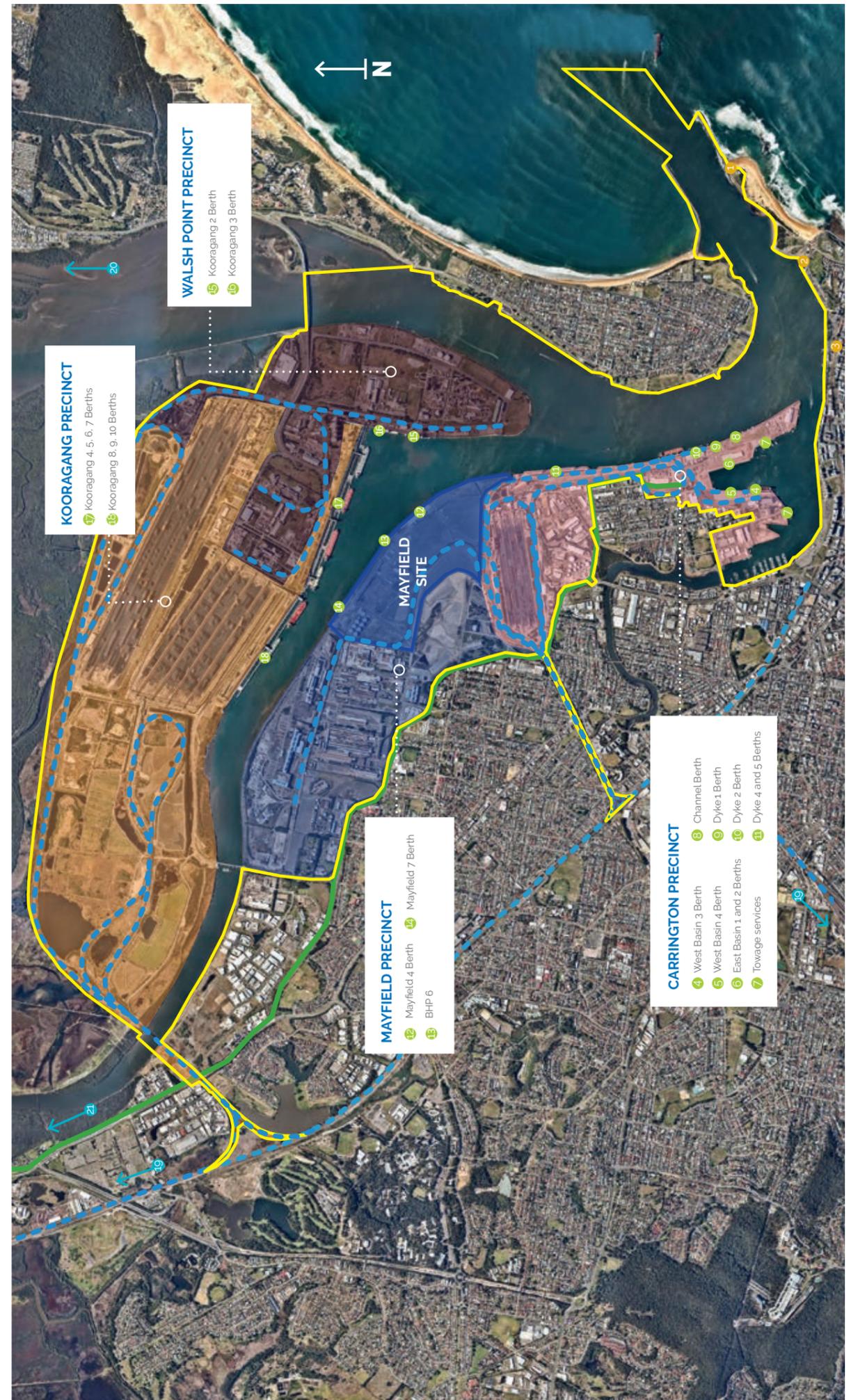
PORT OF NEWCASTLE TRADE STATISTICS		
COMMODITY MASS (TONNES)	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
Aluminium	61,131	151
Ammonia	85,521	58
Ammonium Nitrate	979	0
Coal	159,014,038	19,437
Concentrates	468,543	693
General cargo	180,301	95
Grinding Media	14,546	15
Machinery, Project Cargo & Vehicles	16,407	164
Meals & Grains	236,899	43
Pitch & Tar Products	103,096	72
Silica Sand	5,552	0
Steel	104,039	23
Timber	799	0
Wheat	1,834,303	360
TOTAL	162,126,154	21,111

2017 IMPORTS

PORT OF NEWCASTLE TRADE STATISTICS		
COMMODITY MASS (TONNES)	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
Alumina	1,106,282	285
Ammonia	38,732	26
Ammonium Nitrate	26,822	8
Cement	251,074	19
Fertiliser	587,852	209
Fuels	1,856,427	1,132
General Cargo	68,490	110
Machinery, Project Cargo & Vehicles	75,087	751
Magnitite	93,284	28
Meals & Grians	186,176	85
Petroleum Coke	215,383	80
Pitch & Tar Products	146,724	116
Steel	232,102	50
Timber	25,709	1
TOTAL	4,910,144	2,901



In 2018, Stolthaven received its first vessel at the recently completed M7 berth, a dedicated bulk liquids berth within the Mayfield precinct.



UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

The Hunter has ample capacity to service any size development.

Heavy industry can liaise directly with the generation companies, including AGL Macquarie and Origin Energy.

Ausgrid has more than 100 years' experience in operating one of the largest and most reliable electricity networks in Australia, supplying electricity to 1.7 million homes and businesses across Sydney, the Central Coast and much of the Hunter Region.

In the Hunter, Ausgrid's network services around 250,000 customers, from households to major industries such as coal mines, manufacturers and primary producers.

Ausgrid also undertakes more than 100,000 maintenance tasks each year to ensure the Hunter network continues to serve the community safely and reliably.

Other electricity retailers supplying the consumer market include AGL, Integral Energy, Essential Energy, Origin Energy, Red energy and many others.

GAS

Reticulated natural gas is available to most industrial sites in the Hunter.

AGL opened a \$300 million gas storage facility at Tomago in 2015. Able to store up to 30,000 tonnes of LNG, the plant helps to secure gas supply to the Hunter, Sydney and Wollongong.

Hunter Gas Pipeline Pty. Ltd. (HGP) proposes with Jemena Ltd. to build and operate a high pressure, underground steel gas pipeline approximately 420 km long to transport gas from the proposed Narrabri Gas Project to Newcastle via, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland. Project value is estimated to be A\$500 million, creating 350 construction, 20 operational and maintenance jobs.

Advent Energy is exploring for natural gas in the offshore PEP11 permit which has been estimated to contain over 370 billion cubic metres of prospective recoverable gas resources (approximately ten times the estimated annual Australian consumption).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The region is serviced by all the major national telecommunications carriers. Local carriers also provide a range of state-of-the-art telephone and high speed broadband services.

The Hunter has comprehensive mobile networks serviced by a number of competing carriers. Coverage is predominantly via 4G networks.

The Hunter is connected to the internet by a range of local and national internet service providers. The NBN has been connected to large portion of the Hunter. Uptake of the internet in the Hunter is greater than the national average.



AGL's Newcastle Gas Storage Facility



Bayswater & Liddell Power Stations

WATER & WASTEWATER

As a State Owned Corporation (SOC), Hunter Water provides drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and some stormwater services to a population of almost 600,000 people in homes and businesses across the Lower Hunter.

It manages an asset base of more than \$2.5 billion worth of infrastructure, including 10,000 kilometres of water and sewer mains.

Hunter Water is working to enable the sustainable growth of the Lower Hunter region and the life its communities desire, with high quality, affordable services

In 2017 MidCoast Council took over water and sewage responsibilities from MidCoast Water and now services the entire MidCoast LGA.

State Water owns dams at Glenbawn, Glennies Creek and Lostock in the Upper Hunter and supplies water to Muswellbrook, Singleton and Scone, with the local councils providing the distribution network.

Drinking water in the Hunter is of a very high standard and is well within the national guideline requirements.



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DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE HUNTER

The Hunter is experiencing significant property development; bringing new commercial, industrial and residential land and buildings online to meet the continued growth of the region.

The revitalisation of Newcastle is quickly gaining momentum with a wide range of residential and commercial projects underway and planned that are reshaping the CBD.

The NSW Government has truncated Newcastle's heavy rail line at Wickham and constructed light rail along Hunter Street, with first services scheduled for February 2019. This has helped to attract further investment in the Newcastle.

There is currently well over \$2 billion in major development projects in the Newcastle CBD, highlighting the confidence of private and public investors in the future of Australia's seventh largest city.

But development is hardly confined to the Newcastle CBD, with revitalisation projects occurring in a number of other Hunter centres, including Maitland, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Cessnock, as well as several locations across Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and Mid Coast LGAs.

There are a number of major and smaller residential developments scattered across the region to house the Hunter's growing population.

There is also ample industrial land available to suit the needs of almost any business.



INDUSTRIAL AREAS

The Hunter Region offers a wide range of industrial/employment sites to meet the needs of business and industry. Mature industrial areas provide opportunities to obtain premises for immediate occupation while new industrial estates offer sites ready for development with some developers offering design and construct packages.

The following are just some of the industrial areas from across the Hunter Region.

CESSNOCK LGA Cessnock Civic

Cessnock Civic is a business park located at the South end of the CBD. Limited sites from 4,000 sqm are available, with pricing from \$100 per sqm plus GST. Current occupiers are Bunnings and Genesis Fitness. Future stages will offer sites from 1,000 sqm. Design and Construct options are available, visit www.hunterland.com.au

Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ)

Located at Kurri Kurri, HEZ occupies some 3,200 hectares of which 900 hectares is zoned developable for industrial use. A number of companies have moved into HEZ but much of the land is still to be released. HEZ offers affordable, fully-serviced industrial sites from 1 to 120 ha. A new primary school and high school have been approved. Plans for a \$3 billion power station have been lodged

which would have the capacity to produce 2,000 MW, with provision for expansion for another 2,000 MW. There are also plans for a new hospital and release of residential land. For further information visit www.hez.com.au

DUNGOG LGA

Dungog Industrial Estate services the local Dungog community.

LAKE MACQUARIE LGA

Cameron Park Industrial Estate

This is a 50 hectare subdivision located near the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway and Newcastle Link Road interchange. Lot sizes range from 2,000 to 20,000 sqm.

Cardiff Industrial Park

The Cardiff industrial area is one of the older industrial areas in the Region, however over recent years it has gone through a transition which is seeing redevelopments of older sites. As a result the park is seeing a more commercial focus with the proposed Glendale Transport Hub nearby and the mooted connection to Argenton expected to feed demand. Cardiff Central, the first stage of Bunderra's industrial development, was released in 2015 and quickly sold.

Other business zoned lands in Lake Macquarie LGA include:

- Morisset Gateway Industrial Park
- Gateshead/Bennetts Green Industrial Park
- Warners Bay Bulky Goods Industrial Park



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MAITLAND LGA

Thornton Business Park

Thornton Business Park on New England Highway at the North end of the M1 is a 100 hectare master planned estate, now fully in place and home to around 150 businesses. Some high profile commercial sites are available at the New England Highway / Weakley's Drive intersection.

For further information contact www.hunterland.com.au

Anambah Business Park

Anambah Business Park is a 140 hectare project at Rutherford. Straddling the New England Highway 4 km west of Maitland city centre, the park's current land has been all sold but the 9 ha Stage 5 will be released during 2019 offering sites from 2,500 sqm at \$125 per sqm. Users include a bulky goods precinct (Harvey Norman, Ray's Outdoors, Domayne and Fantastic Furniture), plus general business and industry users.

For further information contact www.hunterland.com.au

MID COAST LGA

The Mid Coast region has well established industrial areas in the main centres of Taree, Forster and Gloucester.

Taree Aviation Business Park

MidCoast Council completed works on Taree Airport's Aviation Business Park, developed with joint funding from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Just 3 minutes from the Taree CBD, the \$3.1 million dollar facility will provide businesses and individuals the opportunity to secure hangar space in a major regional centre. The aviation business park features 21 lots available for purchase now. The typical size of these plots is around 850 sqm, which is ideal for a variety of business functions, including warehousing, recreational flight experiences, couriers, freight depots, or light manufacturing.

Northern Gateway Transport Hub

With road freight set to double by 2030, the Northern Gateway Transport Hub at Cundletown will allow freight to move more efficiently and competitively along the east coast, provides a convenient distribution and warehousing point a 4-hour drive from Sydney, and one third of the distance of Sydney to Brisbane. Approval for stage 1 was given in September 2016 with stage 1 expected to contribute \$42 million to the regional economy, create over 100 additional jobs and remove 700 truck movements per week from Taree's local streets. Planning for the much larger, second stage of the transport hub is underway.

Southern Manning River Drive Precinct

The southern Manning River Drive precinct offers good access to the Pacific Highway and over 40 ha of flood free land already zoned for development with great exposure to passing traffic (over 18,000 vehicles per day). This precinct is transforming into a desired location for bulky goods from building supplies to tractors and sheds, industrial uses and vehicle sales. Edstein Creative Stone is an established industry located in the precinct.

Muldoon Street Industrial Precinct

The Muldoon Street Industrial Precinct in Taree features uses such as bulky goods, call centres training centres and offices, while maintaining large employment generating businesses including Steber International, Valley Industries and Eggins Comfort Coaches. Once the industrial hub of Taree, this precinct is in transition offering service and support businesses, while remaining home to over 70 families.



Steel River Industrial Park

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Gloucester Industrial Estate

Gloucester Industrial estate is located adjacent to the town centre, just 5 minutes away and houses a number of the key manufacturing, engineering and service businesses in the area.

The Stratford Industrial Park

A 135 hectare park located on the Bucketts Way, 15 kilometres south of Gloucester, the Stratford Industrial Park is a high quality, attractively designed industry park being developed which will focus upon the effective use of significant energy resources and existing road and rail transport infrastructure.

MUSWELLBROOK LGA

Muswellbrook Industrial Park

Located less than 5 minutes from Muswellbrook Town Centre and off the main Industrial route (Thomas Mitchell Drive), the estate has been developed by Mirvac. All lots have now been sold with some limited opportunities for re-sales. Access has been designed for the needs of mine service companies with power, water / sewer and telecommunications at each lot. Generally, companies operating in the estate provide services and support for the coal mining industry. With the coal industry now powering up again enquiries have increased in the last 6 months with two lots recently re-sold in the estate and a further three lots available.

For further information contact Four Walls Commercial at www.fourwallscommercial.com.au

NEWCASTLE LGA

Freeway Business Park, Beresfield

Three separate precincts and over 100 hectares of industrial sites, this estate is right at the end of the M1 Motorway and also has access to major arterial links. The South Precinct has limited lots from 2,000 sqm to 4 ha with pricing from \$180 to \$220 per sqm. In the North Precinct there were 30 lots released in late 2018 priced from \$200 to \$220 per sqm.

Further details on www.hunterland.com.au

Kooragang Island

Adjacent to Port of Newcastle, this site comprises 1,300 hectares with good rail and road transport links. Almost 100 hectares are already occupied by companies including HiFert, Graincorp, Tomago Aluminium, Sims Metal, Toll Transport, Barclay Mowlem, BOC Gases, John Holland and Custom Transportable Buildings. More than 800 hectares are zoned for environmental protection, with the remaining 400 hectares suited to a range of activities including an expansion of coal loading capacity and other large-scale industrial development.

Steel River Industrial Park, Mayfield West

Steel River is located on Industrial Drive at West Mayfield, 10 minutes' drive from Newcastle CBD, and covers an area of 104 hectares. Lots are level with B Double access. Power, water telecommunications and sewer are connected to the boundary of each lot. With the strong demand and limited availability of quality level industrial land now available, the developers, Sydney based Baudinet Group released stage 9 (Riverside Drive) in early 2018. With all 10 lots now sold they have brought forward the release of Stage 10 being an additional eight lots, which are now available for sale with areas from 4223 sqm.

For further details contact agents Bobby Suminoski of Fourwalls Commercial and Trent Robertson of Colliers.

Warabrook Industrial Estate

First developed in the mid 1980's, Warabrook is located in Newcastle's inner west, off the Pacific Highway at North Mayfield. Some redevelopment is now taking place.

PORT STEPHENS LGA

Kinross Industrial Estate

Large lots are available in Kinross Industrial Estate, Heatherbrae with convenient access of Camfield Drive. General lots range from 4,000 sqm to 20,000 sqm and can be consolidated in a variety of configurations to accommodate a larger user. Design and construct packages are available on application.

For more information contact Knight Frank Newcastle 4920 5700 www.knightfrank.com.au

Williamstown Aerospace Centre

The Williamstown Aerospace Centre (WAC) includes 89 hectares of industrial land that provides first class facilities and a variety of infrastructure solutions for the aerospace and aviation industry. The first stage, Technology Place, includes a 95 room Mercure hotel and conference centre, plus completed projects for Raytheon, Bohemia Interactive Simulations, Nova Systems, Lockheed Martin, Plexsys, Viasat and Boeing Defence Australia. Building Echo was completed in August 2017 and includes tenants Milskil, Redarc Technologies / Hummingbird Electronics, University of Newcastle and Central Health Alliance. The fifth building in the estate, Foxtrot, will complete construction in March 2019 and is now fully leased with Martin-Baker Australia selecting WAC as its first Australian office location. The final new building, Charlie, in the Technology Place precinct is expected to be completed in Q4 2019.

Visit williamtownaerospace.com.au and hunterland.com.au for further information

SINGLETON LGA

MacDougall Business Park

MacDougall Business Park has over 65 hectares of industrial land. Limited lots are available from 2,000 sqm to 1 ha, with pricing around \$65 per sqm. Future stages are available off plan. Bunnings, Ausgrid, Singleton Toyota and many mining related businesses are currently in this estate.

For further information contact www.hunterland.com.au

Maison Dieu Industrial Estate

Located off Maison Dieu Road at Singleton, this 50 hectare estate services the coal mining industry in the Upper Hunter area generally as well as other parts of the Region. Lot sizes range from 2,000 to 4,000 sqm, however there is limited availability of land.

Mt. Thorley Industrial Estate

Mt Thorley is a 130 hectare estate located west of Singleton. It is a mature industrial area servicing the coal mining industry.

UPPER HUNTER LGA

Scone Business Park

The 19.28 ha estate, which is zoned light Industrial / Special Business, provides a significant economic boost for Scone which has long suffered from a shortage of quality industrial and commercial land. Located on the northern boundary of the Scone township, bounded by the Highway and the Great Northern Rail Line, the business park is being released in five stages and offers a

wide range of lot size, all with water and power to boundary, kerb and guttering.

For further information contact Elders Scone or Macallum Inglis Scone via www.maccalluminglis.com.au

FUTURE INDUSTRIAL LAND RELEASES

There is also a variety of new industrial areas planned or under development which will provide powerful economic stimuli for decades to come.

The major new industrial areas include:

Mayfield – Port of Newcastle – The port-side 90 hectares of the site is being managed by the Port of Newcastle and has deepwater frontage to the Hunter River. The entire site, which includes the 50 hectare Intertrade site is the site of the former BHP Steelworks. Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation has been completing a \$100 million program of works including remediation, a new freight line and major civil works. This land will be suitable for general industry, freight and commercial uses, with plenty of room for a wide range of port related industrial development.

Black Hill Industrial

Hunter Land and The Stevens Group are looking to release 120 ha of prime industrial sites of industrial land in 2019 on the corner of the M1 and John Renshaw Drive. The \$88 million staged development includes 200 industrial lots on a bushland site formerly owned by Coal and Allied. Sites will be from 2,000 sqm to 20 ha and are expected to range from \$200 per sqm.

Catholic diocese industrial park

Two thirds of a 300-hectare site owned by the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle at Black Hill has been rezoned industrial. The Diocese is negotiating with a buyer to develop the land. It is expected to offer large lots to house distribution centres which could no longer be accommodated in Sydney. pricing set.

Kurri Kurri Business Park

A large industrial park designed for business park, light industry and heavy/waste industry with likely release in 2020. Currently rezoning and awaiting approvals. Lot sizes and pricing not yet released.

Astra Aerolab

Astra Aerolab covers 46 hectares of developable land, with up to 73 lots. It is zoned B7 – Business Park zoning. With direct airside access from some lots, it will provide a world-leading innovation hub for defence and aerospace, as well as non-aviation related industries such as advanced manufacturing, technology, education, mining and operations.

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To find out how APP can make a difference to your next project **contact Peter Allen** General Manager – Northern NSW, APP Corporation **Telephone 4928 7600**

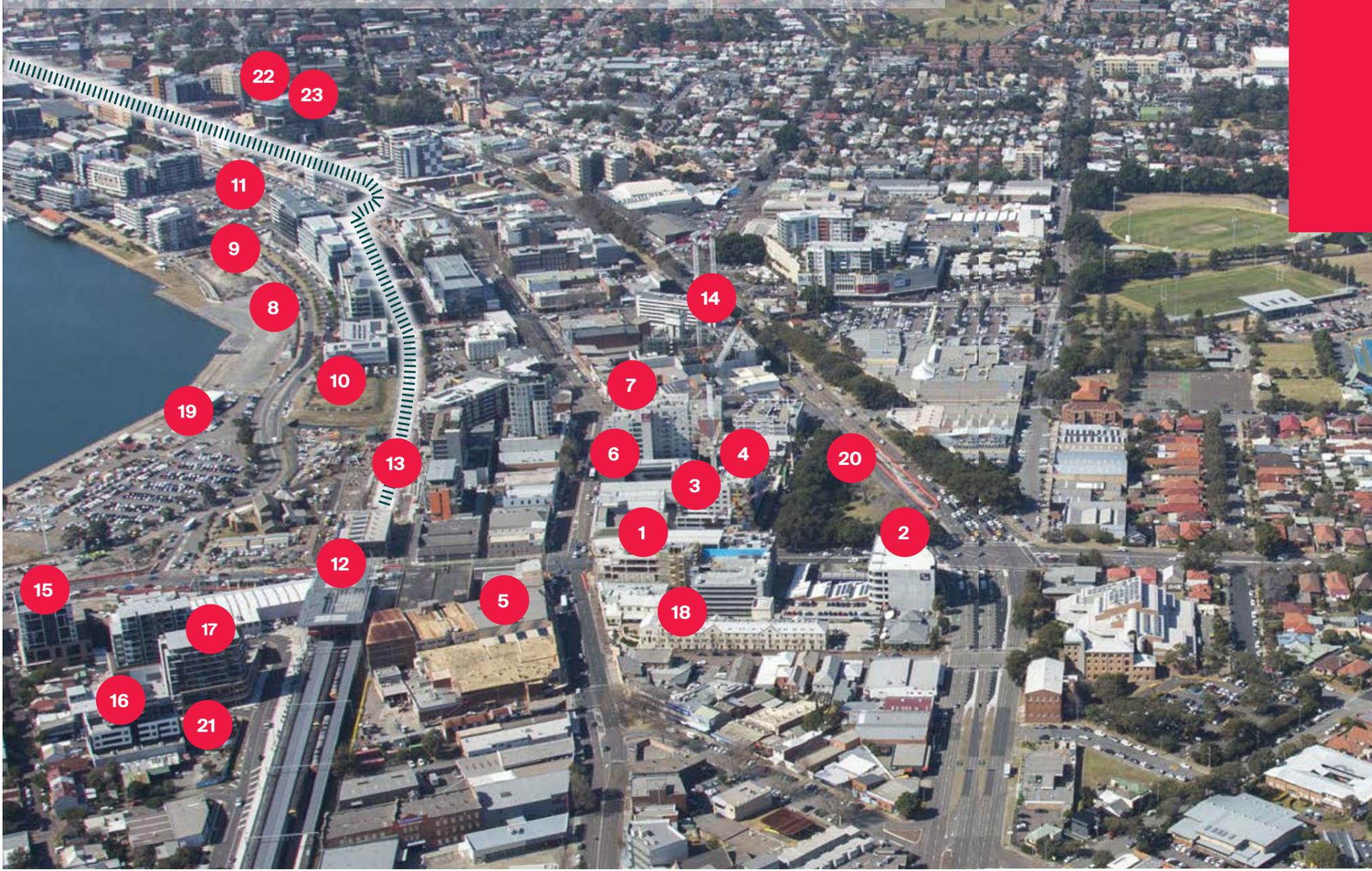


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- 1 Gateway Stage 2 - Anchored by City of Newcastle who will relocate in 2019
- 2 Gateway Stage 1 - Anchored by two national companies - Mine Super and Knight Frank
- 3 Holiday Inn Express - 170 rooms - under construction
- 4 RSL Life Care Vertical Aged Care and Independent Living - under construction
- 5 The Store - Bus and Coach Interchange with commercial office and residential - under construction
- 6 Go Kindy - Vertical Childcare Centre and commercial office - complete
- 7 Birdwood Business Centre - 11,160 sqm office space - DA Approved
- 8 Huntington Residential
- 9 Lume Residential
- 10 Halcyon Residential and Little National Hotel
- 11 University of Newcastle extension of city campus
- 12 Newcastle Transport Interchange - complete
- 13 Newcastle CBD Light Rail - Light rail routes to begin from early 2019
- 14 Verve Residential Apartments - under construction
- 15 Bishopsgate residential apartments - complete
- 16 Millhorn residential apartments - complete
- 17 West End residential apartments - complete
- 18 Quest Newcastle West - complete
- 19 Throsby and Lee 5 - HDC site TBA
- 20 Birdwood Park - Council commitment to redevelopment
- 21 Eaton on Union - DA Approved
- 22 The Kingsley - concept plans
- 23 University of Newcastle NeW Space



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COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Although there is increasing commercial development across the Hunter Region, the majority is concentrated in the Lower Hunter where population densities are greater.

NEWCASTLE CITY

The city of Newcastle is the business capital of the Hunter and has over 300,000 sqm of office space.

The Newcastle CBD is currently in a major renewal phase and is attracting billions of dollars of both private and government investment. Demand for CBD office space has contributed to growth in recent years, particularly for A-grade properties.

A wide range of multi-storey residential complexes are being built as more people are finding the city an enjoyable place to live as well as work. This is resulting in higher levels of demand for businesses and services in the CBD.

One of these is Gateway 2/ Stewart Avenue (Mixed Use). Gateway 2 is a \$21 million five storey, 9,400 sqm commercial office building on the corner of Stewart Avenue and Hunter Street, Newcastle. In 2019 Newcastle City Council will become one of the first residences of this new office building.

The East End project will be the largest master-planned mixed-use site in the city. The current development application approves a master plan for a mix of residential, retail and commercial uses across the 1.66 ha site. The approved development application includes 47,800 sqm of residential floor space (approximately 500 apartments), 4,900 sqm of retail floor space and 2,700 sqm of commercial floor space.

The NSW Government has cut the inner-city heavy rail line, completed building the new Newcastle Transport Interchange at Wickham and the light rail along Hunter Street. Linking the older part of the Newcastle CBD with the harbour foreshore, the project is acting as a major catalyst for the redevelopment of Newcastle and resulting in a major influx of investment. The Honeysuckle urban renewal project, Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation's project, commenced in 1992 and has generated in excess of \$2 billion of economic benefit from a 50 hectare site along 5 km of harbor front. It is one of Australia's largest ever urban renewal projects.

Currently around 80% complete, the Honeysuckle projects has already provided around 69,000 sqm of commercial and retail floor space, homes for 2,400 people, 13 hectares of quality public open space and many other benefits to Newcastle.



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- Create engaging, sustainable and attractive public spaces, connected to better transport options
- Unlock opportunities and realise the full potential of government land and assets
- Respect existing character, culture and heritage
- Work in collaboration and partnership with community and stakeholders



For more information visit hccdc.nsw.gov.au

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

LAKE MACQUARIE

Charlestown is a major retail and commercial centre for Lake Macquarie and the Lower Hunter. It has experienced high growth in recent years and continues to attract large volumes of investment in commercial development. The CBD of Charlestown is home to well over 500 businesses and has over 200,000 sqm of leasable floor area.

Its main regional shopping complex, Charlestown Square, is the largest in the Hunter with 88,000 sqm of floor space and over 270 specialty stores. It is home to majors such as Myers, Target, Big W, Woolworths, Coles and Reading Cinemas.

Construction is poised to begin on a landmark 30,000 sqm retail centre in Lake Macquarie set to create more than 825 full-time-equivalent jobs during construction and more than 600 full-time jobs once complete. Spotlight Group received the green light in September 2018 from the NSW Government to commence work on the first stage of a \$90 million centre fronting the Pacific Highway at Bennetts Green. A Bunnings Warehouse and Spotlight and Anaconda stores will anchor the site, with a number of other businesses, including two fast food outlets and a service station, also included in the plans.

There are a number of other major current, proposed and recently completed developments.



INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

MAITLAND

Maitland, including nearby Rutherford and Green Hills, is a major retail and commercial centre servicing the surrounding residential, industrial and mining areas including Singleton and Muswellbrook.

Central has undergone a transformation with The Levee project integrating High Street and the Hunter River to create an attractive lifestyle precinct for Maitland.

In recent years, Hunter Land has been active in the construction of commercial and retail space in the area from Thornton, east of Maitland, to Rutherford.

Stockland Green Hills has undergone a \$412 million redevelopment that more than doubled the centre to around 70,000 sqm of gross lettable area. The final stage was opened in May 2018.



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Residential Development

The robust demand for new homes has attracted billions of dollars of investment in residential development across the Hunter. As with existing housing, the new projects underway provide living options to satisfy almost any lifestyle.

Those moving to the region often find that house prices are significantly lower than major capital cities. For example the HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report released in October 2018 found that the average cost of Hunter residential real estate was more than 69% less per sqm than Sydney.

The amount of residential development is far too expansive to be covered in full in this publication. The following provides information on just some of the new options available to residents and investors.

CESSNOCK LGA

Huntlee

Huntlee is the Hunter's first new town in more than 50 years. Located near the start of the Hunter Expressway, Huntlee is well positioned between Newcastle and the Upper Hunter. On completion it will comprise four neighbourhood villages surrounding a vibrant 200 ha Town Centre. In total, it will boast 7,500 dwellings. Huntlee represents a total investment of \$1.5 billion and will generate 3,000 permanent jobs and many more during construction. The first residential village, Katherine's Landing, accommodates up to 1,700 dwellings plus an extensive range of community facilities.

For further information see www.huntlee.com.au

Earlwood

This development includes 59 lots of which many are half an acre. Located in Kitchener, it is just 8 minutes from Cessnock and within easy reach of the Hunter Valley and everything that it has to offer. It is a pristine location bordering the Werakata National Park with an abundance of native flora and fauna.

For further information visit www.earlwoodliving.com.au

Mount View Grange

Launched in September 2018, Mount View Grange will be a master planned, 240 hectare estate with 450 to 1,827 sqm blocks and home to over 1650 families. There will also be a 3.11 hectare town centre. It is located minutes from Cessnock Town Centre, the Hunter Expressway and the M1, and within a short drive of schools, preschools and daycare facilities, parks, restaurants and leisure activities.

For further information visit www.mountviewgrange.com.au

Other developments

There are also emerging Greenfield developments at Bellbird, Greta, Heddon Greta and Cliftleigh.

LAKE MACQUARIE LGA

Watagan Park

A master-planned estate of 356 hectares, Watagan Park is located at North Cooranbong, nestled at the foot of the Watagan Mountains. It is classified as a major urban release area by the New South Wales Government considering its locality and

reference to population growth. Encompassing 2,500 lots spread over 356 hectares, the development has one third set aside as natural bushland. Developed by Johnson Property Group, the estate has flat blocks available from 450 to 1000 sqm.

For further information visit www.wataganpark.com.au

Trinity Point

Located in Lake Macquarie, the \$388 million Trinity Point waterfront masterplanned community is 88 minutes' drive north of Sydney and 30 minutes' drive south of Newcastle. Trinity Point is situated overlooking Barden's Bay and the wider Lake Macquarie, within the township of Morisset Park. When completed, Trinity Point will consist of a masterplanned estate, 188 berth marina, a 5 star hotel, a 240 seat restaurant and 300-seat function centre, 250 apartment precinct comprising short stay and residential units, a wide range of resort-style facilities including a pool, gym and Day Spa as well as retail stores, a business centre and conference facilities, marina lounge and sales centre.

For further information visit www.trinitypoint.com.au

Highpoint

An apartment block to be built opposite Charlestown Square is set to be the tallest building in the Lake Macquarie region with 360 degree views across the region. The building will consist of 68, 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, all with car space and storage.

For further information visit www.highpointcharlestown.com.au

Water's Edge

Water's Edge apartment complex comprising of 112 comprising one, two and three bedroom apartments will be constructed on the BP service station site fronting King Street and The Esplanade. It is designed to establish a new benchmark for quality and design in the area.

For further information visit www.watersedgewb.com.au



Waters Edge

Beaches Catherine Hill Bay

Nestled between Catherine Hill Bay and Mooney Beach, Beaches offers affordable oceanfront lifestyle. The \$415 million development will have 550 lots when fully developed, including six 1100 sqm beachfront lots. Three stages have been released, with future releases to include a retail precinct.

For further information visit www.beacheschb.com.au

Bunderra

The Bunderra site comprises an area of 207.25 hectares and will include industrial and commercial land as well as residential land. The area incorporates the former Pasmenco lead smelter site and land owned by Incitec Fertilisers Ltd, all of which is being remediated. The development will include approximately 800 dwellings based on an overall density of 15 dwelling units per hectare.

For further information visit www.bunderra.com.au

MAITLAND LGA

Waterford County

Waterford County is a master planned community with more than 1500 lots from 500 to 1800 sqm. The site is planned to incorporate almost everything for modern day-to-day living including a major supermarket, 12-15 specialty shops, doctors, childcare facilities and a variety of recreational facilities. The development features 74 hectares set aside as parkland, natural open space and wetlands.

For further information visit www.waterfordcounty.com.au

MID COAST LGA

Brimbin

The rezoning for the new town of Brimbin was approved in November 2015. Located 8 km north east of Taree, Brimbin covers an area of around 3,700 hectares, will cater for 8,000

homes and has the potential to accommodate a population of around 22,000 people. It will provide the opportunity for three primary schools, a high school, recreational areas, a commercial centre as well as significant employment opportunities for industry and agricultural support businesses. A key feature is the conservation of 1000 hectares of land which will provide a habitat for several species of flora and fauna, including threatened ecological communities.

Figtrees on the Manning

Figtrees on the Manning is located on the northern bank of the Manning River, approximately 2 km east of the Taree town centre. The site is around 20 ha and includes an unused dairy factory on Pitt Street, Chatham. The master plan allows for a range of uses across the site including open space, residential, commercial and tourism. A marina has also been included. The rezoning includes opening up the foreshore for public use and to create an off-road pedestrian/cycleway link between the Taree CBD and the recreation/entertainment precinct to the east of this site. The site will enable the construction of around 500 residential units and a range of commercial buildings for cafes, restaurants and other businesses.

NEWCASTLE LGA

The major residential development in the Newcastle LGA is focussed on a number of substantial apartment projects in and around the inner city.

The Store

A \$200 million redevelopment by the Doma Group is planned for The Store site in Newcastle West. The Store site's integrated masterplan will deliver a new 13,000sqm standalone office, retail and two residential towers and structured carpark that is built over the Newcastle Bus Interchange.



Artist's Aerial Impression of The Store Site

Lume Apartments

The \$47 million project consists of three dual-height buildings – seven stories fronting Honeysuckle Drive and two stories facing the harbour. The 154 residential units, consisting of a mix of one, two, three and four-bedroom units, also includes ten terrace-style dwellings and ground floor commercial/retail units to activate Honeysuckle Drive. The buildings will also feature 320 sqm of communal space featuring a gymnasium, swimming pool and common room. It will also include two levels of car parking providing 190 car park spaces and parking for 222 bicycles.

Huntington

Doma Group is constructing a major new residential and retail development vacant land at 35 Honeysuckle Drive in Newcastle. The design of Hunterington features 92 apartments and 1,533 sqm of retail space adjacent to Doma Group's residential development at 21 Honeysuckle Drive.

East End Project

The \$750 million East End project will be the largest master-planned mixed-use site in Newcastle. The current development application approves a master plan for a mix of residential, retail and commercial uses across the 1.66 ha site. The approved development application includes 47,800 sqm of residential floor space (approximately 500 apartments), 4,900 sqm of retail floor space and 2,700 sqm of commercial floor space. The \$250 million Stage One of East End, encompassing 155 apartments, was launched in September 2017. A DA for Stage 2 has been lodged with Newcastle City Council

Verve Residence

At 464 King Street, Newcastle, occupying 4585 sqm, the Verve Residence is a mixed use building development currently under construction. Offering a diverse range of residential apartment types, sizes and configurations Verve Residences has 197 residences in total, from 1, 2, 3 bedroom residences through to 5 bedroom sub penthouses and penthouse.

For further information visit www.ververesidences.com.au



Artist's Impression of the Lume Apartments



Artist's Impression of Huntington

Other developments

There is also a range of other apartment developments planned for Newcastle. These include:

- Herald Apartments – 120 apartments
- LIFE on Throsby – 40 apartments
- Peniche Apartments – 37 apartments
- Tattersall's Apartments – 53 apartments
- The Huxley Apartments – 64 apartments
- The Interchange Apartments – 32 apartments
- Aero Apartments – 42 apartments + 2 ground floor commercial spaces.
- West End Apartments – 120 apartments + 4 commercial suits
- Halcyon Residential & Little National Hotel - 52 units, 140 hotel rooms & 250 carparks
- Millhorn Apartments - 46 apartments
- Parry Grande - 31 large boutique apartments

PORT STEPHENS LGA

The Bower

McCloy Group has released The Bower, a spacious 127 hectare residential land estate located off Medowie Road in Medowie. It will consist of an estimated 20 homesites ranging from approximately 600 sqm to 4000 sqm across 57 ha (subject to council approval). The remaining 70 ha will be preserved as state conservation area and open space.

For further information visit www.thebowermedowie.com.au

Kings Hill

Kings Hill is a proposed master-planned north of Raymond Terrace. The Town Centre, which is focused around the foothill to the north and west, is planned to serve new residents as well as wider community as a unique tourist destination. It would be the largest Greenfield township development project in the Port Stephen's area, including 3,500 residential lots and a large town centre over an area of 512 ha.

SINGLETON LGA

Bridgman Ridge

Bridgman Ridge is located in Singleton North and is centred around open spaces with extensive cycle ways and walking paths. The estate will have 650 flat blocks in total over 30 stages, ranging from 600 to 2500 sqm. Stages 4a and 4b are currently for sale.

For further information visit www.bridgmanridge.com.au

UPPER HUNTER LGA

Aberdeen Heights Estate

This estate will include up to 150 lots on a site which takes advantage of views across the Hunter Valley. Stage 1 is a 34 lot subdivision. The gently sloping lots sized 837 to 1199 sqm are ready to build on.



The Verve Residence

AN ENVIABLE LIFESTYLE

As well as being an attractive business and investment location, the Hunter offers a lifestyle that is difficult to match.

The Region offers excellent educational and medical facilities, quality art centres and museums, first-rate dining and entertainment as well as every opportunity for the amateur and professional sports person. With an extensive array of scenic national parks, pristine beaches and waterways it is little wonder that most of those who move to the Region seldom leave.

Not only does the Hunter allow one to take advantage of superb cultural, educational, recreational and entertainment amenities, but it does so at a cost of living well below that of the major metropolitan areas across the country. Residents of the Hunter enjoy relatively affordable housing, easily accessible roads and transportation services and an unparalleled quality of life.

What makes the Hunter unique is that people have the opportunity to live in a broad range of city or suburban styles or become part of the many small towns and farming communities and enjoy the open spaces. With an excellent road and public transport system, getting around is quick and without the congestion of major capital cities. Working people moving to the Hunter from large cities find that the reduced travel times result in greater amounts of leisure time.

The Hunter truly has it all. It is a great place to live and work.



As well as being an excellent business and investment location, the Hunter offers a lifestyle that is difficult to match.

Real estate

The Hunter has experienced sustained growth in residential real estate across the Region, including the harbour and inner city urban renewal precincts of Newcastle as well as a range of new residential estates. Owning a home is still very achievable with Hunter residents enjoying high rates of home ownership. Whether looking for water views, a harbourside apartment, a rural retreat, a house in a new estate or established housing in one of the major metropolitan areas or smaller towns, the Hunter has something for everyone and every budget.

Home owners selling in Sydney and moving to the Hunter Region are usually able to significantly improve their cash resources, home environment and lifestyle.

The HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report released in October 2018 reported that the average cost of residential real estate in the Hunter was \$351 per sqm compared to \$1146 per sqm in Sydney.



Aerial view of Newcastle & Lake Macquarie

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Health and medical services

The Hunter has one of the most advanced health and medical systems in New South Wales, administered by the Hunter New England Health.

The major hospitals for the Hunter Region include John Hunter Hospital, John Hunter Children's Hospital, Calvary Mater Newcastle Royal Newcastle Centre, Maitland Hospital and Manning Hospital along with two mental health hospitals: the James Fletcher Hospital and Morisset Hospital. There is an array of smaller hospitals, district health services and community hospitals throughout the Region. In addition, over 20 private hospitals enhance the health services available to the community.

The Health Service works in partnership with the NSW Ambulance Service and the Hunter Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service to safely bring people to the facility that best serves their needs. These services operate across the whole Region.

Education

The Hunter has an excellent private and public school system with primary and high schools spread throughout.

Public schooling is well covered, with all residential areas served by infant, primary and strategically located high schools.

Merewether High School is one of 17 fully selective high schools in New South Wales providing an educationally enriched environment for high-achieving, academically-gifted students.

Hunter School of the Performing Arts HSPA is the only fully selective Year 3-12 performing arts school in NSW. It draws students from the Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter, Central Coast and further afield.

There is a variety of high quality private schools with a history of success. These include:

- Newcastle Grammar School - Newcastle
- Hunter Valley Grammar School - East Maitland
- Scone Grammar School - Scone
- Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College - Fletcher
- Macquarie College - Wallsend
- St Phillips Christian College – Campuses at Waratah, Salamander Bay and Cessnock
- Avondale College – Cooranbong
- Taree Christian College - Taree

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle provides educational services throughout the Region. The diocese extends from Lake Macquarie to Taree and as far inland as Merriwa and Murrurundi with 57 primary schools, high schools and colleges servicing all main towns.

Major Catholic schools include:

- St Francis Xavier - Hamilton
- St Pius X - Adamstown
- St Catherine's Catholic College - Singleton
- All Saints College - Maitland

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- St Clare's High School – Taree
- St Marys Catholic College – Gateshead
- St Pauls Catholic College – Booragul

With state-of-the-art facilities, the University of Newcastle offers innovative and inspiring approaches to delivering education across all locations. Their \$95 million NeW Space facility in the heart of Newcastle's CBD harnesses cutting-edge educational technology to deliver a world-class student experience. It is home to their world-class business, law and creative industries schools.

The University offers students, researchers and professional staff a great coastal lifestyle, and a healthy and supportive workplace. Campuses at Newcastle, Central Coast and Port Macquarie are located just minutes away from spectacular beaches, waterways, national parks and state forests. The University also has a strong presence in Sydney and Singapore.

Comprehensive support services on all campuses include career guidance, healthcare, banking, and sporting and cultural clubs. First-class sporting facilities are available on the Newcastle campus at the award-winning Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre. Additionally, the Forum Health and Wellness Centre in the Newcastle CBD offers a fully equipped gymnasium and access to a 25 metre harbourside pool.

The University of Newcastle is a recognised Employer of Choice for Gender Equality and are proud to be among the first group of Australian universities to pilot the Athena SWAN Charter under the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) program. The University offers a range of benefits and employment conditions that help staff balance their commitments, stay healthy and work effectively.

For more information about the University of Newcastle, visit Newcastle.edu.au

TAFE NSW has a major presence in the Hunter Region, with 14 campuses delivering high quality career orientated programs including short courses, TAFE for school programs, certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas and degrees in industry areas that you can't study at traditional universities or smaller training organisations.

Shopping

Anything you can buy in the cities, you can buy in the Hunter. Retail shopping is conveniently located across the Region.

Larger centres such as Westfield Shoppingtown at Kotara, Charlestown Square and Stockland Green Hills feature major retail outlets including David Jones, Myer, Kmart, Target, Coles and Woolworths, catering to the shopper's every wish.

The Hunter's retail sector continues to attract a large volume of investment, including a \$412 million redevelopment of the Stockland Green Hills Shopping Centre, a \$160 million upgrade to Westfield Kotara, a new \$90 million retail centre at Bennetts Green, and the multi-million dollar Levee Projects which is transforming Central Maitland for both retail and recreation.

Newcastle's inner-city rail line has been removed and is being replaced by light rail along Hunter Street, with first services scheduled to commence in early 2019. This is expected to be a boon to development in the Newcastle CBD and lead to substantial investment in new CBD retail facilities in coming years.

Sporting Recreation

Almost every sport imaginable can be played in the Hunter with top-class sporting facilities throughout the Region available for the player or spectator regardless of age.

Sporting teams at all levels from junior to adult compete across the Region in sports such as cricket, football, netball, basketball, horse

AN ENVIABLE LIFESTYLE

riding, rugby league, rugby union, AFL, hockey and ice hockey. Sailing is enjoyed on all the waterways, whether racing or cruising, and there is an exceptional choice of world-class golf courses.

The Region's strong sporting background is highlighted by the Newcastle Knights in the National Rugby League and the Newcastle Jets in the National A-League –each with a very strong fan base.

The NSW Government and the Wests Group have each contributed \$10 million for a Rugby League Centre of Excellence in Newcastle, which will provide state of the art facilities for the local community.

Several women teams, particularly the Newcastle Jets Women in the W-League, are also gaining strong supporter bases.

There are a variety of stadiums and sporting fields across the region. The 33,000 capacity McDonald Jones Stadium at Broadmeadow is home to the Newcastle Knights and Newcastle Jets, and is increasingly attracting other major national and international matches.

Surfing is a high participation sport in the Hunter because of the great selection of exceptional surfing beaches. Surfest, an international surfing event attracting the world's elite surfers, occurs annually at Mereweather Beach.

Glendale Sports and Athletic Centre, Hunter Sports Centre and the University's Forum Sports and Aquatic Centre are regularly used by

both the general public and elite athletes. Other major facilities include the YMCA Manning Aquatic Leisure Centre, Great Lakes Aquatic and Leisure Centre and many smaller centres across the region.

The Hunter has something to offer the outdoors lover. Superb national parks and wildlife reserves abound. Parts of the Barrington Tops National Park are world heritage listed and activities include bushwalking, eco-tourism facilities and white water rafting. Myall Lakes National Park in the Great Lakes district is around 44,000 ha. Watagan State Forest extends for over 7,000 ha, in Lake Macquarie and Blackbutt Reserve, just 15 minutes from Newcastle CBD, showcases native flora and fauna in vast unspoiled bushland.

The Hunter's array of pristine beaches, Lake Macquarie (Australia's largest saltwater lake), the Hunter River, Manning River, the bays of Port Stephens and the Wallis, Smith and Myall Lakes give residents the opportunity to relax and indulge in all kinds of water sports, including sailing, waterskiing, surfing, fishing and swimming.

Entertainment

There is a diverse range of entertainment available across the Hunter for singles and families.

Fine art collections are housed in the Newcastle Regional Gallery, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, Maitland Regional Art Gallery and the Manning Regional Art Gallery as well as more intimate galleries. The Newcastle Museum and the Maritime Museum have extensive collections to both educate and entertain.



McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle

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Freshest seafood, delicious cocktails and professional, friendly service.

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Newcastle's fully restored Civic Theatre is the venue for regular local, national and international performances and the Newcastle Entertainment Centre accommodates rock concerts, exhibitions and conventions. The Conservatorium of Music regularly hosts national and international musicians and performances. The Manning Entertainment Centre is a 505 seat theatre that offers first class facilities for the performing arts, from school productions and amateur theatre to artists of national and international acclaim. Wine Country venues such as The Tempus Two Winery, the Bimbadgen Estate and Hope Estate have a reputation for attracting major local and international artists. Across the Region, numerous registered clubs and hotels provide a range of entertainment options, from a place to meet friends to concerts of all types.

The Hunter has numerous cinema centres and one drive in for movie lovers.

The Hunter is also home to a wide range of annual festivals that attract many locals as well as an increasing number of visitors to the Region. These include Newcastle Jazz Festival, Opera by the Lake, Mattara Festival, Bitter & Twisted International Boutique Beer Festival, Real Film Festival, Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Festival, Upper Hunter Food & Wine Affair, Lovedale Long Lunch, Taree Aquatic Powerboat Easter Spectacular, Forster Dragon Boat Festival, Hunter Valley Steamfest, Dungog Rodeo, Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival, Festival of the Fleeces, Blue Water Country Music Festival and many others. A number of regional shows are also held annually.

Dining out

The Hunter's culinary delights are sure to tempt, with a vast array of dining experiences to enjoy throughout the Region. Diners can choose from alfresco dining in cosmopolitan cafés, craft beer restaurants, seafood restaurants by the water, quality rural establishments and much more. There's a place to suit every taste, mood and budget.

Transport

The Hunter is easily accessible by road, rail and air.

One of Australia's fastest growing airports, Newcastle Airport is just 25 minutes from the Newcastle CBD. It is serviced by Jetstar, Qantas, Virgin Australia, FlyPelican and Regional Express with direct flights to Ballina, Brisbane, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney. Virgin Australia has also commenced a direct service to Auckland. Further services are expected to be added in the near future. Newcastle Airport is now ready to receive international flights.

Commuter rail services operate passenger trains across the Hunter and link the Region to the East Coast of Australia via Cityrail and CountryLink.

While public transport links are extensive, many residents choose to drive because of the uncongested roads and ample parking facilities.

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The Hunter Region of NSW, Australia

**YOUR SMART BUSINESS,
INVESTMENT & LIFESTYLE CHOICE**

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Places of worship

The Hunter has a predominantly Christian community, with almost all denominations represented and many landmark churches across the Region. Newcastle is the seat of the Anglican and Catholic Hunter bishops

There is also a small but increasing number of follower of other religions in the Hunter, including Buddhism and Islam.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

The Hunter is divided into 10 Local Government Areas:

- Cessnock
- Dungog
- MidCoast
- Lake Macquarie
- Maitland
- Muswellbrook
- Newcastle
- Port Stephens
- Singleton
- Upper Hunter

Strategic Services Australia Ltd (formerly Hunter Councils) is the representative body of the ten LGA councils. It ensures strong communication between Mayors, Councillors and General Managers; shared professional expertise through staff forums and many inter-council collaborative projects.

Further information is available from their website at strategicservicesaustralia.com.au



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

CESSNOCK LGA

Area: 1,966 sq km
Population: 57,527 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 40 km west of Newcastle; 120 km north of Sydney

Cessnock offers significant advantages for businesses looking to establish or expand their presence in NSW's powerhouse economy, the Hunter Region. It is strategically located to service the surrounding region including Newcastle City, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, the Upper Hunter and the Central Coast.

Cessnock has a supportive and progressive business culture, abundant and affordable land, and established transport infrastructure, providing easy access to major domestic and international markets. This highly liveable area has an attractive setting, a good range of services and is where affordability parallels a strong sense of community. Cessnock is directly accessible from the M1 and New England Highways, both of which are part of the National Highway and National Road Freight networks. The Hunter Expressway lies along the northern boundary and provides access to the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.

The growth in coal mining in the Hunter Valley has resulted in a significant increase in major engineering construction projects within the Region, with projects including mine development, road, rail and port infrastructure projects.

Cessnock is a nominated growth area, with over 20,000 additional dwellings to be developed over the next decade. Residential growth has fuelled opportunities and a rise in demand for construction trades and businesses servicing populations such as in health, childcare and aged services.

Hunter Valley Wine Country is one of the top tourism destinations in Australia. A range of business opportunities exist to leverage from the prominent visitor economy in the arts, food and produce, agri-business and aviation. Cessnock Airport is the region's largest general aviation airport. There is a diversity of economic activities including mining, manufacturing, construction, services, tourism, cultural activities, agri-business, resource recycling, aviation, R&D and innovation. Cessnock is home to specialist training in hospitality, viticulture, horticulture, heavy machinery operations, aviation and maintenance.

The region has rich histories of convict, colonial and Aboriginal heritage, particularly in Wollombi Valley. Cessnock's natural environment has large expanses of untouched natural scenery bounded by National Parks and State Forests. The rural landscape provides beautiful scenery, with grazing and pastoral lands abound

For further information contact:
Acting Economic Development Manager: Rhiannon Stevens
Phone: +61 2 4993 4185
Email: rhiannon.stevens@cessnock.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au
Business and Investment Website and downloadable investment content available from: www.advancecessnockcity.com.au



Choose Cessnock:

- highly accessible – within two hours of Sydney and within one hour of Newcastle
- close proximity to expanding markets and ready access to a major export port and airports
- heart and home of Hunter Valley Wine Country, premier tourism destination
- attractive setting: quality scenic, rural and natural environments
- excellent range of services, affordable lands, low cost business environment
- high quality of life, affordable living, fast and easy commutes, growing population



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

DUNGOG LGA

Area: 2,250 sq km
Population: 9,198 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 76 km north of Newcastle

Dungog Shire is in the north-east corner of the Hunter Region and is renowned for its forests, mountains and picturesque towns and villages. Dungog Shire Council is committed to the preservation and protection of the Shire's natural environment and cultural heritage and offers a high quality rural lifestyle within 2.5 hours easy drive of Sydney.

The Shire's economy has traditionally been based on agriculture, grazing and timber, with the alluvial river flats suitable for intensive agricultural production. Tourism is also a focus of Dungog Shire's economy with the National Parks, State Forests, Chichester and Lostock Dams and the river systems as well as the historic and scenic character of the area providing the major focus for attracting visitors.

Dungog Shire's Economic Development Unit is involved in the attraction of innovative businesses, professionals and skilled tradespeople to the area through the development of strategies aimed at enhancing the opportunities available in the Shire and the wider Region.

A strong network of business and community groups within the Shire offer new businesses, investors and residents the opportunity to develop extensive networks within the area.

Mayor: Cr. Tracy Norman
General Manager: Coralie Nichols
Address: 198 Dowling Street, Dungog NSW 2420

For further information contact:
Manager, Business Strategy & Investment
Phone: +61 2 4995 7777
Fax: +61 2 4995 7750
Email: shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.dungog.nsw.gov.au and visit dungong.com.au



LAKE MACQUARIE LGA

Area: 649 sq km
Population: 203,823 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 110 km north of Sydney

With a population of over 205,000, geographic proximity to Sydney, a wealth of available land and an enviable lifestyle, Lake Macquarie is well positioned to be one of the most significant and liveable second tier cities in NSW.

Lake Macquarie is a vital industry hub strategically positioned as the mid-point between Brisbane and Melbourne, with capacity to serve local and international markets:

- 60 mins to Sydney and adjacent to the City of Newcastle
- Access to 3 airports: Newcastle, Sydney and newly redeveloped Lake Macquarie Airport
- 20 mins to the Port of Newcastle, Australia's largest east coast port
- 684 hectares of available land

It offers low development and operational costs, with an idyllic lifestyle for families and staff:

- Industrial land up to 80% less than Sydney
- Commercial rental 25% lower than Sydney
- Productive, skilled workforce of 81,000, with lower employee costs
- Affordable housing in exceptional coastal and lakeside locations

Lake Macquarie is preparing for the future with a focus on innovation:

- 650 sq km IoT infrastructure via LoRaWAN network
- Coworking spaces to support innovation
- Product development incubator and accelerator facility
- Emerging enterprise grade internet connectivity

It offers access to high quality infrastructure.

- Access to industrial grade power and water systems
- B-double road networks to major east west and north west national highways
- Efficient road and rail links

Dantia is the economic development company for Lake Macquarie City. Dantia's aim is to increase jobs and attract investment in Lake Macquarie. As a catalyst for growth and opportunity, Dantia is responsive and agile, bringing together diverse partners from government, commercial and industry to activate projects, lead and propel initiatives that benefit the City.

For further information:
Mayor: Cr Kay Fraser
CEO: Morvea Cameron

Economic Development: Derrek Lush
Phone: +61 488 068 448
Email: derrek@dantia.com.au
Websites: www.dantia.com.au and www.lakemac.com.au

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

MAITLAND LGA

Area: 392 sq km
Population: 81,235 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 27 km west of Newcastle, 170 km north of Sydney

Maitland is the fastest growing regional city in NSW with the community growing at a rate of around 1.6% pa and by 2036, it is expected that over 104,000 people will call Maitland home. Maitland continues to be a major growth corridor with a focus on industrial and commercial growth. Conveniently situated in the lower Hunter near two major transport routes, Maitland is only 30 minutes from the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport, and less than two hours from Sydney.

Globally connected with a strong economy led by construction, manufacturing, real estate, agriculture, mining and transport industries, Maitland is also becoming known for its retail, service and knowledge based sectors. Maitland City has been identified as a key contributor to the delivery of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and the Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plans, which aim to ensure the region, is one of Australia's leading economies.

Commerce is thriving with Maitland experiencing unprecedented investment. Central Maitland has undergone a transformation with the completion of the \$20 million award winning Levee development, and the city has embraced the \$412 million redevelopment of Stockland Green Hills in East Maitland. This inward investment is set to continue with the soon to be constructed new Maitland Hospital Precinct and the future transport infrastructure required to support this, which will see the entire region benefit. SMEs have used Maitland as a springboard for entrepreneurship creating an appealing retail business mix to match an already flourishing professional services and health industry and visitor economy.

Maitland's superb liveability and employment opportunities matched with enhancements to infrastructure and regional transport networks like the Hunter Expressway have fuelled ongoing commercial investment, business start ups and residential growth.

Untapped greenfield industrial land, infill development, commercial opportunities, and tourism potential are seeing many Sydney and International companies move to Maitland. Highly attractive industrial estates and developable land are being snapped up by developers and savvy investors.

Mayor: Cr Loretta Baker
General Manager: David Evans
Address: 285-287 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320

For further information contact:
City Economy Officer
Phone: +61 2 4934 6868
Email: business@maitland.nsw.gov.au
Website: maitland.nsw.gov.au



MIDCOAST LGA

Area: 10,053 sq km
Population: 92,569 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 76km north of Newcastle

The MidCoast region covers an 10,000 sq km and encompasses Gloucester and the Barrington Tops, Great Lakes, and the Manning Valley. With stable development, an unbeatable lifestyle and 196 cities, towns or villages to choose from, the MidCoast is open for business.

The main population centres in the MidCoast region are located within a short distance to the Pacific Highway providing commuters with dual carriageway to the cities of Sydney (3-4 hours) and Newcastle (under 2 hours). The Pacific Highway, running through the entire north - south length of the local government area, provides immense interconnectivity for the region. Taree is located adjacent to the Pacific Highway - a convenient location for freight and transport operations.

Stretching from Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens in the south, Diamond Head in the north and capturing the Barrington Tops to the west, the MidCoast region is defined by exceptional natural resources; 190 km of coastline, 1,808 sqkm of national parks, 85 sqkm of subtropical estuary and a community-focused outdoor lifestyle that supports a thriving coastal and rural economy. The MidCoast region has well established cultural services with both the Manning Regional Art Gallery and the Manning Entertainment Centre attracting high quality exhibitions and events.

The region has a strong tourism industry delivering social, economic, environmental benefits to the community. With over 1.86 million international and domestic visitors bringing \$570.4 million in annual revenue, tourism is one of the most important industries in the region. Estimates show the MidCoast tourism industry has the potential to grow to over A\$1.55 billion by 2030.

In addition to tourism, the region has a long-established agribusiness sector including beef cattle and dairy farming. Beef cattle production and processing employs over 1,000 workers in the region while there are over 150 separate dairy farms utilising coastal and hinterland pastures ideal for dairy cattle. The region is well suited to aquaculture activities including oyster farming and commercial fishing with many prosperous commercial operations in place.

Other major economic industries in the region include manufacturing, retail, construction, education, health, aged care and community services. Health care and social assistance is the largest industry employer in the MidCoast Council area making up 18.5% of total employment. These industries are well supported by the eight local business chambers across the MidCoast region.

Major investment opportunities exist for businesses that complement the area's environmental values and relaxed lifestyle attributes. MidCoast Council has undertaken a number of key projects to advance the economic opportunity of the area including the development of the Taree Aviation Business Park.

Mayor: Cr David West
General Manager: Adrian Panuccio
Offices: 4-8 Breese Parade, Forster NSW 2428; 2 Pulteney Street, Taree NSW 2430; 89 King Street, Gloucester NSW 2422

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

MUSWELLBROOK LGA

Area: 3,405 sq km
Population: 16,427 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 130 km north-west of Newcastle

Muswellbrook Shire is centrally located in the Upper Hunter Valley. Muswellbrook by road is approximately 3-hours from Sydney, 2 hours from Tamworth and 90 minutes from Newcastle. The Shire is rich in natural resources of which 1,455 sqkm (43%) is national parks. The area includes the World Heritage Wollemi National Park, productive agricultural land that traces the Goulburn and Hunter rivers and energy resources of state and national significance.

A number of diverse industries, including agriculture continue to shape Muswellbrook Shire. The area is home to the largest critical mass of thoroughbred rearing in Australia; recognised historically and internationally for premium wines; provides 40% of the state's base-load electricity, and has a coal industry that began in the late 1800's.

Industry in Muswellbrook includes coal mining, agriculture, viticulture, equine, and power generation. Muswellbrook LGA has experienced steady economic growth during the last two decades due to significant investment in the coal and energy industries. Presently, Muswellbrook is the main centre for the State's power generation and also the major centre of the State's coal mining activity.

However, the next few decades will be a period of transition for much of Shire's existing industrial base. AGL has announced closure dates for the Liddell and Bayswater power stations of 2022 and 2035 respectively. Muswellbrook Shire Council has acknowledged both the long-term transition of the thermal coal industry and the closure and transition of power generation and is committed to broadening the focus on the sustainability of the Shire's economic and employment base. In the long term, the development of new industries/businesses within the LGA should be driven by new trends in, and visions for economic diversification. It is expected that new agribusiness and other rural industries will progressively shift with the completion of existing mining supporting industrial activities.

Muswellbrook Shire Council's economic development strategies are closely linked to the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project Action Plan which sets renewed priorities for encouraging new business and employment opportunities and sustainable regional transition for the Upper Hunter Region.

Mayor: Cr Martin Rush
General Manager: Fiona Plesman
Address: 157 Maitland Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

For further information contact:
Phone: +61 2 6549 3700
Email: council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

NEWCASTLE LGA

Area: 187 sq km
Population: 162,480 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 170 km north of Sydney

Newcastle, north of Sydney, is fast emerging as a smart, liveable and sustainable global city.

The 2017-18 year was another record one on the development front, with building approvals topping \$1.2 billion on the back of strong inner-city residential activity.

Rising out of the city's post-industrial downturn is the revitalising \$650 million light rail project to open a historic main street to the harbour foreshore.

Beginning operation early in 2019, the light rail will soon traverse a \$750 redevelopment in the city's east and a gleaming, new West End CBD. Wide-scale revitalisation projects by the City of Newcastle, such as the landmark Bathers Way coastal walk and neighbourhood and public domain overhauls, are consolidating the building boom and ushering in a bright new era of tourism. Record numbers of visitors are flocking to the city each year to relax and attend major events, with international flights to Newcastle Airport and more and more passenger liners calling into port.

Newcastle boasts world-class university and research institutions, such as the CSIRO Energy Flagship, and extensive manufacturing and engineering capabilities in mining, port logistics, defence and aerospace.

Creative industries and a rapidly growing start-up scene have followed recent strong investment in the knowledge and health sectors. The new impetus has the University of Newcastle (UoN) expanding its inner-city presence to the harbour-side Honeysuckle precinct. Growth in the professional services sector is set to continue under strategic government plans to relocate white-collar jobs to a new West End CBD, closer to a newly built transport interchange.

Meanwhile, an ambitious partnership between UoN, City of Newcastle and local business improvement groups, is shaping the local 'smart' economy. The Hunter Innovation Project (HIP) features an innovation hub - to foster collaboration on urban challenges - as part of the soon-to-be-built Honeysuckle campus. The \$18 million HIP is also delivering world-class digitally connected public and urban infrastructure, such as WiFi-connected smart lighting poles and a long-range wide area network for data connectivity. The network will support wireless Internet of Things sensors and data-collecting devices to provide valuable insights to businesses, help motorists find parking spaces and better integrate transport.

They're just a few examples of how Newcastle is getting smarter to entice new residents, visitors and investment.

Lord Mayor: Cr Nuatali Nelmes
CEO: Jeremy Bath
Address: 282 King St, Newcastle NSW 2300

For further information:
Corporate & Community Planning Manager: Joe Vescio
Phone: +61 2 4974 2000
Email: mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.ncc.nsw.gov.au

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

PORT STEPHENS LGA

Area: 858.5 sq km
Population: 71, 716 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 170 km north of Sydney

Port Stephens is a significant economic hub with a diverse industry and employment base built around the natural environment. Well established manufacturing, defence and aviation facilities together with easy access to markets in Sydney, the Hunter and the Port of Newcastle, are key strengths.

Port Stephens GRP, estimated at \$4.88 billion per annum, accounts for 4.11% of the overall Hunter GDP. The major employment sectors include manufacturing, public administration & safety (defence), retail trade and accommodation & food services, collectively employing 56% of the 27,346 people working in the area. The local economy includes over 4,544 actively trading businesses.

Newcastle Airport is located in Port Stephens and is well recognised as a major economic driver for the Hunter, with over 1.2 million passengers per year and potential international capability to increase visitation to the area. Australia's premier pilot training facility, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base is located adjacent to the airport, together attracting innovative high-tech businesses to the area, with an adjoining significant defence and aviation hub leading the way in aerospace research and development.

Location and access to transport infrastructure creates a strong competitive advantage for Port Stephens, with key linkages to national markets via the M1 Pacific Motorway, Pacific Highway

Corridor and New England Highway. These transport networks support a robust manufacturing sector at Tomago leading in advanced metals manufacturing, heavy engineering, and light industrial operations.

As a major visitor destination in NSW, Port Stephens attracts more than 1.56 million visitors each year with its underwater marine oasis, kilometers of coastal bushland and the largest sand dunes in the southern hemisphere. Local festivals and high profile sporting events feature throughout the year, with visitors flocking to experience the unique natural attractions and taste the award winning craft beer, fresh seafood, and local culinary delights.

Port Stephens Council understands the important role it plays in the development of a strong and stable economy. Council is committed to driving results that make Port Stephens a better place to live, work and play. From young families to retirees, the residents of Port Stephens enjoy an abundance of lifestyle options without the high cost of city living. An investors' paradise, Port Stephens offers a great lifestyle in a treasured environment.

Contact Information:
Mayor: Cr Ryan Palmer
General Manager: Wayne Wallis
Address: 116 Adelaide Street, Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

For further information contact:
Economic Development Coordinator: Janelle Gardner
Phone: +61 2 4980 6906
Email: janelle.gardner@portstephens.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au



NEWCASTLE

Newcastle has a growing local economy with strong industries linked to national and international markets.

Vibrant and emerging businesses are thriving on innovation as they help create a smart, liveable and sustainable global city.

Economic profile is available at:
www.economicprofile.com.au/newcastle

For more information visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au or call **4974 2000** to speak to Council's Corporate & Community Planning Manager.

newcastle.nsw.gov.au



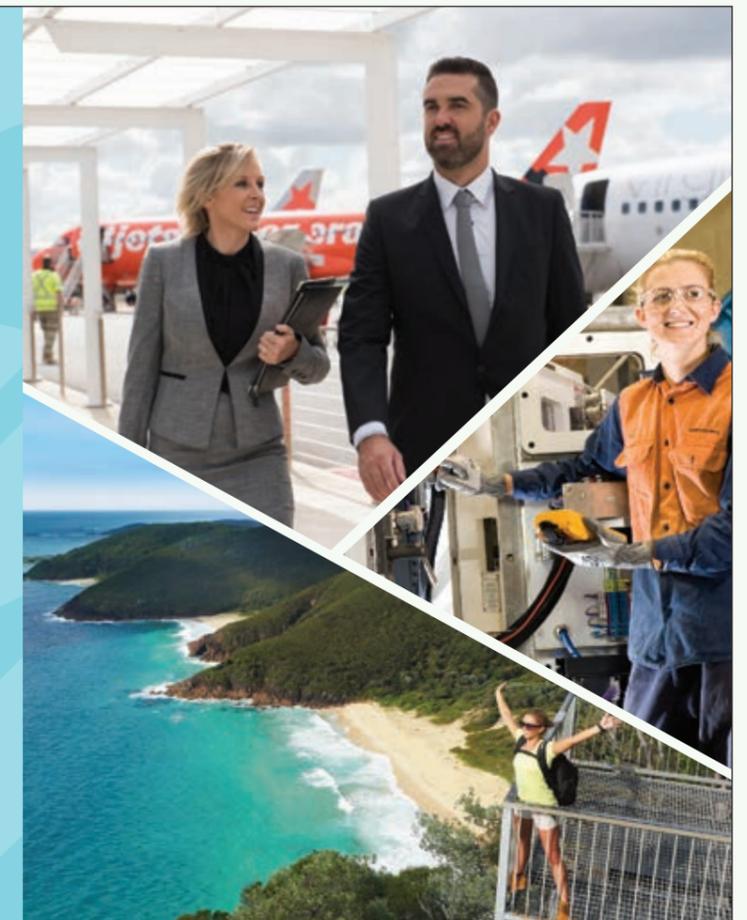
Port Stephens

An investors' paradise



A great lifestyle in a treasured environment

PORTSTEPHENS.NSW.GOV.AU



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

SINGLETON LGA

Area: 4,893 sq km
Population: 23,496 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 80 km west of Newcastle, 200 km north-west of Sydney

Singleton has undergone a reinvention as a sophisticated and cosmopolitan centre in recent years, led by the revitalised Town Centre and a conglomerate of lifestyle options covering dining, shopping and recreation.

Combined with a diverse industry base, skilled labour force and location on a major transport route, Singleton is an attractive business and commercial destination as the home of major industries including coal mining and construction, Defence, agricultural production and viticulture.

There is also a strong emphasis on community, with a cultural and social focus covering the arts, state-of-the-art sporting facilities and a sense of civic pride that make Singleton a desirable residential address.

As the gateway between the Upper and Lower Hunter, the newly opened Hunter Expressway has made Singleton even more accessible to the Port and coastal attractions of Newcastle, as well as an easy 2.5 hours' drive to Sydney. Rail and air transport links allow convenient access to major cities on the eastern seaboard and beyond.

Singleton also boasts natural attributes and historical significance, surrounded by the beauty of Lake St Clair, Mt Royal, Yengo and Wollemi National Parks and is an important centre of Aboriginal and colonial heritage.

Mayor: Cr Sue Moore
General Manager: Jason Linnane
Address: Civic Avenue, Singleton NSW 2330

For further information contact the Communication, Community and Economy team
Phone: +61 2 6578 7290
Website: www.singleton.nsw.gov.au and www.singletonbusiness.com



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

UPPER HUNTER LGA

Area: 8,095 sq km
Population: 14,316 (ABS 2017 ERP)
Location: 152 km north-west of Newcastle

The Upper Hunter LGA includes the major centres of Scone, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Aberdeen. The region is connected by the New England and Golden Highways and Northern Rail Line. The Upper Hunter Regional Airport at Scone services a number of charter businesses, aircraft construction/maintenance businesses and supports air traffic related to local business.

Predominantly a rural area, agriculture remains the main local economic driver which includes the second largest thoroughbred breeding industry in the world with its associated service industries. The Upper Hunter LGA is located just north of the coal mining centre of Muswellbrook, an easy drive for workers and businesses.

Plans are underway for implementation of the Airport Masterplan and construction of a Warbird Aviation Visitor Attraction, to house some of the rarest flying WWII aircraft in Australia as well as a modern terminal facility.

The Scone Regional Livestock Selling Centre, ranked in the top 10 in NSW, provides a vital service to the important cattle industry, local cattle abattoir and associated support services. A major upgrade of the saleyards is just being completed. Hunter Valley Meats Scone (JBS) is a major employer in the region. With Halal accreditation and an export licence supplying beef to most major Asian markets, it is an

important industry in the region employing over 400 workers. With approval for the Kyoto Energy Park (a 35 wind turbine and large solar farm) near Scone and the Liverpool Range Windfarm (288 turbines) being considered for approval to the western side of the shire, there are great opportunities for industries related to clean energy production to locate and expand in this thriving region.

Relatively inexpensive land provides significant opportunities for business relocation. Council and privately owned residential developments provide affordable housing in all the population centres. There is supply of industrial land in a range of sizes in Scone. With construction of the Scone bypass underway with completion by 2020, there are many opportunities for business investment and development within the Scone CBD. This coincides with the revitalisation of the four major towns of the shire. In line with developing the region as a visitor destination, Council is in the design phase for the Horse Centre of Australia, a major attraction centred around the significant equine industry of the region.

Council is looking for investors in clean energy projects, agricultural diversification and value adding industries and population support services such as accommodation and food providers.

Mayor: Cr Wayne Bedggood
General Manager: Steve McDonald
Address: 135 Liverpool Street, Scone NSW 2337

For further information contact:
Manager Business Services: David Gatwood
Phone: +61 2 6540 1100
Email: council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

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SINGLETON COUNCIL singleton.nsw.gov.au

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UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL

EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Australian Industry Group

Regional Manager Hunter, Central Coast & Northern NSW: Adrian Price
Suite 1 "Nautilus" 265 Wharf Road, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 8300
www.aigroup.com.au

Hunter Business Chamber

President: Hennie Du Ploy
Suite 1, Level 1, 165 Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow NSW 2292
Phone: +61 2 4969 9600
www.hunterbusinesschamber.com.au

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

Engineers Australia – Newcastle Division

President: Alice Howe
Suite 3, Tonella Business Centre
125 Bull St, Newcastle West NSW 2302
Phone: +61 2 4911 7310
www.engineersaustralia.org.au

Industrial Relations Society of New South Wales – Newcastle Branch

President: David Bliss
PO Box 393, Newcastle NSW 2300
http://irsnewcastle.wixsite.com/irsnewcastle

Newcastle Law Society

President: Gary Fox
PO Box 160, Warners Bay NSW 2282
Phone: +61 2 4948 5187
www.newcastlelawsociety.com.au

PROPERTY AND BUILDING INDUSTRY

Housing Industry Association – Hunter

Executive Director – Hunter: Craig Jennion
17 Murray Dwyer Circuit, Steel River Estate,
Mayfield West NSW 2304
Phone: +61 2 4014 2000
www.hia.com.au

Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation

Chief Executive: Michael Cassel
Level 5, 26 Honeysuckle Drive,
Newcastle NSW 2300
PO Box 813, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4904 2750
www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au

Master Builders Association of Newcastle

President: Matthew Haines
Level 1, 165 Lambton Road, Broadmeadow NSW 2292
PO Box 266, HRMC NSW 2310
Phone: +61 2 4953 9400
www.newcastle-mba.com.au

Property Council of Australia – Hunter Chapter

Regional Director for the Hunter: Anita Hugo
Level 2, 384 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4927 1550
www.propertycouncil.com.au

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Destination NSW

Chief Executive Offer: Sandra Chipchase
GPO Box 7050,
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone: +61 2 9931 1111
www.destinationnsw.com.au/

Denman Community Technology Centre & Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Ogilvie & Palace Streets, Denman NSW 2328
PO Box 62
Phone: +61 2 6547 2799
www.visitdenman.com.au

Destination Port Stephens

Marketing Manager: Natalie Compton
Shop 32a, 71 Victoria Parade, Nelson Bay NSW 2315
Phone: +61 2 4981 2964
www.portstephentourism.com.au

Dungog Shire Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Brown & Dowling Streets, Dungog NSW 2420
Phone: +61 2 4992 2212
www.visitdungog.com.au

Gloucester Visitors Information Centre

27 Denison Street, Gloucester NSW 2422
Phone: +61 2 6538 5252
www.visitgloucester.com.au

Great Lakes Tourism

Marketing & Business Development: Sharon Bultitude
12 Little Street, Forster NSW 2428
Phone: +61 2 6554 8799
www.greatlakes.org.au

Hunter Valley Visitor Centre

455 Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin NSW 2320
Phone: +61 2 4993 6700
www.huntervalleyvisitorcentre.com.au

Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association

General Manager: Jo Thomas
PO Box 352, Cessnock NSW 2325
Phone: +61 2 4990 0900
www.winecountry.com.au

Lake Macquarie Tourism

Lake Macquarie Visitor Information Centre,
228 Pacific Highway, Swansea NSW 2281
Phone: +61 1800 802 044
www.visitlakemac.com.au

Maitland Visitor Information Centre

Ministers Park, Cnr New England Highway and High Street,
Maitland NSW 2320
Phone: +61 2 4931 2800
www.mymaitland.com.au

Manning Valley Tourism

21 Manning River Drive, Taree North NSW 2430
Phone: +61 1800 182 733
www.visitmanningvalley.com.au

Merriwa Visitor Information & CTC Centre

Tourism and Events Officer: Peta Luke
34-40 Vennacher Street, Merriwa NSW 2329
Phone: +61 2 6521 7046
www.upperhuntercountry.com.au

Murrurundi Visitor Information Centre

Coordinator: Carolyn Farrow
47 Mayne Street, Murrurundi NSW 2338
Phone: +61 2 6546 6446
www.upperhuntercountry.com.au

Muswellbrook Visitor Information Centre

Muswellbrook Regional Library,
126 Bridges St, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Phone: +61 2 6549 3891
www.upperhuntercountry.com.au

Newcastle Tourism Industry Group

Chairperson: David Brown
PO Box 489, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4907 5000
www.ntig.org.au

Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre

60 Victoria Parade, Nelson Bay NSW 2315
PO Box 435, Nelson Bay NSW 2315
Phone: +61 1800 808 900
www.portstephens.org.au

Scone Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Kelly & Susan Streets, Scone NSW 2337
Phone: +61 2 6540 1300
www.upperhuntercountry.com.au

Singleton Visitor Information & Enterprise Centre

Townhead Park, New England Highway,
Singleton NSW 2330
Phone: +61 1800 499 888
https://winecountry.com.au/singleton

SUPPORT NETWORKS

Business Growth Centre

Provides a Business Incubator, business training and business information advisory and support services.
Acting CEO: Graeme Hooper
48 Oakdale Road, Gateshead NSW 2290
Phone: +61 2 4942 3133
www.businessgrowthcentre.org.au

Dantia

Dantia works with business, government, the community and partners to advance the sustainable economic prosperity of Lake Macquarie City.
CEO: Peter Francis
Level 1, 63 Ridley St Charlestown NSW 2290
Phone: +61 438 105 812
www.dantia.com.au

Hunter Joint Organisation

Fosters co-operation and resource sharing between its 12 member councils, encourages investment and advocates for the local government areas it represents.
CEO: Roger Stephan
PO Box 3137, Thornton NSW 2322
Phone: +61 2 4978 4040
www.strategicservicesaustralia.com.au

HunterNet Co-operative Limited

A network of the Region's small to medium sized engineering and manufacturing companies.
Chief Executive Officer: Tony Cade
Level 3, 755 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 4482
www.hunternet.com.au

Hunter Region Business Hub

Provides information, training and support for business development, for new and existing businesses.
Manager: Kerry Hallett
PO Box 195, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327
Phone: +61 2 4936 2557
www.huntervalleyhub.com.au

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Regional Development Australia – Hunter

RDA Hunter collaborates to support economic development of our region.
PO Box 159, Hamilton NSW 2303
Phone: +61 2 4940 8355
www.rdahunter.org.au

The Business Centre (Newcastle Region)

The Business Centre offers a range of services dedicated to increasing the growth and sustainability of small to medium business, including Business Advice and Mentoring Programs, Workshops and Training, Business Group Discussions, Serviced & Virtual Offices as well as Meeting, Function and Conference Room Hire.
CEO: Pierre Malou
6 Dick St, Newcastle West NSW 2302
Phone: +61 2 4925 7700
www.businesscentre.com.au

RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

Hunter Research Foundation Centre (HRFC)

The Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre at the University of Newcastle conducts a regional program of academic research using the Hunter region as an exemplar. The Centre focuses on developing and sharing deep knowledge and insight on the dynamics of regions in transition. It is a leader in delivering engaged research through outreach and engagement. That includes regular economic breakfasts in Newcastle and Muswellbrook.
409 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4985 4311
www.newcastle.edu.au/hrfc

Newcastle Innovation

Newcastle Innovation is the technology transfer and contract research office of the University of Newcastle. Since its inception in 1969, Newcastle Innovation has facilitated the transfer of knowledge, technology and scientific research from the University to commercial partners.
IDC, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308
Phone: +61 2 4921 8777
<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/innovation/newcastle-innovation>

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Hunter Business Chamber

President: Hennie du Plooy
Chief Executive Officer: Bob Hawes
165 Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow NSW 2292
Phone: +61 2 4969 9600
www.hunterbusinesschamber.com.au

Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc.

President: John Sahyuon
PO Box 30, Bulahdelah NSW 2423
Phone: +61 2 4997 4764
www.bulahdelah.nsw.au

Central Hunter Business Chamber

President: Brett Wild
Phone: +61 4938 3710
www.branxtongreta.com.au

Cessnock Chamber of Commerce

President: Clint Ekert
PO Box 329, Cessnock NSW 2325
Phone: +61 428 295 678
www.cessnockchamber.com.au

Denman Chamber of Commerce

President: Amanda Collins
PO Box 115, Denman NSW 2328
Phone: +61 427 062 885
www.visitdenman.com.au

Dungog District Chamber of Commerce

President: Jennifer Lewis
PO Box 210, Dungog NSW 2420
Phone: +61 2 4992 1441
www.ddcc.org.au

Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber Inc

President: Gary Gersbach
PO Box 380, Forster NSW 2428
Phone: +61 0499 779 972
www.ftchamber.com.au

Gloucester Chamber of Commerce

President: Stuart Carruthers
PO Box 111, Gloucester NSW 2422
Phone: +61 408 445 326
www.gloucesterchamber.com.au

Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

President: Nathan Errington
PO Box 92, Hamilton NSW 2303
Phone: +61 4 2536 9445
www.hamiltonchamber.com.au

Harrington and Crowdy Head Chamber of Commerce

President: Cliff Hoare
PO Box 1, Harrington NSW 2427
Phone: +61 2 6556 0468
www.harringtonandsurrounds.com

Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber

President: Kerry Hallett
PO Box 255, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327
Phone: +61 2 4936 2557
www.kurrikurri.com

Lake Macquarie Business Ltd

President: Kris Leck
PO Box 296, Belmont NSW 2280
Phone: +61 2 4971 4020
www.lakemacbusiness.com.au

Lovedale Chamber of Commerce

President: Alex Stuart
701 Lovedale Road, Rothbury, NSW 2320
www.lovedalehuntervalley.com.au

Maitland Business Chamber

President: Matthew Bardwell
PO Box 77, Maitland NSW 2323
Phone: +61 2 4293 4340
www.maitlandbusiness.com.au

Mandurah Hunter Indigenous Business Chamber

CEO & Chairperson: Debbie Barwick
5/34 Racecourse Road, Rutherford NSW 2320
Phone: +61 2 4932 7722
<https://nswicc.com.au/mandurah-hibc/>

Mayfield Business Association

Coordinator: Ivor Davies
PO Box 235, Mayfield NSW 2304
Phone: +61 406 757 280
www.thisismayfield.com

Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc

President: Mike Kelly
PO Box 683, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Phone: +61 6541 1285
Website: www.muswellbrookchamberofcommerce.com.au

Myall Coast Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc.

President: Graham Lang
PO Box 70, Hawks Nest NSW 2324
Phone: +61 400 018 197
www.myallcoast.org.au

New Lambton Village Community Chamber Inc.

9 Alma Road, New Lambton NSW 2305
Phone: +61 2 4957 1405
www.newlambtonvillage.com

Newcastle Now

Chairperson: Edward Duc
PO Box 930, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4929 4644
www.newcastlenow.org.au

Northlakes Chamber of Commerce

President: Max McCorkell
PO Box 218, Cardiff NSW 2285
Phone: +61 401 102 285

Old Bar Manning Point Business & Community Association

President: Carole Isaacs
PO Box 187, Old Bar NSW 2430
Phone: +61 488 493 234
www.obmp.com.au

Scone Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.

President: David Luck
PO Box 100, Scone NSW 2337
Phone: +61 408 966 979
www.sconechamber.com.au

Singleton Business Chamber

President: Sue Gilroy
PO Box 298, Singleton NSW 2330
Phone: +61 400 460 412
www.singletonchamber.org.au

Southlake Business Chamber and Community Alliance

President: Fiona Hall
143 Dora Street, Morisset NSW 2264
Phone: +61 2 4973 7004
www.southlakemac.com

Taree Business Chamber

President: John Stevens
PO Box 805, Taree NSW 2430
Phone: +61 417 8 74 717
www.facebook.com/TareeBusinessChamber/

Throsby Basin Business Chamber

President: Lynne Hopson
93A Young Street, Carrington NSW 2294
Phone: +61 422 234 300
www.throsbybasinbc.com

Tomaree Business Chamber

President: Leah Anderson
PO Box 6, Nelson Bay NSW 2315
Phone: +61 2 4984 4751
www.nelsonbaybusiness.com

Toronto Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.

Secretary: Brenda Hartmire
PO Box 382, Toronto NSW 2283
Phone: +61 2 4917 3348
www.toronto.com.au

Warners Bay Chamber of Commerce & Industry

President: Murray Halyburton
PO Box 722, Warners Bay NSW 2282
Phone: +61 458 549 222
www.warnersbay.net.au

Wallsend Town Business Association

Chairperson: Tiffanie Campbell
PO Box 218, Wallsend NSW 2287
Phone: +61 2 4950 1878
www.wallsendtown.com.au

Wingham Chamber of Commerce

President: Liz Jarvis
PO Box 25, Wingham NSW 2429
www.winghamchamber.com.au/our-chamber



GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Hunter businesses are well placed to access government assistance, with a number of State and Federal Government departments and agencies providing business support services having Hunter-based offices.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter

Led by a Board of regional business and community representatives, RDA Hunter actively supports the economic development of the Hunter region.

RDA Hunter works in partnerships with the three levels of government, industry, other RDAs and local communities to create local jobs, attract investment, encourage innovation, and promote the regional economic development of the Hunter. Through engaging closely with entrepreneurs and emerging business leaders, RDA Hunter is exploring new opportunities to create a strong local economy and the skilled workforce of the future.

RDA Hunter:

- Collaborates with relevant stakeholders to identify economic opportunities
- Promotes and disseminates information on Australian Government policies and programs
- Supports the community to access government funding programs
- Explores opportunities for regional jobs growth
- Facilitates public and private sector decentralisation

Contact: Director of Regional Development & Executive Officer: Trevor John

Phone: +61 2 4940 8355

Email: admin@rdahunter.org.au

Web: www.rdahunter.org.au

AUSINDUSTRY

The Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science through AusIndustry provides Australian businesses with information and advice to help them innovate, grow and be competitive.

AusIndustry is simplifying and streamlining access to information and advice. Through business.gov.au, contact centre 13 28 46 and our National Outreach Network of offices in all states, territories and many regions, businesses can get information and help. AusIndustry has a regional office based in the Hunter to provide localised customer service.

Contacts: Tim Cotter and Dr. Natalie Gillam

Phone: +61 2 4014 5977 / +61 2 4014 5922

Email: Tim.Cotter@industry.gov.au / Natalie.Gillam@industry.gov.au

Web: www.business.gov.au

DPC Regional, Department of Premier and Cabinet

The NSW Government can help you to start, scale-up, or innovate your business.

The DPC Regional team can offer assistance with:

- facilitation, including local introductions, site selection and liaison with government agencies;
- project scoping, advisory stakeholder consultation, project management, and potential project funding;
- business process improvement support; and
- access to the regional and international network of investment specialists ready to help identify opportunities, develop strategic partnerships and provide advice.

Contact: Level 5, 26 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: +61 2 4921 2655

Email: laila.christensen@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.nsw.gov.au

AUSTRADE

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission – Austrade – contributes to Australia's economic prosperity by helping Australian businesses, education institutions, tourism operators, governments and citizens as they:

- develop international markets
- win productive foreign direct investment
- promote international education
- strengthen Australia's tourism industry
- seek consular and passport services.

Austrade helps companies around the world to identify and take up investment opportunities in Australia as well as to source Australian goods and services. Assistance includes:

- providing insight on Australian capabilities
- identifying potential investment projects and strategic alliance partners
- helping to identify and contact Australian suppliers.

Contact: Austrade Regional Representative: Isaac Court
Level 2, 755 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: +61 2 4925 8777

Email: isaac.court@austrade.gov.au

Website: www.austrade.gov.au



SUPPORTERS

Hunter Business Publications thanks the following organisations for their support of the Hunter Investment Prospectus and the continued growth of the Hunter Region

GOLD SUPPORTERS

Four Walls Commercial

Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation

Hunter Research Foundation Centre

Knight Frank

Lockheed Martin

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Southern Cross Austereo

The Port of Newcastle

The University of Newcastle

SILVER SUPPORTERS

Ai Group

APP Corporation

Cessnock City Council

Collaborative Construction Solutions

Dowling Commercial

EJE Architecture

Evoke

GHD

Hunter Region Business Hub

HunterNet

MBA Newcastle

McNamara Adams

Muswellbrook Council

NCP Printing

Newcastle Airport

North Constructions

Port Stephens Council

Raine & Horne Newcastle

Red Eye Constructions

Scorpion International

Scratchley's on the Wharf

Singleton Council

Stolthaven

The City of Newcastle

Upper Shire Council

BRONZE SUPPORTERS

Brain Industries

Hunter Water

WEA Hunter



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