

2023

HUNTER INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS



**YOUR NEXT SMART BUSINESS,
INVESTMENT & LIFESTYLE MOVE**

THE HUNTER REGION

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST REGIONAL ECONOMY

The Hunter Region in NSW is Australia's largest regional economy, with a gross regional product of over \$47 billion pa and a population of nearly 775,000 (2021 ABS Estimated Resident Population).

It has significantly greater population and gross regional product than ACT, Northern Territory or Tasmania.

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 sharing, industry and innovation. It has a dynamic start-up sector and many global companies across industries including aerospace, advanced manufacturing, mining and defence. It is also a rapidly growing centre for renewable energy.

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 Australia's largest city, Sydney and easy connections to Australia's other capital cities.

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST REGIONAL ECONOMY



Australia's largest regional economy with over \$47 billion gross regional output and over 53,000 businesses (June 2021)



The Port of Newcastle is one of Australia's largest ports with \$37 billion of cargo in 2021



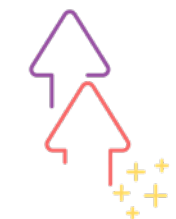
Over 1.2 million annual passenger movements through Newcastle Airport



Close proximity to major Australian markets



Global top 200 university



Population of 774,587 (ABS June 2021 ERP)



Much lower property costs than capital cities



Greater Newcastle is Australia's 7th largest city



Highly skilled workforce



Enviably lifestyle

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

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Hunter region has it all: natural attractions, leisure activities and an unbeatable lifestyle. It boasts Australia's largest regional economy, supported by a skilled and professional workforce, jobs in research, tourism, manufacturing, mining, energy, agriculture and defence, and easy transport links that connect the Hunter with the rest of Australia and the world.

It's a winning combination to invest, do business and live - which is why so many domestic and international visitors come to the Hunter every year.

As a frequent traveller to the Hunter, I know it to be a place of heritage, beauty, and reinvention. It's a place of opportunity where so much of our nation's future prosperity lies.

The Federal Government is doing its part to back the region's exciting future. Our Lake Macquarie Economic Development package will unlock economic benefits for the region, helping to create jobs and deliver critical infrastructure.

We're providing \$55 million for upgrades to the international terminal at Newcastle Airport, \$269 million for the Muswellbrook bypass, \$500 million for early works for high-speed rail and \$56 million for the Mandalong Road upgrade at Morisset.

I'm also pleased to be helping the region innovate, grow new industries, create jobs, and support new forms of energy. That's why we are investing to develop hydrogen hubs in the Hunter, and to make the Port of Newcastle hydrogen ready.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Welcome to the 2023 Hunter Investment Prospectus – your gateway to the world of opportunity represented in Australia's most populous and largest regional economy: the Hunter.

The Hunter economy has grown by over 50% since 2011, employing almost 300,000 of our State's 3.4 million person workforce, and contributing \$130 billion to the \$1.3 trillion economy of New South Wales. As the Hunter goes from strength to strength, the NSW Government is building on the region's strong foundations, and we invite you to be part of this exciting transformation.

Major new road and transport infrastructure is making connectivity in one of Australia's best-connected regions even better, with highway upgrades, the Newcastle CBD light rail, and a \$500 million investment in faster rail to cut travel times between Newcastle and Sydney to as little as an hour.

This critical infrastructure is helping to ensure the region grows well, with sustainable and carefully planned housing development opportunities, and world-class services to support the growing population, including the \$835 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct.

Our infrastructure investment is targeted to support growth industries of the future, such as the Williamstown Special Activation Precinct, which will turbocharge the Hunter's long-standing defence sector presence, creating an estimated 4,300 new jobs, attracting highly skilled workers and stimulating education and training opportunities.

We're also funding more than 900 new student places at the University of Newcastle and we've dedicated \$16 million for an energy research and testing centre there too.

Additional fee-free TAFE places in areas of skills shortage are in the mix as well, and will ensure the region can continue to attract the next generation of innovative thinkers, and that Hunter businesses can capitalise on their skills.

Local residents will also benefit from improved access to health care, with the restoration of the GP Access After Hours program, the establishment of a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, and the reopening of the Kaden Centre – a vital service for residents living with cancer.

This is how the Government is ensuring the people and businesses of the Hunter region remain dynamic, resilient and creative. The Hunter's past has been brilliant – I am confident its future is bright too.

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia



The Hunter is also at the heart of our Government's ambitious NSW Electricity Strategy, thanks to its excellent renewable energy resources, existing power generation and electricity network infrastructure, port and transport infrastructure and a skilled workforce. A new 500 megawatt battery recently received planning approval in the region, and the NSW Government has also named the Hunter one of two key regions in NSW to be developed into a major green hydrogen hub.

These are just a few of the new opportunities being created in one of Australia's most economically diverse regions, and through initiatives like our \$110 million Regional Investment Activation Fund, we are making it easier than ever for you to invest and be part of the Hunter's next chapter.

With pristine environmental wonders, stunning beaches, a thriving tourism sector and an enviable lifestyle on offer, the Hunter will continue to be a highly attractive region to live, work, run a business, and visit, and we look forward to working with you to be a part of its future success.

Dominic Perrottet MP
Premier of New South Wales



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Hot air balloons over the Hunter Valley
Josh Vincent & Cessnock City Council

Economic Powerhouse

The Hunter Region of New South excels in so many areas it should be included in any considerations for a business, investment or lifestyle choice.

It 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. It is the largest regional economy in Australia.

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 774,587 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2021 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 currently comprises over 8% of economic activity in New South Wales, with estimated Gross Regional Product of over \$47 billion — making it Australia’s largest regional economy. For coming decades, the Hunter economy is expected to grow at a faster rate than the NSW state average.

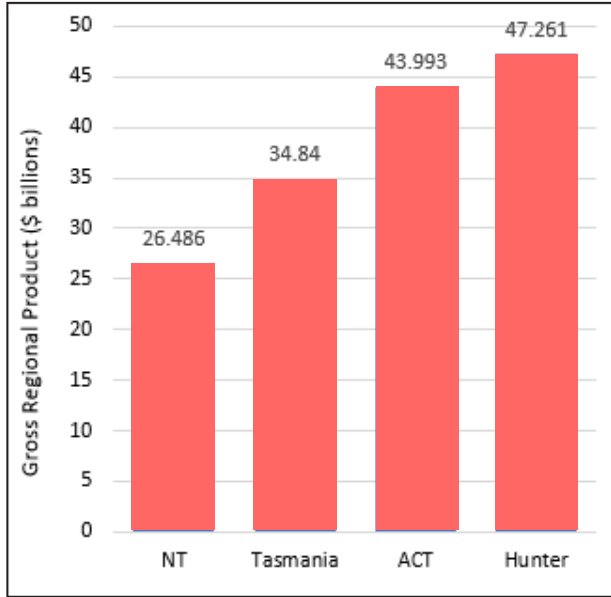
In recent years, there has been an increased interest in people and businesses relocating to regional areas and this has accelerated since COVID has made many re-evaluate their work-life mix and the greater use of working from home.

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.

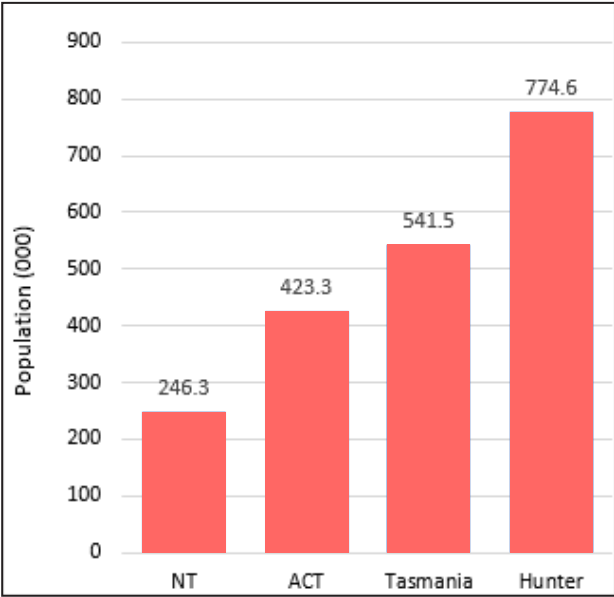
In December 2022, the NSW Government released the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 which predicts a population of almost 1 million people by 2041. Highlights of the plan include: greater diversification of employment, mining and energy; new approach to sequencing planning for new land uses and infrastructure to accelerate proposals; new pathways to promote economic self-determination, more meaningfully recognise and respect Traditional Custodians; net zero emissions as a guiding principle for all planning decisions; embedding resilience in planning and design decisions; a focus on 15-minute mixed use neighbourhoods; a preference for infill development rather than greenfield development; a renewed focus on green infrastructure, public spaces and nature; better access to and networks of walking, cycling and public transport; a greater focus on equity, meaning that people have greater choice in where and how they live, how they travel and where and how they work.

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

Comparative Economic Outputs (.id 2020-2021)



Comparative populations (ABS 2021 ERP)



Economic Powerhouse



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, manufacturing, wine and agriculture which are often associated with the Region.

Whilst the historic industries continue as major contributors, the Hunter undergone substantial structural changes in recent decades, including considerable diversification in industry sectors and expansion in broad service sectors. There is also currently a rapidly growing emphasis on green industries, supported by all levels government.

The Region is embracing innovation as a major economic driver, with industries in the Hunter being 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.

INDUSTRY GROWTH FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Your Industry Development Partner

The Hunter has the proven health & research smarts, track record, and infrastructure to deliver new-to-the-world innovations. Ask us about investment opportunities in digital health, medical devices, rapid prototyping and product development partnerships.

Connect with the Hunter’s growing health & medtech industry sector & discover more about HMIC, the Hunter’s Health & Medtech Industry Cluster + our events

www.hmic.org.au

Economic Powerhouse

The Newcastle CBD has experienced major changes in recent years, with the NSW Government's investment of \$650 million starting from 2015 being the catalyst for massive investment from the private sector which has invested billions of dollars, with numerous significant commercial and residential developments completed and many other planned or under construction.

There are a number of revitalisation projects underway in other centres around the Hunter, including, but not limited to, 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.* !!

Tempting Your Team Back to the Office.

With unemployment at record lows, employers are finding that the carrot beats the stick when tempting their team back into the office.

Team presence helps to develop a stronger workplace culture through better team connection; collaboration is also easier and more spontaneous. Whilst working at the office workers miss the convenience and flexibility with remote working. Research shows us that most people do not want to work remotely full-time.

Start an open conversation and let people know that you respect their time and independence. Introduce hybrid working to provide flexibility. If employees feel listened to and appreciated, they will be tempted back to the office because it is the place where their health and well-being is most supported.

To discuss workplace design and fit-out ideas to tempt your team back to the office, please call Evoke Projects on 1300 720 692 or visit evokeprojects.com.au



Contribution to the Region WINNER



"OOTS is everything Newcastle, they support their community and show they truly care"

Danielle Foster, Community Relations Coordinator, Cancer Council NSW, Newcastle and Hunter

"As a region we are fortunate to have an organisation as passionate and caring as OOTS"

Donna Horsey, Head of Fundraising, Ronald McDonald Charities NSW

"OOTS is a great advocate for Newcastle and the Hunter"

Bob Hawes, CEO, Business Hunter

"OOTS put people first, this is a sign of an organisation with soul"

Rick Prosser, CEO, Soul Café

"OOTS's proactive compassion is second to none"

Michael Parker, President, Molycop Australia

"Without OOTS's selfless contribution we would have not succeeded as we did"

Kay Lane, OAM, Aid Concert for Ukraine

"OOTS's sense of purpose is demonstrated in knowing what is needed and when it's needed"

Rob Sams, CEO, Lifeline Direct Services & Volunteer Crisis Supporter

"OOTS makes things that should happen – happen!"

John Quaife AM, Air Vice-Marshal (retired) Hunter Defence Support Network



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Defy Expectations!

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 has experienced a continued upward trend in employment. Before this period, unemployment rates in the Hunter were usually significantly higher than state and national averages, which saw many locals moving to Sydney and other major centres in search 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 34,849 people left Sydney in the 2020-2021 financial year. With a growing economy, relatively low property prices, an excellent quality of life and proximity to Sydney, the Hunter has been an increasingly popular destination for a significant number of these people.

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

The Hunter has an estimated workforce of 364,499 (June 2021, Australian Government Labour Market Information Portal) and is

characterised by high skill levels and particularly strong growth in the knowledge-based sectors.

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 165,000, 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 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 - Business Hunter and Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) - as well as a number of industrial advocates.



Photo credit: BAE Systems Australia

**There has never been
a better time to invest
in the Hunter.**



The Department of Regional NSW leads investment attraction, promotion and strategy work across regional NSW.

The Hunter-Central Coast Regional Development team provides end-to-end support for businesses wishing to set up or expand their operations in the Hunter and Central Coast and holds specialist expertise in investment attraction and knowledge in key engine, emerging and new industries.

It works closely with the NSW Government's overseas trade representatives to attract investment and talent, and connect into innovation ecosystems.

**CONTACT: Department of Regional NSW -
Regional.HunterCentralCoast@regional.nsw.gov.au**

Economic Powerhouse

TRAINING & EDUCATION

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.

University of Newcastle

A university of and for its regions, the University of Newcastle has delivered superior education and world-class research since 1965. By working with industry, community and government partners, the University translates new knowledge into innovations that make a real difference - to its communities, economy and the planet.

More than 39,000 students from 112 nations study at the University of Newcastle each year and the institution is committed to helping every one of those students have an outstanding experience during that time.

The institution's vibrant campuses across Newcastle City, Callaghan, Ourimbah, Sydney and Singapore provide spaces to learn, socialise and collaborate. Regardless of their course, every student is encouraged to take up the opportunity to work with industry as part of their study - this is known as work-integrated learning. It means graduates are ready for the jobs and innovations of the future.

The University of Newcastle is guided by the Looking Ahead Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which stands on four core values: excellence, equity, engagement and sustainability. They underpin the University's activities, drive research and also drive every student interaction, enrolment, and experience.

The University of Newcastle is the sector leader in Indigenous student enrolments and the employment of Indigenous staff. In 2022, through the work of Indigenous staff, communities, Elders and The Wollotuka Institute, the University has increased its exceptional record in Indigenous education, with Indigenous students making up 4.5% of total domestic enrolments - the largest percentage ever at the institution.

To find out more, visit www.newcastle.edu.au

PREPARING LIFE-READY GRADUATES



Work integrated learning in every program means our students are equipped with real-world skills and knowledge to succeed. These powerful learning experiences ensure students develop skills for their future workplace as well as for life after they graduate.

2022 1010 CRICOS Provider 001093



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Economic Powerhouse

TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW is the leading provider of vocational education and training in Australia. Each year, more than 430,000 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

UNE Taree provides access to a range of services to support students while they study. Staff are on hand to help with any questions about applying to study at UNE and to provide advice, support and assistance. Secure after-hours access is also available.

Nihon University

Tokyo-based Nihon University welcomed the first students to its new international campus in Newcastle in January 2022. With over 70,000 students, Nihon University is the largest private educational institution in Japan. Originally founded in 1189 as the Nihon Law School, the University now comprises 16 colleges, 20 postgraduate schools, and 32 research institutes. The Newcastle campus is the University's first overseas location.

Atwea

Atwea College (formerly WEA Hunter) is an education facility that has existed to support the learning needs of its community for more than a century.

In its role in high school, lifestyle and vocational learning it aims to be ahead of the curve and ensure that it can provide the right learning outcomes to support the economic prosperity of our region. This includes working with businesses, government agencies, regulators and students to identify and provide the skills and education that support business growth, employment opportunities and social engagement.

Strategically, its size and understanding of its place also provides it with an agile approach to education that extends well beyond traditional educational roles. Atwea is the chosen place for thousands of people every year to access skills training and learning across a network of eleven campuses. Their students experience higher levels of completion rates and outcome metrics than many other education providers. They are also a place that delivers marginalised and disadvantaged communities with access to learning.



Students at the NUSpace, the University of Newcastle City Campus

Working in partnership with businesses across the Hunter, Atwea College also tailors training programs to meet the unique needs of employers and industry.

For more information contact Atwea College on +61 2 4925 4200 or visit www.atwea.edu.au.

HVTC

HVTC is one of Australia's oldest and largest Group Training Organisations with over four decades of experience. HVTC has assisted more than 30,000 people to find training and employment opportunities, located across 11 regional branches throughout NSW.

HVTC in collaboration with business and industry continues to work towards a more diverse and inclusive workforce, providing flexible, cost-effective, and specialised workforce solutions including:

- Recruitment and management of quality apprentices and trainees
- Safety inspections, audits, and injury management
- Short or long-term labour hire
- Workforce management

Its Registered Training Organisation, the Central Coast Community College (RTO 90304 – also trading as Hunter-V-Tec), delivers nationally accredited training programs, customised industry specific work-readiness programs, accelerated and pre-vocational programs, as well as a range of funded training and short courses.

Contact HVTC on 1800 247 864 or visit www.hvtc.com.au

RDA Hunter's Skilled 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 skilled workforce to enable innovation-driven growth and industry development.

Since 2010, RDA Hunter has been undertaking activities to build the region's future skilled workforce through increased participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. These initiatives are collectively known as RDA Hunter's Skilled Workforce. The initiative provides life-stage specific, learning experiences that together create a pipeline of opportunities and activities for school and higher education.

Economic Powerhouse

Avondale University College

Avondale is a not-for-profit private higher education provider 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 at Wahroonga 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.

“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.”

In close 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 high quality, skilled 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 on the RDA Hunter Skilled Workforce Initiative visit <http://rdahunterstem.org.au>

Tocal College

Australia's leading provider of specialised training to rural industries, 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



Over the last 41 years, HVTC have provided skills training and employment opportunities for over 30,000 people across NSW. As winners of the **Excellence in Group Training** and **Excellence in WHS** awards in the 2021 NSW & ACT Group Training Awards, and the 2022, NSW Safe Work WHS Champion award for **Outstanding Solution to a Work Health and Safety Risk** (Large Regional Organisation, Non-Government) we are committed to providing quality service and training.

Contact HVTC on **1800 247 864** to discuss how we can support your business in 2023 or visit **hvtc.com.au** to find out more!



Economic Powerhouse

INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

The Hunter has a long history of utilising innovation and it is increasingly driving economic change across the entire region.

The Hunter is widely recognised as a “smart region” with existing and new industries providing unique market solutions and opening up new markets across the globe.

There is a growing number of software companies located in the Hunter. Several operate under license agreements with global software organisations. These are also complemented by a variety of other quality IT businesses.

With a strong research sector, culture of innovation, world-class educational institutions, increasing collaboration and its inherent business and lifestyle benefits, the Hunter provides an environment that encourages existing businesses to embrace innovation and also provides a powerful case for innovative companies considering a location for their business.

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

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

Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise
As the University of Newcastle continues to build its global reputation for delivering world-class research and innovation, in health and medicine, science and energy to humanities and the creative arts, it’s vital that industry is brought on the journey.

Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise (KEE), the University’s industry engagement and commercialisation/technology transfer office, is the front door for industry to connect with the institution’s world-class research and technologies.

For government, industry and business, KEE’s services can provide businesses with a competitive edge in the global market by facilitating access to innovative technology developed by university researchers that solve complex sector problems.

Integrated Innovation Network
The Integrated Innovation Network’s (I2N) mission is to fuel the success of innovators and entrepreneurs to build global businesses by connecting them with community, coaching, customers, and capital, regardless of their affiliation to the University.

Over the past five years, I2N has accelerated or incubated 136 start-up and innovation teams, creating 125 new jobs, from a

range of industries and sectors who have raised more than \$25 million in capital.

Headquartered at the University’s Q Building, part of the Honeysuckle precinct and Newcastle City campus, the I2N Hub at Honeysuckle is the epicentre of innovation and entrepreneurship in the Hunter region. Purpose-built to support enterprise skill development, new venture creation and scale-ups, I2N delivers programs and activities that propel the next generation of innovative new ventures within the Hunter region and beyond.

Institute of Regional Futures
From the desert to the coast, thousands of regional, rural and remote communities make a unique and valuable contribution every day to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our country.

The Institute for Regional Futures recognises the significant contribution of regional Australia and is invested in realising its vast potential. Based in the Hunter, the Institute is of and for Australia’s regions.

The work of the Institute builds on the 60-year history of the Hunter Research Foundation Centre and its record of delivery for the local region, with a broadened scope on regions and regionalism in Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

As the University’s third flagship research institute, the Institute of Regional Futures works closely with partners in government, industry and the community to deliver multi-disciplinary and translational research to Australia’s regions and beyond.

Hunter Research Foundation Centre
The University of Newcastle’s Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre addresses key local, regional and global challenges, positioning regions as the drivers of future prosperity.

The longstanding HRF moved to the University in January 2017, forging a partnership between the highly respected, independent research organisation and Newcastle’s world-class university.

Historically, the HRF Centre’s research provided a sound base of socio-economic evidence to support the Hunter region, and this has only strengthened since 2017.

The HRF Centre highly values its collaborations, engaging closely with partners in government, industry, the community and within the University to set the strategic regional change agenda, driven by regional needs.

The Centre’s transdisciplinary program across the social sciences delivers large-scale regional impact through targeted research and policy-influencing initiatives for regions locally, nationally and internationally.

The Centre also undertakes contract research for industry, governments and not for profits across economics, strategic planning, social policy, social research and evaluation, service delivery, and community engagement.

Building on a strong 60-year legacy, the HRF Centre has a reputation for rigorous, independent research and analysis, which builds economic and social strength in cities and regions.

For further information visit www.hrf.com.au

Economic Powerhouse

CELL
The Circular Economy Living Lab (CELL) is Australia’s first Living Lab dedicated to a circular economy. It is a strategic partnership between Lake Macquarie City Council, Dantia (the economic development company for Lake Macquarie City) and the University of Newcastle.

It is leading the way with clean technology innovation and will assist NSW in its quest to be seen as a world leader in the manufacture and exporter of low emissions products and services, through disruption.

For further information visit www.circulareconomylivinglab.com.au

Dashworks
Since launching in 2016, Dashworks has grown to become home to over 120 members over two locations. Backed by Dantia, Lake Macquarie’s economic development company, Dashworks operates two facilities - Workspace, a contemporary coworking hub in Charlestown, and Makespace, a commercial-focused makerspace and prototyping facility in Warners Bay. Dashworks are committed to boosting business and accelerating innovation in the Hunter region.

The rise of entrepreneurship, startups and the gig economy are driving big changes in the way we work. Businesses of all sizes are realising the benefits of coworking in boosting productivity, wellbeing and idea generation.



MGA Thermal - University of Newcastle

“The Hunter has a long history of utilising innovation and it is increasingly driving economic change across the entire region.”

PARTNERING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



From protecting Australia’s coastline to developing leading sustainability technology - the University of Newcastle is changing the game.

Partner with us

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



2023 I2N GRACIS Project © 2023

Economic Powerhouse

Dashworks is leading this change in Lake Macquarie and the greater Hunter Region, giving local businesses, product developers, startups, remote workers and professionals an alternative option to high-overheads – a proven model to stimulate growth and drive innovation.

CSIRO

Located in Mayfield West, the CSIRO Energy Centre and National Solar Energy Centre is the headquarters for CSIRO Energy and is a focal point in Australia for energy research.

The Energy Centre sets a benchmark in ecologically sustainable design by showcasing energy generation initiatives, building demand reduction and supply options in conjunction with a significant research and development program across numerous science and engineering domains.

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)

What began in 1998 as a bold vision to improve community wellbeing in the Hunter Region of NSW has today evolved into a world-class institute with 1500 medical researchers, students and support staff striving to prevent, treat and defeat a multitude of serious illnesses.

Delivering patient-focused translational research is the major goal, which means seeding start-up studies and fostering a flow of information and innovation back and forth between scientists, clinicians and public health professionals. Attracting top medical specialists and collaborating with other leading institutes and industries helps to fast-track the provision of new and better health solutions.

In partnership with the University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Local Health District, HMRI's clinical, biomedical and public health researchers work across multiple campuses and 19 key translational research programs.

HMRI researchers rely on philanthropic donations from the community, along with Australian Government funding, to support research projects, equipment, scholarships, fellowships and travel grants. Internal grant funding is allocated through a rigorous peer-review process and invested in areas of highest public need.

Infrastructure funding is provided by the NSW Office for Medical Research through the Medical Research Support Program, and the NSW Department of Health through the Capacity Building Infrastructure Grant Program.

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



Hunter Innovation Festival

Hunter iF

Hunter iF Limited is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. It is a support organisation that encourages and facilitates investment, jobs and growth in the Hunter as the region undergoes significant change. It does this by providing a hub for innovation through a comprehensive, connected and cohesive package of services, programs and opportunities. Hunter iF helps accelerate innovative ideas and businesses to successful outcomes.

Hunter iF is an independent connector for innovation and new business development in the Hunter. The organisation is a conduit to support services and programs that aim to help new and innovative businesses on their pathway to success at different stages of their innovation journey. Hunter iF is a single point of contact and connection for the innovation ecosystem in the Hunter. Hunter iF is connecting innovation to opportunity.

Whether you are a startup or a scaleup seeking support, an investor looking for new investments or you are working in government to support new and innovative businesses, Hunter iF can connect you to the opportunities that are aligned with your objectives.

For further information visit <https://hunterif.com.au/>

Hunter Angels

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

Hunter Angel's primary goal is to promote the growth of local emerging enterprises through its investments and to provide a good return for investors. It facilitates this by mentoring those entrepreneurs in whose businesses it invest. Hunter Angel investors also sometimes serve on their boards, provide contacts and assist with strategic planning.

Hunter Angel's collective experience spans many aspects of growing successful enterprises, from the formative stages through to the management of large enterprises. Hunter Angels look to leverage our experience and competencies through careful investing and by providing our Investees with mentoring in marketing, business development, operations, finance, engineering and management.

Since Hunter Angels is such a diverse group, it does not focus solely on one industry. Rather, it looks for companies that are in the early stage of rolling out a unique (preferably proven) product or concept.

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

SingularityU Newcastle Chapter

SingularityU is on a mission to educate, empower and inspire leaders to apply exponential technologies to address humanity's grand challenges. After starting the first chapter in Newcastle, ten other Australian cities have followed suit.

SingularityU Australia exists at the intersection of the Values of Humanity with the Value of Technology. With a focus on converging minds and technologies - those which are rapidly accelerating and shaping major industries and all aspects of our

lives, including artificial intelligence (AI), augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), data science, digital biology, medicine, nanotech and digital fabrication, networks and computing systems, robotics, and fintech - SingularityU Australia leads personal and organisational change.

For further information and how you can get involved email christina@utopiix.global

The Melt

The Melt is Australia's first fully integrated Accelerator, Co-working space and Industrial Prototyping Lab for Hardware. The Melt Program provides startups who have great hardware products with a structured program including the mentoring, tools and services to help build great hardware products and rapidly grow a successful business.

The Melt Accelerator uses a proven, rapid, repeatable, and low-cost pathway to successful product development. The Melt has two locations in the Hunter, one in Warners Bay in Lake Macquarie and one at Muswellbrook's innovation precinct in the upper Hunter focused on Advanced manufacturing.

For Further Information please visit www.themelt.io



Aron Robertson, Kallol Krishna Karmakar, and Peter Spiers with some IoT devices



SAPHI team



Hunter IF and Hunter Innovation Festival Chair Alex Brennan testing VR technology

“The Hunter is widely recognised as a “smart region” with existing and new industries providing unique market solutions and opening up new markets across the globe.”

Eighteen04

The aim of Eighteen04 Inc. is to support early-stage startups 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. A 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

Economic Powerhouse

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 local assistance from a variety of organisations.

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 largest port on the east coast of Australia. 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 13 destinations across Australia 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.

Department of Regional NSW 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.



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Economic Powerhouse

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 and The Greater Bank who are merging from 1 March 2023 to form an entity with joint assets of around \$20 billion and over 600,000 customers. The Mutual Bank also has a rich history in the Hunter, servicing the region for some 135 years.

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 around Australia can be found in the Hunter. ”



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Economic Powerhouse

MAJOR INDUSTRIES

The Hunter has historically been known for its coal, wine, agriculture and manufacturing. Whilst these industries remain important, the Hunter’s industry base has greatly diversified in recent decades and is much broader than most people realise. Growth has been particularly strong in knowledge-based industries.

Local industries are also embracing innovation as an important tool for growth, with many local businesses creating new and improved product and service solutions.

Local industries are also widening their market bases, bringing new opportunities and prosperity to the region. Businesses in a wide range of industries are increasingly competing successfully in national and global marketplaces.

To support industry development, in 2015, RDA Hunter applied the OECD’s Specialisation Strategy (S3) framework to plan for future growth and regional leadership. This roadmap is giving the Hunter opportunities to work with policy makers, industry and researchers 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.

RDA Hunter continues to support growth in these sectors, particularly Medical Technologies & Pharmaceuticals and Advanced Manufacturing through its Health & Medtech Industry Cluster, and Defence through its Skilled Workforce Development suite of activities.

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



Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen at Summerhill Waste Management Centre solar farm



2022 HIA Jim Brooks Australian of the Year - Brayden Burgess



Hawk Lead-in Fighter



Pokolbin - Josh Vincent & Cessnock City Council

Economic Powerhouse

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.

In May 2020 the NSW Government announced that Williamtown will be established as a Special Activation Precinct, accelerating economic development and the creation of highly skilled jobs.

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 (such as 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. In 2022 it was announced that BAE Systems had won a \$1.5 billion contract to modernise and extend support of the Hawk lead-in aircraft in Australia.

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, which have been arriving at Williamtown since December 2018. Australia has committed to 72 F-35A aircraft for three operational squadrons at RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Tindal, and a training squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown. In all 56 of the 72 F35A jets will be based at Williamtown. The first F-35A squadron, No. 3 Squadron, became operational in 2021.

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.

Bonza, Eastern Air Services, FlyPelican, Link Airways, Jetstar, Qantas, Regional Express and Virgin Australia operate commercial services from Newcastle Airport delivering direct flights to Australia’s major centres and onward connections to other over-seas destinations.

Williamtown Aerospace Centre
The Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC) has been marketed over ten years and includes all of the rezoned land south of RAAF Base Williamtown and adjacent to the Newcastle Airport. This industrial zoned land that provides first class facilities and a variety of infrastructure solutions for the aerospace and aviation industry.

Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC Holdings Pty Limited) has completed six buildings which are all fully leased in Technology Place. These buildings include custom facilities for Raytheon Australia, Lockheed Martin Australia, Nova Defence Systems, Airbus / Hensoldt, Bohemia Interactive Simulations, Viasat, Milskil, Redarc Technologies, University of Newcastle, Central Health Alliance, Hunter Imaging Group and the Central Beans café,

Plexsys, Hexagon, Pacific Aerospace Consulting, Martin-Baker Australia and Boeing Defence Australia.

The first stage, Technology Place, also included a 95 room Mercure hotel and conference centre.

Precinct 52
Precinct 52 is the next stage of the Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC).

Extending the success of the Technology Place development, Precinct 52 will offer a greater spectrum of facility solutions. 14 hectares of land will be developed with full scale industrial road access. Precinct 52 will be the platform for world class warehouse, logistics, distribution, assembly, workshop, commercial and light industrial space. Further commercial facilities will be available with easy access to the RAAF Base Williamtown, Newcastle Airport, Newcastle Port and major road access to the M1 to Sydney and Brisbane and Newcastle CBD.

Currently, three building projects have been designed and are awaiting rezoning of the land through the Williamtown Special Activation Precinct process to enable more Defence companies to expand and move to the area.

Astra Aerolab
In late 2018, Astra Aerolab received \$11.7 million in NSW State Government funding, and it was cemented as the epicentre of the NSW Government’s Special Activation Precinct.

Adjacent to Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown, Astra Aerolab is the world’s most uplifting defence, aerospace and innovation precinct. Stage 1 is comprised of Lots with direct airside access and is now leasing. Construction of the first on site commercial building is expected to begin in 2023.

In a significant show of confidence in Astra Aerolab and the defence and aerospace industry at Williamtown, BAE Systems Australia has signed a 34-year extension on its current lease at Newcastle Airport. BAE also entered a new pre-commitment for up to 4.4 hectares of land on Astra Aerolab. The agreement sees Astra Aerolab providing a full range of property services, including future development of facilities on the pre-commitment land. The benefits of co-location and collaboration ensure Astra’s ‘lab-like’ environment connects businesses to the ideas and workforce of the future.



Family traveling at Newcastle Airport

Economic Powerhouse

COAL MINING

Coal continues to be a major contributor to the Hunter's economy with \$27.96 billion in coal exported through the Port of Newcastle in 2021.

According to the latest NSW Mining Industry Expenditure Survey released by The NSW Minerals Council in 2020-2021, the 28 participating mining companies provided:

- 13,250 direct jobs
- direct spending in the region of \$6.1 billion
- 3,160 mining supplier businesses with sales.

Significant coal mining operators in the Hunter include:

BHP Billiton New South Wales Energy Coal operates the Mount Arthur mine near Muswellbrook, with an annual approved capacity of 32 Mtpa run of mine (ROM) coal.

Bloomfield Group 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. In the Hunter it operates Manadalong, Myuna, and Newstan mines near Lake Macquarie.

Glencore is a world leader in export of thermal coal and in the Hunter owns Bulga, Hunter Valley Operations (49% Glencore, 51% Yancoal), Integra, Mangoola, Mt Owen / Glendell, Ravensworth, Ulan and United Wambo.

Idemitsu Australia Resources Pty Ltd is the operator of the Muswellbrook Coal open cut and the Boggabri open cut in the Gunnedah basin. It is also currently investigating the viability of an underground mine in the West Muswellbrook Project area.

Malabar operates Maxwell Underground Mine and the associated infrastructure, including the Maxwell Solar Farm, which is located east of Denman and south of Muswellbrook in the New South Wales Upper Hunter.

New Hope Coal has an 80% share of the Bengalla mine located 4 km west of Muswellbrook. Taipower (20%) is also a part owner.

Peabody Energy Australia (wholly owned subsidiary of US coal company Peabody Energy) operates the Wambo open-cut and underground mines southwest of Singleton.

Whitehaven Coal Ltd is based in the Gunnedah basin and its operations include Maules Creek open cut mine, Narrabri North Underground mine, Werris Creek open cut and Tarrawonga open cut. Sunnyside open cut is currently in care and maintenance. The Vickery Extension Project has also been approved by the Independent Planning Commission NSW.

Yancoal Australia Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Chinese coal miner Yanzhou Coal. It owns Mount Thorley Warkworth, Ashton open cut and underground, Austar underground and Hunter Valley Operations (51% Yancoal, 49% Glencore), Stratford Duralie open cut and the Moolarben mine.



Coal continues to be a major contributor to the Hunter's economy with \$27.96 billion in coal exported through the Port of Newcastle in 2021.



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 156.7 million tonnes of coal in 2021.

The rail capacity is 200 million tpa.

There are three coal terminals at 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 a capacity of 79 Mtpa.



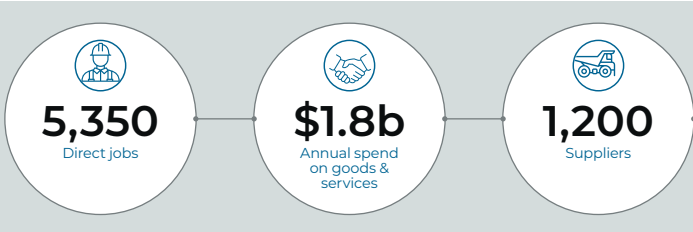
Glencore's contribution adds up for the Hunter Region

Glencore sites

- Mangoola Coal
- Bulga Coal
- United Wambo
- Hunter Valley Operations*
- Ravensworth Coal
- Mount Owen Glendell Coal
- Liddell Coal
- Integra Coal

* Hunter Valley Operations is a joint venture between Yancoal (51%) and Glencore (49%), which is independently managed on behalf of the JV partners.

Direct contribution



Flow-on impacts

8,550 flow-on jobs
\$5.2 billion total economic activity



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GLENCORE

Economic Powerhouse

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. The National Broadband Network (NBN) is also allowing creative industries to have a significantly wider commercial reach whilst still enjoying the business and lifestyle advantages of the Hunter.

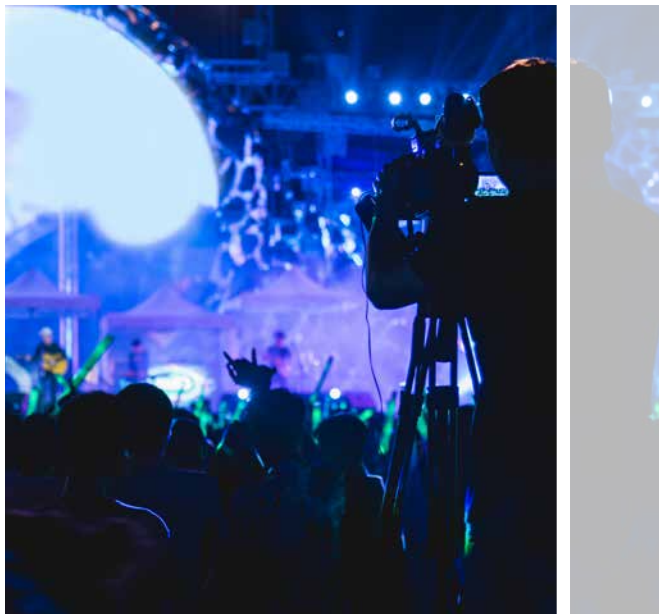
A strong and growing contingent of locally grown, national and international architects have major operations, with most of the billions of dollars of projects utilising their quality services.

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.

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



University of Newcastle

Economic Powerhouse

DEFENCE

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

It has a long history in the region, including ship building and maintenance as well as land-based defence, highlighted by the 15,000 ha Singleton Military Area which includes the Lone Pine Barracks.

It is air-based defence that is currently experiencing massive growth, centred on the 56 F-35A Lightning II fighters that will be based at the RAAF Base at Williamtown.



Global Defence prime contractors including Thales, BAE Systems, Boeing Defence, Nova Systems, Lockheed Martin, Varley Group, Northrop Grumman, Airbus and Raytheon are based in the region to support Defence's billion dollar presence.

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

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




Sov·er·eign·ty


(noun) Freedom from external control: autonomy




100%
Australian owned and controlled (Veteran owned and founded)




1,100
Sovereign smarts located across Australia



400m+*
Injected and reinvested into the Australian economy
*Figure for FY21/22



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Economic Powerhouse

Economic Powerhouse

Hunter Defence
Hunter Defence is a collaborative task force focused on demonstrating the capability of established Hunter defence industry suppliers to government and primes, as well as upskilling local SMEs to become ‘Defence ready’.

Hunter Defence represents a diverse group of industry stakeholders in the region, including manufacturing and supply firms, industry networks, specialist consultants, advisors and government.

Key Stakeholders include RDA Hunter, HunterNet, Business Hunter, Australian Industry Group, Australian Industry Defence Network, Industry Capability Network NSW, Hunter Defence Support Network, University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW, local SMEs and the NSW Government.

Williamstown Aerospace Centre
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University of Newcastle
Preparing students to be job ready for future industries is a priority at the University of Newcastle - not just for the industries that are emerging, but also for established industries undergoing significant transformation.

The Hunter has a unique opportunity to bring the University, Defence and industry together to collaborate and innovate to drive economic growth in our region. This opportunity extends into emerging avenues of research, development and employment. The University of Newcastle is playing its part in facilitating this growth through existing and planned research and innovation infrastructure and a strong leadership team.

The Defence sector offers a key opportunity for cross-disciplinary industry partnerships to solve difficult problems. The University has a number of areas of research strength in Defence that are aligned with areas of national priority including: biometric training, cognitive modelling, system evaluation and design, cyber security, advanced sensors, organic electronics, advanced energy storage and conversion, contaminated land and water and much more.

The Integrated Innovation Network has established an Innovation Hub next to the RAAF Williamtown and Newcastle Airport. It has created excellent work experience opportunities for University of Newcastle students, particularly for those in some of the newer programs, which were created to meet the increased demand for advanced skills and provide opportunities to complete part of the student’s education ‘on the job’.

To find out more, visit <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/priorities/defence-capability>



Bohemia Interactive Simulations LS Core Simulation Image



Economic Powerhouse

ENERGY

The Hunter has a long history as a centre for energy generation and for many years has generated the bulk of NSW’s electricity needs through large coal-fired power stations.

As the state transitions towards renewable energy, these power stations are closing but a plethora of clean energy projects and research will maintain the region as a premier energy producer.

Within the Hunter and adjacent Central Coast Region, there are currently three generating companies that 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.

Munmorah Power Station, with a maximum generation capacity of 1,400 MW, commenced electricity production in 1967 and was fully decommissioned in 2014. Liddell power station is scheduled to close in March 2023, Eraring in mid-2025, Vales Point in 2029 (but may be brought forward to 2025) and Bayswater between 2030 and 2033.

The sites of these power stations will remain as valuable locations for large-scale clean energy production because of their connections to the electricity grid.

The Waratah Super Battery project is being constructed within the former Munmorah Power Station which includes the largest standby network battery in the southern hemisphere.

AGL is transforming their large thermal sites into integrated industrial energy hubs. The planned Hunter Energy Hub (on the Liddell and Bayswater site) will include grid-scale batteries, solar thermal storage, wind and pumped hydro, and a feasibility study is progressing for a hydrogen hub, plus co-location of complementary industry.

Existing businesses are also recognising new opportunities. For example, Varley Group has 136 years of developed business acumen across multiple growth sectors, building excellence in design, engineering, manufacturing and international facilities is assisting clean tech companies bring their ideas to market commercialisation.

Hunter Power Project

The \$600 million Hunter Power Project is located in Kurri Kurri and it is being developed to “fill the gap in electricity demand” and ensure that the supply of electricity is secured after the Liddell Power Station retires. The 660 MW gas-fired power station

will supplement Snowy Hydro’s generation portfolio with dispatchable capacity when the needs of electricity consumers are highest. It is expected to be online late 2023/ early 2024. There are plans to have it run on green hydrogen in the future.

Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone

EnergyCo is planning the Hunter-Central Coast REZ which will ensure these regions have a key role in a renewable energy future, powering existing industries and supporting economic growth, including emerging technology in green hydrogen, ammonia and metal production, offshore wind, electric vehicle fleet operators and electrification of industrial processes. Between December 2021 and February 2022, EnergyCo ran a Registration of Interest (ROI) process for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ and attracted a significant response with commercial interest in renewable generation and storage projects representing almost 40 GW and more than \$100 billion of potential investment. The Hunter-Central Coast REZ will also underpin the growth of new low carbon industries such as green hydrogen, ammonia and metals production, which could service both domestic and export markets.

The University of Newcastle and NIER

The University of Newcastle has positioned itself to be a leader in research, development and building collaborative partnerships with industry to support the NSW Government’s priority to become a national powerhouse in the energy economy. The University is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and in 2021 was ranked as number one in the world for Partnering for a Sustainable Future in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

For over a decade, the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) has proven that a multidisciplinary and industry-engaged model can deliver transformational research outcomes. NIER brings together the University of Newcastle’s leading researchers to address regional and global challenges in areas including productivity and efficiency, technologies and utilisation, industrial innovation, and sustainability and security, across four critical sectors - energy, resources, food, and water. NIER connects academia and industry through a common platform for research and has resulted in the development of new technologies and a paradigm shift in industry operations and services.

NIER’s industrial innovation precinct comprises extensive research laboratories, glasshouses and pilot-scale workshops, which offer unique opportunities for industry-focused applied research, demonstration and training, and modern office accommodation for approximately 400 staff, students and industry partners.

Major power stations

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	1,500 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

Economic Powerhouse

The precinct’s infrastructure has assisted NIER to leverage major research projects, support the training of industry- and work-ready postgraduate students and drive the diversification of skills and competitiveness required in key sectors of national significance. One focus area of research at NIER is hydrogen demonstration across hydrogen production, storage and utilisation, and cross-cutting activities including social license, modelling and technology integration.

NIER was instrumental in securing \$50 million in funding from the Federal Government to produce clean energy and recycling innovations through the creation of the Australian Trailblazer Recycling and Clean Energy (ATRaCE) Program. The program is a partnership with UNSW and the University of Newcastle that will help to accelerate new clean energy and recycling technologies from the research phase to the market. This Australian Government funded partnership will include a total investment of more than \$200 million including university and industry contributions.

Through NIER’s world-class research with impact in areas including critical mineral recovery and next generation energy technologies, the Institute is committed to fostering connections and partnerships that collectively contribute to strengthening regional resilience and delivering sustainable solutions for global challenges.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/nier>

CSIRO

The Hunter is also the home to 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.

H2N hydrogen production project

The H2N is a large-scale hydrogen production, transportation and export project, developed in collaboration with key hydrogen users and exporters. Creating Australia’s first Hydrogen Valley, its aim is to help unlock the renewable energy resources of the Central West, New England and Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zones, to produce green hydrogen and associated green feedstock. The hydrogen will initially be used for mining, mobility and other industrial uses in the Upper Hunter. The next stage is to transport hydrogen via a dedicated hydrogen pipeline through the Hunter to users for domestic supply and export including hydrogen-fuelled turbines to provide green dispatchable energy solutions.

NERA hydrogen clusters

National Energy Resources Australia (NERA) has formed a network of hydrogen technology clusters across Australia, providing seed-funding in partnership with governments and industry to build

Varley Helping Clean Tech Startups Commercialise Their Ideas

In-house Design & Engineering Expertise
Varley specialises in providing innovative solutions through our in-house design and engineering capabilities

Manufacturing Capability
Varley’s manufacturing solutions bring our customers ideas to reality

National Manufacturing Facilities
Varley’s national facilities offers our clients high capacity manufacturing

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Varley’s commercial business acumen provides our clients with market cost solutions

Technical Expertise

Excellence in Manufacturing

Scalable Production Capacity

Unit Economics

Economic Powerhouse

the skills, capability and commercialisation opportunities in the emerging hydrogen industry. The Hunter Hydrogen Technology Cluster (NewH2 has been formed by a range of industry associations, businesses, TAFE and the University of Newcastle, with networks through the Hunter, Central Coast, Orana and beyond. The NewH2 is hosted at the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER). The Cluster forms part of H2TCA: Hydrogen Technology Cluster Australia.

Port of Newcastle Green Hydrogen Hub

A feasibility study is investigating the technical and commercial viability of renewable hydrogen and ammonia production at the Port of Newcastle, initially at a scale to supply the domestic market and, as export (and further domestic) opportunities emerge, to scale-up production. The feasibility study will assess the hydrogen hub concept at the Port of Newcastle, including concept design, costings and testing of offtake pathways, for both an initial 40 MW) electrolyser deployment, as well as assessing a scale-up to 1 GW plus. The Port of Newcastle's Port of Newcastle Hydrogen Hub is recipient of up to \$41 million in funding support through the Australian Government's Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program (Hub Implementation funding stream). The October 2022-23 federal budget included a broad support measure of \$100 million to support the Port of Newcastle and the Hunter region to become hydrogen-ready.

Hunter Energy Hub

In 2021 AGL Energy and Fortescue Future Industries executed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore the development of a hydrogen production facility at the site of the of Liddell and Bayswater coal-fired power stations, which are planned for closure. The facility forms part of a proposed Hunter Energy Hub development, that would combine grid-scale batteries, solar thermal storage, wind and pumped hydro. In August 2022, an expanded feasibility study was to map key operational and commercial plans for the project as well as developing a production timeline. Focus is on assessing the implementation of a large-scale renewables-based production facility ranging from a minimum 150 MW and up to 2 GW of hydrogen and its derivatives such as ammonia for export and domestic use.

Vales Point Solar Project

Delta Electricity is constructing 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 \$75 million project will deliver up to 110,000 MWh of renewable energy each year which is enough electricity to power approximately 15,000 homes.

Waratah Super Battery

To ensure a reliable energy supply following the closure of the Eraring Power Station, the NSW Government is delivering the Waratah Super Battery project within the Munmorah Power Station site which includes the largest standby network battery in the southern hemisphere. The Waratah Super Battery will operate as part of a System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) designed to monitor transmission lines and enable the battery to act as a 'shock absorber' in the event of any sudden power surges. Akaysha Energy will be responsible for the construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which is anticipated to be 850 MW / 1680 MWh. Transgrid will undertake network upgrades to maximise the benefits of the project and be responsible for operating the SIPS once the Waratah Super Battery is operational.

Hunter Dispatchable Energy System (HDES)

The Hunter Dispatchable Energy System (HDES), a project by Firm Power, is a distributed stand-alone battery system for the Hunter region, designed to balance the grid and support the performance and future uptake of renewable energy in NSW. The HDES is made up of three systems: the proposed Awaba BESS, a 50 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid's Awaba Substation; the proposed Beresfield BESS, a 170 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid's Beresfield Substation; and the proposed Muswellbrook BESS, a 150 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid's Muswellbrook Substation.

The development phase of the project is expected to complete in late 2023.

Brandy Hill Battery Project

Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES) is proposing to build a 250 MW battery at Brandy Hill next a large substation for connection to the grid. The proposal is for 250 MW maximum power with up to 1000 MWh of storage.

Liverpool Range Wind Farm

The Liverpool Range Wind Farm project is located across three local government areas with wind turbines proposed within the Warrumbungle and Upper Hunter Shire Council areas and a transmission line to connect into the national grid within the Mid-Western Regional Council area. Developed initially by Epuron, the Liverpool Range Wind Farm received planning approval for up to 267 turbines in March 2018. In early 2019 Tilt Renewables acquired the project. There have been significant advancements in wind turbine technology since the 2018 approval. From September 2022 the modified project is looking at 220 of the larger turbines.

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro

Through its joint venture with AGL, Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd, Idemitsu Australia has signed a \$9.45 million Funding Agreement with the NSW Government's Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) to progress the proposed Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) project at their old Muswellbrook Coal mine site. The project will generate 250 MW of hydroelectricity with eight hours of storage capacity to feed electricity into existing high voltage power lines. Idemitsu's masterplan for the site includes a proposal to convert the area to a Clean Energy and Industrial Precinct delivering potential for new employment and economic opportunities in the region. The project and new precinct will incorporate green hydrogen, solar, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and pumped hydro.

\$165 million energy park

A \$165 million wind and solar farm at Scone is being constructed which will provide renewable power to around 50,000 homes in the region. The Upper Hunter Energy Park will have a generating capacity of up to 113 MW of renewable energy through wind turbines, solar panels and a hydro electric generator using recycled water (final mix subject to change). The facility will create hundreds of construction jobs and save an estimated 6.5 million tonnes of CO2 abated over the life of the technology proposed.

Hunter Coast Offshore Wind Project

Hunter Coast Offshore Wind Project is a 1.65 GW floating wind technology project to be located off the coast of Hunter - Central Coast. BlueFloat Energy and Energy Estate, the developers have expanded the project from 1.4 GW to 1.65 GW and released a visual simulation. Located between 20 and 50 km off the coast, the project will use floating offshore wind technology.

Economic Powerhouse

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 is responsible for over 70% in volume and 80-90% in value of Australian thoroughbred exports. It 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, Hunter Valley Thoroughbred nursery 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.



“
The Hunter - Australia's Horse Capital and 1 of 3 Thoroughbred Breeding Centres of Excellence in the World
”

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 5,000 full-time, part-time and casual employees in the region and supports over 220,000 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.

The outlook for the thoroughbred industry is positive. The Asian Racing Market is growing strongly, with the Hunter Valley recognised as a respected supplier of thoroughbred horses.

The Hunter Region's proximity to both Newcastle Airport and Scone Regional Airport provides ready access for international / interstate buyers and the potential for international air freight of horses.

Economic Powerhouse

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. With a history that dates back to the early 19th century, the Hunter is 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, Steggles Poultry Abattoir at Beresfield and Wingham Abattoir.



Bistro Molines
Josh Vincent & Cessnock City Council

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.



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 Base Hospital, Muswellbrook Hospital, Scott Memorial Hospital - Scone, Singleton Hospital, Tomaree Hospital, Wilson Memorial Hospital - Murrurundi and Wingham Hospital.

The new \$470 million Maitland Hospital opened in 2022. The state-of-art facility was built on 40 ha of Crown Land at Metford and offers an extremely wide range of services.

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. In partnership with the University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Local Health District, HMRI brings together more than 1500 health and medical researchers across multiple campuses and 19 key translational research programs: Brain and Mental Health; Cancer; Cardiovascular; Pregnancy and Reproduction; Public Health; and Viruses, Infections/Immunity, Vaccines and Asthma (VIVA)

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

Economic Powerhouse

Schools within the College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing facilitate 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. Students and researchers regularly partner with the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) creating knowledge and building solutions to some of the world's most challenging medical issues.

The University's new Central Coast Clinical School will deliver leading clinical, nursing, and allied health programs from a pristine coastal region. The Clinical School is co-located with the Central Coast Research Institute where the focus is on integrated healthcare research and health promotion.

The strong relationship with both the Hunter New England and Central Coast Local Health Districts ensures medical, clinical and allied health students are given access to tertiary level healthcare placement and practice. Students undertake clinical placements alongside some of Australia's most accomplished, regarded and skilled healthcare practitioners.

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 26 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.



Kelvin Kong - University of Newcastle

Economic Powerhouse

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing has been a major component of the Hunter economy for around 160 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 Williamstown 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 around \$3 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, Nepean Group and R&R Murphy.

Industry is well served in skills training, tertiary education, science and engineering research by the University of Newcastle.

The University is increasingly connecting with industry to form collaborative partnerships for students and researchers and build access to the skills and research capabilities for industry through engagement with their resources and technology.

A spin-out company of the University, MGA Thermal, is driving the shift towards renewable energy by manufacturing and producing stackable miscibility gap alloy (MGA) bricks that can store thermal energy at a fraction of the cost of a lithium-ion battery. For their work in the renewables space, MGA Thermal was named the winner of the inaugural Research Commercialisation award from the 2021 Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards, and in 2022 won the Translation Hero award at the InnovationAus 2022 Awards for Excellence.

Similarly, printed solar technology developed by the University's Professor Paul Dastoor has drawn global interest. These printable solar cells are another sustainable energy technology that are low-cost, light weight, organic, flexible and durable. The material is currently manufactured out of the University's Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER) and supported by the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF), with Professor Dastoor's team looking to establish an advanced manufacturing facility for printed solar in NSW.

The University of Newcastle, Lockheed Martin Australia 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.



NIER – University of Newcastle

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



Steber International

Economic Powerhouse

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 Skilled 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 workforce development programs focus on moving students towards future technologies such as 3D Design and Printing, Robotics, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Cybersecurity and Embedded Systems. In 12 years, these programs have impacted more than 80,000 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 Skilled Workforce programs have gained significant national attention and are being replicated and implemented at schools across the country. 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.

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



HUNTERNET
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1992 - 2022

We put our members first.

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Join one of our project committees to help expand or diversify your business prospects

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Reach the forefront of innovation by collaborating with industry-leading members

Bid/Tender Support

Collaborate with like-minded businesses that share your drive and ambition to succeed

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HunterNet engages apprentices and trainees on behalf of employers

Networking & Events

Apply their industry experience and knowledge of member capabilities to build cross-industry collaborative teams

Export Advice

Our specialist teams develop customised strategies, targeted to specific industries



HUNTERNET
CAREER CONNECTIONS
Developing skills for success

HUNTERNET
FUTURE LEADERS
PROGRAM



NEW H2
HUNTER HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER



HUNTER
DEFENCE

Economic Powerhouse

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.

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.

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 pipeline.

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Hunter manufacturers are developing and improving their supply chain performance and relationships, ensuring they remain competitive and capable to deliver increased. 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 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 accelerators and incubators such as The Melt, Eighteen 04, the Innovation Hubs of the University of Newcastle and community groups.

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.



MGA Thermal – University of Newcastle

Economic Powerhouse

TOURISM

Tourism is a significant contributor to the Hunter Region's economy. It was badly affected by the COVID pandemic but is now rebounding strongly.

With the wide range of natural assets and built facilities, the sector is expected to recover strong post-COVID.

For the 12 months to 30 June 2019 (prior to COVID), tourism directly employed around 18,000 people in the Hunter, attracted around 12.5 million visitors and well over \$3 billion annually in visitor spend. For the 12 months to 30 June 2022, the Hunter attracted 8.0 million visitors and around \$1.8 billion expenditure.

The Region 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.

Newcastle Airport is serviced by Bonza, Eastern Air Services, Fly-Pelican, Link Airways, Jetstar, Qantas, Regional Express and Virgin Australia flying to 12 direct Australian/New Zealand destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.

Prior to COVID, The Port of Newcastle was increasingly being visited by luxury cruise liners. After a two-year gap, liners visitors began again in August 2022.

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. The Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, which opened in 2020, offers a variety of unique experiences and is proving very popular.

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 Morriset. 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.

Tourism is one of the major industries of the Mid Coast LGA.



Hunter Valley Gardens
Josh Vincent & Cessnock City Council

Economic Powerhouse

Known for its natural assets, the Manning Valley offers nine stunning National Parks and Reserves, 45 km 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 to 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, Lake Glenbawn and Mount Royal National Park.

The Hunter Region has a growing reputation as a great destination for both the active sports person 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 men and women rugby league and football matches, professional surfing contests and regular horse racing meetings at Broadmeadow, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Scone, Taree and Tuncurry.

The Newcastle 500, part of the Australian Supercar Championship, commenced in 2017, but not run in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to COVID. It is returning in March 2023 as the 2023 Thrifty Supercars Championship season opener. The event has attracted an average of around 160,000 to the city centre in past events.

The Hunter is home to a wide range of festivals that attract an increasing number of visitors to the Region. Newcastle Jazz Festival, Mattara Festival, Hunter Valley Food & Wine Festival, Bitter & Twisted International Boutique Beer Festival, Real Film Festival, Lovedale Long Lunch, This That Festival, Taree Aquatic Powerboat Easter Spectacular, Hunter Valley Steamfest, Dungog Rodeo, Love Sea Food Tastes Port Stephens, Scone Horse Festival, Festival of the Fleeces and many others.



Economic Powerhouse

MAJOR PROJECTS

\$1.2 billion Hunter Gas Pipeline

Acquired by Santos in August 2022, the Hunter Gas Pipeline is an approved underground gas pipeline from Wallumbilla in Queensland to Newcastle via Narrabri, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland. Project value is estimated to be A\$1,200 million, creating 350 construction jobs and 30 operational and maintenance jobs. The aim is to deliver much-needed gas to east coast domestic markets in as short a time frame as possible. It will also be designed to transport hydrogen as customer demand evolves.

Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone

EnergyCo is planning the Hunter-Central Coast REZ which will ensure these regions have a key role in a renewable energy future, powering existing industries and supporting economic growth, including emerging technology in green hydrogen, ammonia and metal production, offshore wind, electric vehicle fleet operators and electrification of industrial processes. Between December 2021 and February 2022, EnergyCo ran a Registration of Interest (ROI) process for the Hunter-Central Coast REZ and attracted a significant response with commercial interest in renewable generation and storage projects representing almost 40 GW and more than \$100 billion of potential investment.

In summary, these commercial parties registered interest in:

- 24 solar energy projects,
- 13 onshore and seven offshore wind energy projects,
- 35 large-scale batteries, and
- eight pumped hydro projects.

In addition to this investment in clean energy generation and storage, the Hunter-Central Coast REZ will underpin the growth of new low carbon industries such as green hydrogen, ammonia and metals production, which could service both domestic and export markets.

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 (four distinct stages). 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 completed in 2021. Stage 2 (124 apartments) was complete in 2022. Stage 3 and 4 will include 235 dwellings across five buildings, 1,731 sqm of retail floorspace and approximately 300 parking spaces.



East End Final Stage Artist Impression

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Economic Powerhouse

Port of Newcastle Green Hydrogen Hub

A feasibility study is investigating the technical and commercial viability of renewable hydrogen and ammonia production at the Port of Newcastle, initially at a scale to supply the domestic market and, as export (and further domestic) opportunities emerge, to scale-up production. The feasibility study will assess the hydrogen hub concept at the Port of Newcastle, including concept design, costings and testing of offtake pathways, for both an initial 40 MW electrolyser deployment, as well as assessing a scale-up to 1 GW plus.

The study is to be undertaken in two stages:

Stage 1 – primarily a desktop feasibility investigation for both the 40 MW deployment and scale up to 1 GW plus. Provided this high-level investigation provides sufficient evidence of feasibility, the project will continue to the next stage.

Stage 2 – detailed investigations and costs with a focus on determining whether the project can proceed to Front-end Engineering Design (FEED).

The Port of Newcastle's Port of Newcastle Hydrogen Hub is recipient of up to \$41 million in funding support through the Australian Government's Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program (Hub Implementation funding stream). The October 2022-23 federal budget included a broad support measure of \$100 million to support the Port of Newcastle and the Hunter region to become hydrogen-ready.



Honeysuckle HQ

Honeysuckle HQ aims to become a landmark and mixed-use destination that will anchor the city's enviable waterfront to the new CBD. With high quality architecture and design incorporating accessible and dynamic offerings for both day and night, it will enhance the city's cultural, social and economic objectives. HCCDC has shortlisted the top concepts for a final design stage and expect to announce the successful partner in mid-2023. Construction will get underway once the development is approved.

Cedar Mill Hunter Valley

Located in the heart of Hunter Valley's wine country on approximately 40 ha, Winarch is in the process of preparing an application for a high end, mixed-use tourism & hospitality venue and function and event centre. Comprising of an amphitheatre-style outdoor conference and events space able to accommodate 20,000 attendees, in addition to a 150-room hotel style accommodation, wine museum focusing on the rich history of the local region and specialist artisan food and beverages with multiple cellar doors.

Newcastle's Harbour Foreshore

Foreshore Park will become home to the city's largest playground under a draft masterplan for Newcastle's iconic harbourside precinct. The flagship Livvi's Place inclusive regional playground and waterplay area form the centrepiece of City of Newcastle's Harbour Foreshore Masterplan, which is designed to create new connections between the city and the harbour's edge around Foreshore Park and along the Joy Cummings Promenade. The Masterplan also includes increasing the amount of shaded canopy within Foreshore Park by 250% from 2,800 sqm to 9,800 sqm.

Newcastle Airport International Expansion

Newcastle Airport is upgrading to process the long-haul aircraft, which can carry close to 400 passengers – a large increase to the 180 passengers carried by the domestic fleet. This is a nationally significant project and, combined with the Code E upgrade of the runway, this is a game-changer for the region. The terminal will not only offer convenience to travellers who want to fly internationally, it will also drive huge, sustainable economic benefits across the region through inbound tourism and new freight-related industries, including import and export. Cox Architects have been appointed to design the new terminal. Works to upgrade the airfield began in Q2 2022. Enabling works for the new passenger terminal, including a new Premium Car Park, commenced in Q3 2022. Work on the expanded passenger terminal is expected to commence in Q2 2023.



Cedar Mill, Lake Macquarie

Cedar Mill, Lake Macquarie is a planned tourism, cultural and event space, which is due to transform the old Country Club Golf course in the heart of Morisset. The multi-million development will have a community focal point and is located at the "half way point" between Sydney and Newcastle, with direct access to the M1 and East Coast arterial rail line. This prime location and large land size provides an opportunity to attract and grow tourism and community engagement in the area. The entertainment facility will host a range of events, markets and functions, with capacity to stage outdoor performances for audiences of up to 30,000. The development application for the event site is central to Cedar Mill's multi-million dollar redevelopment of the golf course, which also includes a tourist park, outdoor gardens, café, restaurant, splash park and other recreation areas.

Waratah Super Battery

To ensure NSW continues to have reliable energy supply following the closure of the Eraring Power Station, the NSW Government is delivering the Waratah Super Battery project within the former Munmorah Power Station which includes the largest standby network battery in the southern hemisphere. The Waratah Super Battery will operate as part of a System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) designed to monitor transmission lines and enable the battery to act as a 'shock absorber' in the event of any sudden power surges. Akaysha Energy will be responsible for the construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which is anticipated to be 850 MW / 1680 MWh. The larger size will allow Akaysha Energy to trade the additional capacity in the electricity market to access additional revenue streams. Transgrid will also undertake network upgrades to maximise the benefits of the project and be responsible for operating the SIPS once the Waratah Super Battery is operational.

Maitland Gaol

Maitland Gaol is one of NSW's premier heritage listed sites. With in funding from both the NSW State and Federal Governments, Maitland Gaol is now moving forward on delivering over \$11.6 million in initiatives including capital investment in boutique accommodation, a new activity hub, innovative interpretation and provision of event infrastructure. This is on top of works already underway to provide a high-quality Guard Tower Experience.



Newcastle's Victoria Theatre

Newcastle's historic Victoria Theatre will be reinvigorated thanks to \$4 million in funding from the NSW Government's Creative Capital Program. The upgrade will transform the Victoria Theatre into a world-class cultural asset and ensure the 168-year-old theatre can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Economic Powerhouse

The Store Site

Doma Group is leading the transformation of The Store site at 854 Hunter Street in Newcastle, with a \$200 million redevelopment of the 12,000 sqm site will combine innovative design solutions to provide an integrated masterplan delivering a new 15,000 sqm standalone office (complete), retail and two residential towers and structured carpark that is built over the NBI designed and approved by Transport for NSW (complete). The residential towers to be known as The Store Residences consist of 356 units - a mix of one, two and three-bedroom apartments. The 30-storey buildings will be 99 metres, but rooftop infrastructure will extend beyond 100 metres. The podium situated above the Carpark will offers residents a host of recreational facilities spanning almost one acre in size-including a swimming pool, tennis court, spaces for private events, BBQ area, community gardens and children's playground, all surrounded by landscaped open areas.

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 & Central Coast 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. Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes Anthony Roberts said the site, which has been extensively remediated, could be used for advanced manufacturing, cleantech and green energy, or be used for defence, securing jobs for the region.

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Large format retail centre, Morisset
A Development Application is being lodged for a large format retail (LFR) centre which will contain 25,00 sqm of floor space. The subject site is located approximately 2 km west of the Morisset town centre and is within 500 m of the Pacific Motorway, which provides convenient road connections. Rail access to Sydney and Newcastle is via the Morisset Station located within the town centre.

Dairy Farmers Towers
Dairy Farmers Towers marks the rebirth of one of Newcastle’s most iconic locations with over 180 residences, 5 floors of commercial space, and some of the best views of Newcastle. The residences will be situated in two towers that will become a new landmark amongst Newcastle’s city skyline. The North Tower will be 99 metres tall and the South tower will be 89 metres in height. Each tower will include layouts featuring 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. The iconic glass bottle and clock remain and will continue to live on through the redevelopment into Dairy Farmers Towers. The project is expected to be completed by late 2024.



\$95 million Honeysuckle City Campus development
The Honeysuckle precinct is part of the University of Newcastle’s 10-year Master Plan to deliver a mix of innovative research and education spaces, places to collaborate with industry and community, and accommodation for students to enjoy the best of living and working in the heart of the Newcastle. The first building in the Honeysuckle precinct, Q Building, is situated on the corner of Worth Place and Honeysuckle Drive and welcomed its first students in Semester 2, 2021. Q is UON’s new creative and entrepreneurial hub in the city and provides state-of-the-art facilities for the School of Creative Industries (SOCI) and Integrated Innovation Network (I2N).

Lower Hunter Freight Corridor
The corridor for a future 30 kilometre rail freight link between Fassifern and Hexham designed to alleviate rail congestion around Newcastle and the Hunter has been confirmed. The preserved corridor stretches from Fassifern in the south to Hexham in the north, bypassing Newcastle’s urban areas which will help to remove congestion on passenger rail lines around Newcastle while also reducing risks for motorists at level crossings. Planning for the new link also considers future industrial areas to ensure easy connections for freight as the region grows.

The Merewether
A \$120 million retirement living resort project is being constructed at Merewether Golf Club. The joint venture between ThirdAge and the club will be known as The Merewether. It will be home to 148 luxury one, two and three bedroom apartments across four buildings. This includes 16 penthouses with roof top spa terraces overlooking the golf course. The resort style community will feature a lap pool, cinema, gym, workshop, communal kitchen, and craft rooms. The golf club and community members will benefit from a new clubhouse, restaurant facilities, sports bar and a wellness centre. The project will create more than 1,000 construction jobs and close to 100 ongoing jobs.

The Newcastle GasDock
The Newcastle GasDock terminal is being developed at the Port of Newcastle to deliver a competitive infrastructure solution for natural gas imports into NSW by wholly-owned EPIK subsidiary Newcastle GasDock Company. Newcastle GasDock is planned to incorporate a 170,000 cubic metre class Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), a dockside jetty, and a pipeline lateral connecting the FSRU terminal to an interconnection point on Jemena’s Sydney to Newcastle pipeline, providing direct access into the Sydney Short Term Trading Market. In November 2020 EPIK announced that it plans to include LNG bunkering services as part of its development supporting the maritime industry in its shift towards cleaner burning marine fuel. In 2022 EPIK was seeking to secure a commercial partner to move the project forward.

Brandy Hill Battery Project
Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES) is proposing to build a 250 MW battery at Brandy Hill next a large substation for connection to the grid. The proposal is for 250 MW maximum power with up to 1000 MWh of storage.

\$28 million battery manufacturing facility
Energy Renaissance, Australia’s first lithium-ion battery manufacturer, is building Renaissance One, a \$28 million battery manufacturing facility in Tomago. The 4,000 sqm purpose-built facility is being constructed by local property developer ATB Morton and has an initial battery production capacity of 66 MWh per annum, with plans to scale its Australian operation to 5.3 GWh of energy storage per annum with an additional investment of more than \$200 million. 1,700 direct jobs will be created during the construction and operational phase and another 6,500 indirect jobs will be generated for the benefit of the Hunter. Renaissance One is set to open its doors early 2023.

Hunter Power Project
The \$600 million Hunter Power Project is located in Kurri Kurri and it is being developed to “fill the gap in electricity demand” and ensure that the supply of electricity is secured after the Liddell Power Station at Muswellbrook retires. The 660 MW gas-fired power station will supplement Snowy Hydro’s generation portfolio with dispatchable capacity when the needs of electricity consumers are highest. The power station will comprise two heavy-duty, open cycle gas turbines (OCGT) and are the latest and most efficient turbines that the world’s best manufacturers can offer for the site. It is expected to be online late 2023/ early 2024. Construction is projected to inject \$600 million into the State’s economy and create up to 250 new construction jobs in the Hunter. There are plans to have it run on green hydrogen in the future.

Kurri Kurri Lateral Pipeline Project (KKLP)
The Kurri Kurri Lateral Pipeline (KKLP) is a proposed buried gas transmission pipeline and storage pipeline that will connect the proposed Hunter Power Project at Kurri Kurri, in New South Wales, to the existing Sydney to Newcastle pipeline, near Newcastle.

The Bowmans Creek Wind Farm
The Bowmans Creek Wind Farm will involve 56 wind turbines and associated operation and maintenance buildings, civil works and electrical infrastructure required to connect it to the existing transmission network. The project is located approximately 10 km east of Muswellbrook and will span three council areas with most wind turbines proposed for the Muswellbrook Shire and Singleton Council areas, and a small number for the Upper Hunter Shire Council area.

John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct
The \$835 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct is set to transform health care for the Hunter New England and northern NSW regions, with a 60% increase in Intensive Care Unit capacity and almost 50%.
The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct will include:
• a seven-storey Acute Services Building
• emergency department and more adult and paediatric critical care spaces
• birthing suite and inpatient maternity unit
• neonatal intensive care unit and special care nursery
• rooftop helipad and more than 900 additional car spaces for staff and visitors
• operating theatres, interventional and procedure spaces.
Enabling works began in April 2022 with main contractor being announced as Multiplex in October 2022. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026.

Large wind farm planned for the Upper Hunter
The Liverpool Range Wind Farm project is located across three local government areas with wind turbines proposed within the Warrumbungle and Upper Hunter Shire Council areas, between the townships of Coolah and Cassilis, and a transmission line to connect into the national grid south of the site, within the Mid-Western Regional Council area. Developed initially by Epuron beginning in 2009, the Liverpool Range Wind Farm received planning approval for up to 267 turbines in March 2018. In early 2019 Tilt Renewables acquired the project. There have been significant advancements in wind turbine technology since the

2018 approval. The latest turbines, while larger, are more efficient, meaning the project could be built with fewer turbines while powering more homes. From September 2022 the modified project is looking at 220 of the larger turbines.

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro
Through its joint venture with AGL, Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd, Idemitsu Australia has signed a \$9.45 million Funding Agreement with the NSW Government’s Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) to progress the proposed Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) project at their old Muswellbrook Coal mine site. The project will generate 250 MW of hydroelectricity with eight hours of storage capacity to feed electricity into existing high voltage power lines. Idemitsu’s masterplan for the site includes a proposal to convert the area to a Clean Energy and Industrial Precinct delivering potential for new employment and economic opportunities in the region. The project and new precinct will incorporate green hydrogen, solar, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and pumped hydro.

\$165 million energy park
A \$165 million wind and solar farm at Scone is being constructed which will provide renewable power to around 50,000 homes in the region. The Upper Hunter Energy Park will have a generating capacity of up to 113 MW of renewable energy through wind turbines, solar panels and a hydro electric generator using recycled water (final mix subject to change). The facility will create hundreds of construction jobs and save an estimated 6.5 million tonnes of CO₂ abated over the life of the technology proposed.

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Economic Powerhouse

Trinity Point
Located in Lake Macquarie, the \$388 million Trinity Point waterfront master planned community is 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.

\$75 million solar project
The Vales Point Ash Dam (VPAD) consists of a series of operational and closed landfill cells bordered by Rutleys Road, the Pacific Highway and Wyee. The closed cells have been capped with soil and rehabilitated with native grasses. Delta is proposing to establish a utility scale solar field on approximately 80 hectares of this rehabilitated land. An updated solar capacity assessment has found that up to 62 MW of renewable energy could be generated. The proposed solar project is expected to have a capital investment of approximately \$75 million, generate 100 construction jobs over 9 months and up to five full time ongoing positions.

Hunter Coast Offshore Wind Project
Hunter Coast Offshore Wind Project is a 1.65 GW floating wind technology project to be located off the coast of Hunter - Central Coast. BlueFloat Energy and Energy Estate, the developers have expanded the project from 1.4 GW to 1.65 GW and released a visual simulation. Located between 20 and 50 km off the coast, the project will use floating offshore wind technology.

Hunter Sports Centre Expansion
A \$10 million Federal Government funding commitment will allow Lake Macquarie Council to proceed with a long-planned \$25.7 million expansion of the Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale that will nurture the athletes of tomorrow, drive event tourism and support the sporting community. The 4505 sqm expansion will include: athletics track improvements (potential World Athletics Class 1 classification); community, new meeting and function rooms; and improved health, fitness and treatment facilities. The expansion will also improve site access and safety, provide additional car and bus parking, and a new signalised pedestrian crossing. It will boost annual visitation to the Hunter Sports Centre by 80,000, with flow-on benefits to the local economy of more than \$16 million. The upgrades are expected to be completed in late 2024.

Hunter Dispatchable Energy System (HDES)
The Hunter Dispatchable Energy System (HDES), a project by Firm Power ,is a distributed stand-alone battery system for the Hunter region, designed to balance the grid and support the performance and future uptake of renewable energy in NSW. The HDES is made up of three Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) situated at, Awaba, Beresfield and Muswellbrook.

The proposed Awaba Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a 50 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid’s Awaba Substation.
The proposed Beresfield Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a 170 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid’s Beresfield Substation.
The proposed Muswellbrook Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a 150 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid’s Muswellbrook Substation.

All three BESS are currently at an early stage of development with land secured and the initial phases of planning and grid connection underway. The development phase of the project is expected to complete in late 2023.

ONE Apartments
Located in Newcastle’s CBD, ONE is a twin-tower development, offering one, two and three-bedroom luxury apartments with market-leading-sized floorplates and a selection of vistas. ONE Apartments feature a Scenic Lounge on the 22nd floor, providing 360° panoramas over Newcastle Harbour, Stockton, Merewether and the Watagan Mountains. Also located on the western side of the 22nd floor, the Sunset Room is a bookable function room. ONE will even have its own private cinema.

Precinct 52
Precinct 52 is the next stage of the Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC). Extending the success of the Technology Place development, Precinct 52 will offer a greater spectrum of facility solutions. 14 hectares of land will be developed with full scale industrial road access. Precinct 52 will be the platform for world class warehouse, logistics, distribution, assembly, workshop, commercial and light industrial space. Further commercial facilities will be available with easy access to the RAAF Base Williamtown, Newcastle Airport, Newcastle Port and major road access to the M1 to Sydney and Brisbane and Newcastle CBD. Currently, three building projects have been designed and are awaiting rezoning of the land through the Williamtown Special Activation Precinct process to enable more Defence companies to expand and move to the area.

Astra Aerolab
In late 2018, Astra Aerolab received \$11.7 million in NSW State Government funding, and it was cemented as the epicentre of the NSW Government’s Special Activation Precinct. Adjacent to Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown, Astra Aerolab is the world’s most uplifting defence, aerospace and innovation precinct. Stage 1 is comprised of Lots with direct airside access and is now leasing. Construction of the first on site commercial building is expected to begin in 2023. In a significant show of confidence in Astra Aerolab and the defence and aerospace industry at Williamtown, BAE Systems Australia has signed a 34-year extension on its current lease at Newcastle Airport. BAE also entered a new pre-commitment for up to 4.4 hectares of land on Astra Aerolab. The agreement sees Astra Aerolab providing a full range of property services, including future development of facilities on the pre-commitment land. The benefits of co-location and collaboration ensure Astra’s ‘lab-like’ environment connects businesses to the ideas and workforce of the future.

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. The site will also be home to the \$600 million Hunter Power Project, a 660 MW gas-fired power station.

Economic Powerhouse

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 nearly 13 million people living in these cities (ABS ERP June 2021) as well as the several million living in smaller centres between Brisbane and Melbourne. Around 2/3 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.

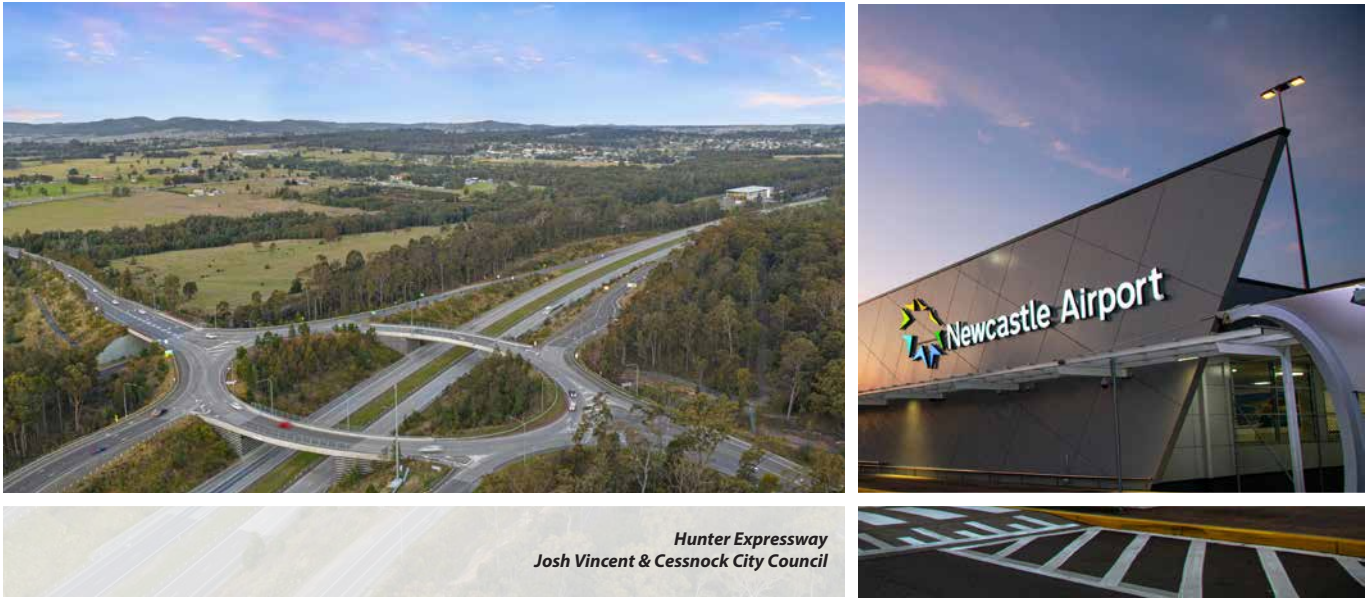
THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE
The Port of Newcastle is the world’s largest coal tonnage port. It is also a growing cargo and general container hub, with further major expansion plans currently in development. Excellent transport infrastructure and ongoing efficiency measures at the Port contribute to a lack of congestion and rapid turnaround compared with Australia’s metropolitan ports. For more detailed information see page 47.

AIR LINKS
The Hunter has six working airports – Newcastle, Cessnock, Scone, Maitland, Lake Macquarie and Taree. Newcastle Airport is the premier regional facility, services over 1.28 million passengers annually and is expected to triple by 2036. An upgrade will allow wide-bodied, long-haul aircraft to use the airport, opening up many new opportunities for passenger and freight services. Newcastle Airport currently has direct flights to 12 locations across Australia, and one-stop hub through to more than 65 destinations overseas. For more detailed information see page 50.

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.

The NorthConnex (M1 to M2 link) which opened on 31 October 2020 reduces travel time to the centre of Sydney and makes it possible to drive from Beresfield to Melbourne 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 much of the 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.



Infrastructure & Development

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.

In December 2022, a corridor for a 30 km rail freight link between Fassifern and Hexham was announced. This will alleviate congestion around Newcastle and build capacity for anticipated growth in freight movements.

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

Keolis Downer constructed the Newcastle light rail which commenced operations in 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.

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



Newcastle Interchange

Market access by road

	Distance (by road)	Travel time	Population
Newcastle to Sydney	160 km	Driving time approx. 2 hours from Newcastle CBD to Sydney CBD. 35 minutes from southern Hunter to north of Greater Sydney; air travel time approx. 40 min	Greater Sydney approx. 5.26 million
Newcastle to Brisbane	768km	Driving time approx. 8 hours, air travel time approx. 1 hour	South East Queensland approx. 3.7 million
Newcastle to Melbourne	1,027 km	Driving time approx. 10 hours 30 minutes, air travel time approx. 1 hour 30 minutes	Greater Melbourne approx. 4.98 million
Newcastle to Canberra	424 km	Driving time approx. 4 hours 40 minutes, air travel time approx 1 hour	ACT approx. 454,000

Infrastructure & Development

PORT OF NEWCASTLE

The Port of Newcastle's ambitious diversification strategy had some significant movements forward across 2022.

With trade worth about \$37 billion to the national economy each year, Port of Newcastle enables Australian businesses to successfully compete in international markets. The Port currently handles over 4,600 ship movements and 164-million tonnes of cargo annually, including dry bulk, bulk liquids, ro-ro, general and project cargo and containers.

In 2022, the Federal Government further demonstrated its commitment to clean energy at the Port of Newcastle, with \$100 million in funding for hydrogen readiness announced and the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Act passing through NSW Parliament, which will ultimately allow the port to undertake container trade without any of the previous financial restrictions it was bound to.

In the last 12 months Port of Newcastle has targeted new opportunities, progressed a broad range of projects and committed to investing millions of dollars over the next five years.

- Among other achievements the Port of Newcastle Port has:
- Commissioned two Liebherr Mobile Harbour Cranes for container and cargo handling

- Invested millions in the upgrade of our container and cargo handling berth, both landside and waterside
- Commissioned a new ship unloader that will provide greater efficiency and speed for the unloading of bulk cargo vessels
- Contributed over \$1 million for community projects, including the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund and the Your Port, Our Community grants.

Following the legislative process for the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Act, the port will immediately begin the planning and construction process for the \$2.4 billion container terminal, that will generate thousands of jobs directly and indirectly, along with generating millions of dollars for the local and national economy.

The Port of Newcastle Green is also committed to developing a Clean Energy Precinct, which will be capable of producing 1.6 GW in five years of green hydrogen and ammonia production. The \$100 million received from the Federal Government for hydrogen readiness will allow the port to prepare the 220 hectares of land and start infrastructure development that will create a pathway for the establishment of clean energy production.

Embracing renewable energy trade is part of a broader focus on creating a safe, sustainable and environmentally and socially responsible port of the future.

Over the past four years, Port of Newcastle has transformed its business with sustainability at the centre of its diversification commitments.



MULTI-PURPOSE TERMINAL

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Infrastructure & Development

In this time, the Port has committed to a target-driven Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy, become the first port in Oceania to be EcoPorts certified against the leading global ports sustainability benchmark, achieved Silver Status in the NSW Government’s Sustainability Advantage program and has secured 100% renewable energy to power its operations. It has also immensely improved its GRESB benchmarking from 40 two years ago to 95 in 2022 gaining a 5-star rating and ranked second globally and first in its category in Oceania.

With a multi-billion-dollar capital investment programme, multiple projects underway, emerging opportunities the Port of Newcastle is committed to supporting the diversification of the Hunter Region for the benefit of the local community.



Newcastle Deep Container Terminal Artist Impression

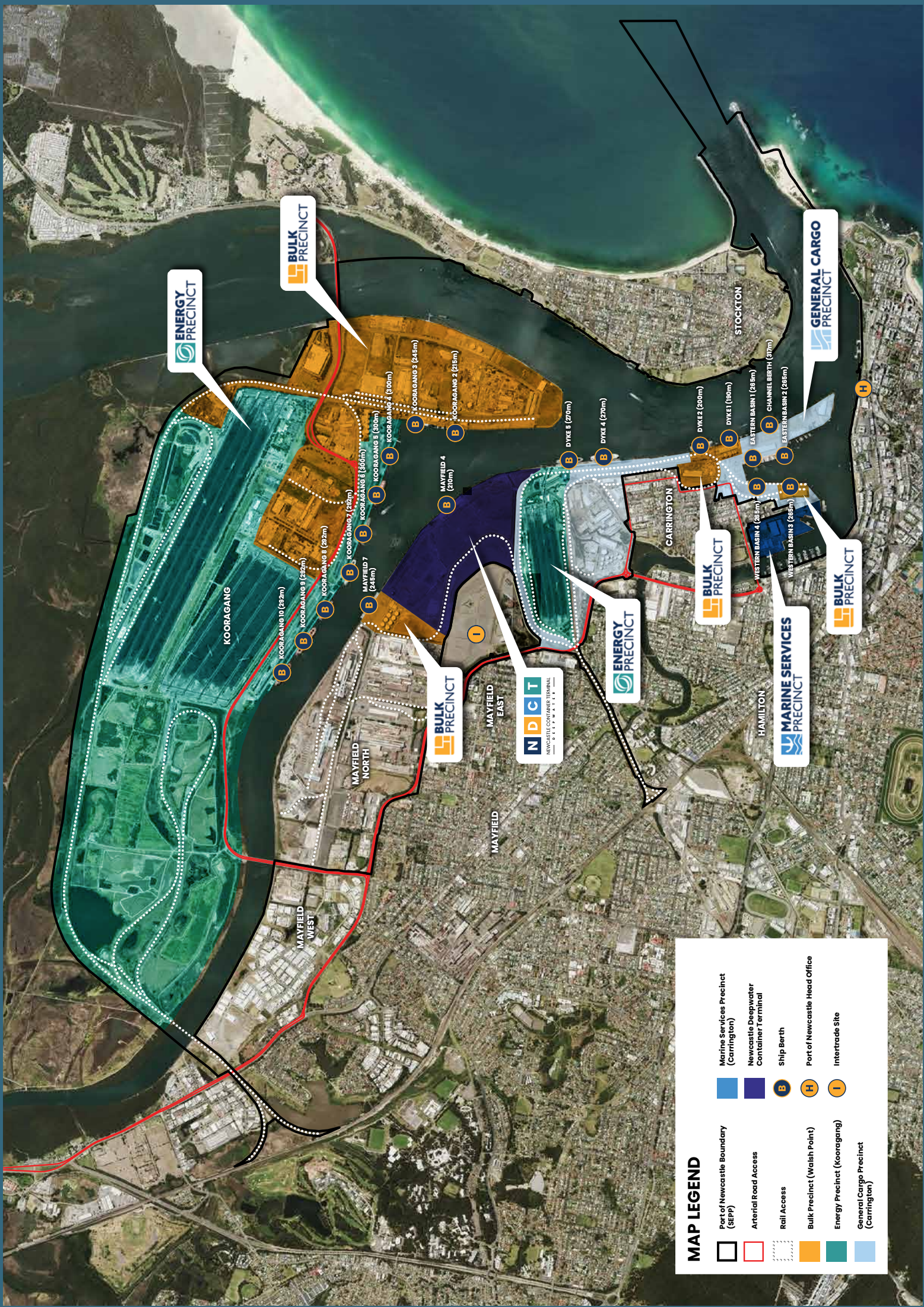


2021 EXPORTS

PORT OF NEWCASTLE TRADE STATISTICS		
COMMODITY	MASS (TONNES)	VALUE (\$ MILLION)
Aluminium	92,643	295.1
Coal	156,665,674	27,956.7
Concentrates	368,307	1,704.0
Machinery, Project Cargo & Vehicles	9,459	94.6
Meals & Grains	308,876	68.5
Pitch & Tar Products	87,585	57.5
Steel	39,414	114.2
Wheat	3,045,124	843.9
Other Trade	241,404	214.1
TOTAL	160,858,486	31,348.7

2021 IMPORTS

PORT OF NEWCASTLE TRADE STATISTICS		
COMMODITY	MASS (TONNES)	VALUE (\$ MILLION)
Alumina	1,143,265	322.9
Cement	297,385	2.2
Fertiliser	719,846	464.8
Fuels	1,912,204	2,853.5
Machinery, Project Cargo & Vehicles	25,827	258.3
Meals & Grains	124,536	79.7
Petroleum Coke	226,845	85.0
Pitch & Tar Products	91,760	63.3
Steel	462,270	1,310.1
Wheat	49	0.0
Other Trade	228,056	242.0
TOTAL	5,232,043	5,681.7



AIRPORTS IN THE HUNTER

NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

Awarded Major Airport of the Year by leading aviation body Australian Airports Association in 2021, Newcastle Airport is the busiest airport in New South Wales outside of Sydney. Guided by its purpose of being the Airport the region deserves, Newcastle Airport delivers global connectivity for our region by providing access to major destinations in Australia and around the world. Just as importantly it brings the rest of the world to us and, with it, the economic benefit the Hunter needs to prosper.

Just 30 minutes north of Newcastle’s CBD, the Airport is located adjacent to RAAF Base Williamtown on land leased from Department of Defence. Newcastle Airport Pty Limited is jointly owned by City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors. The Airport is serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, Qantas, Link Airways, Eastern Air Services, FlyPelican and Bonza, flying to 12 direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.

Newcastle Airport is one of Australia’s leading regional airports, servicing over 1.28 million passengers annually, and is the gateway to Australia’s largest regional economy. A major economic driver in its own right, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic the Airport contributed more than \$1.16 billion in regional economic activity each year and supported more than 5,600 jobs.

In the future, the Airport is expected to generate an additional 3,000 jobs, and passenger numbers are anticipated to triple by 2036. Central to this will be a significant airfield upgrade, bolstered in 2021 by \$66 million in Federal Government funding. The Code E runway upgrade will allow wide-bodied, long-haul aircraft to fly in and out of Newcastle, and has led to the Airport’s acceleration of several key projects to support increased passenger numbers. In 2022 the Federal Government contributed a further \$55 million in funding to upgrade and expand Newcastle Airport’s passenger terminal. Expansion of the terminal, increased car parking, services and utilities upgrades, and taxiway and taxi lane upgrades are all part of Newcastle Airport’s Airport Capacity Enhancement (ACE) Program.

Newcastle Airport has a bold vision for our region, which extends beyond increasing passenger numbers and tourism. In May 2018, the Airport’s shareholders approved the visionary purchase of a significant parcel of land adjacent to the Airport, now known as Astra Aerolab. Astra Aerolab is destined to become the pre-eminent space for innovation in aviation, defence, manufacturing, research and education in Australia. It is expected to create more than 5,500 jobs and inject more than \$246 million annually into our local economy when complete.

Newcastle Airport will continue to lead and advocate for continued and sustainable growth for the region. As the aviation industry continues to recover from the impacts of the global pandemic, the Airport is steadfastly focussed on driving strong economic outcomes and ongoing benefits for everyone living in or visiting the region.

CESSNOCK AIRPORT

Cessnock Airport is managed by Cessnock City Council. It is a major training, sport and recreation airport and is NSW’s premier General Aviation airport. Well positioned in the Hunter Region,

Cessnock Airport is primed for growth and is ready to leverage from opportunities from surrounding regional airports, including Newcastle and Bankstown.

Cessnock Airport is receiving increasing business investment enquiries due to its accessible location, and proximity near major freight routes and population centres, and capacity to absorb growth for new and emerging industries. It hosts a number of complimentary aviation businesses and has a growing reputation and demand for pilot skills and training (fixed wing and rotary).

Establishing a business at Cessnock Airport has many benefits:

- Convenient infrastructure: Av-gas and Jet A-1
- Aircraft repair facilities onsite
- Council owned and supported
- Uncongested airspace and unencumbered by Defence
- Highly accessible by car to the Hunter Regions’ significant population and talent
- Ready tourism market, visitor information centre and café amenities onsite

Cessnock Airport is a registered aerodrome and the following activities occur at the facility: flying schools, adventure flights, scenic flights, charter flights, airport transfers, medical transfers, recreational flying and aircraft maintenance.

The runway is 1097 m in length and has pilot activated lighting for night operations as required. Both jet and avgas fuel are available from a modern facility operated by Sky-fuel. Fuel can be accessed by Sky-fuel card or Credit Card.

This airport has an Eastern terminal area. The tourism terminal offers a variety of services geared to the visitor market such as a joy flights in a various warbird aircraft and helicopters. On the Western side of the apron accessed by De Beyers Road is a warbird museum which houses the only flying Wirraway aircraft in Australia, along with several other flying display aircraft. There is also a licensed aircraft maintenance facility and a helicopter flight training school and Tiger Moth flights.

The Hunter Valley Recreational Flyers also house their aircraft on the Western side and offer tours, displays and pilot training opportunities for the visitor to access. Cessnock Airport is also home to the hugely popular Hunter Valley Airshow.



SCONE MEMORIAL AIRPORT

Scone Memorial Airport is a certified aerodrome, servicing the town of Scone and the Upper Hunter region. Located approximately 300 km north of Sydney and 150 km northwest of Newcastle by road, the Airport currently supports a variety of aviation businesses and service providers in addition to a multitude of propeller and jet aircraft flying to and from the Airport. The Airport was constructed in 1958 and designed to cater to Fokker Friendship F27 aircraft. Since that time, the Airport has undergone several upgrades for operational improvements and safety reasons. The Airport has approximately 9,500 movements a year which range from helicopter operations, single and twin-engine aircraft to large executive jets.

The Airport acts as a base of operation for seven commercial aviation operators, a local aero club and several owners and operators of light aircraft. The commercial activities located at the Airport include charter flights, aerial agriculture, flight training, aircraft manufacturing and aircraft maintenance. There is significant use of the Airport by aviation operators based outside the Upper Hunter with domestic and international corporate jet operators supporting the local equine industry, mining, farming and heavy plant and equipment industries. Scone Memorial Airport is also home to the Hunter Warbirds Museum.

The Airport plays an essential role in saving lives by facilitating medical evacuations, collection and delivery of organ donations and search and rescue. The Airport is regularly used by Air Ambulance, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Angel Flight and Royal Flying Doctor Service. The Airport is the only airport in the Upper Hunter region and is therefore a critical resource for providing these essential services.

Along with the medical services, the Airport is the base for Australian’s largest air Rural Fire Service contractor. The NSW Police utilise the Airport to respond to emergencies quickly and for prisoner transportation between corrective services facilities. The Australian Defence Force uses the Airport as a training ground and for ghost operations.

Three registered flying schools operate form the Airport and provide training for pilots of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Rural Fire Service and Westpac Helicopter.

The Airport is part of the Airservices Backup Navigational Network which provides critical and essential safety support to the aviation industry for all aircraft flying within the Scone flight path.

Airport specifications:

- 24 hour operations – no curfew
- Main runway 1403 metres long and 30 metres wide
- Main runway is constructed of bitumen overlay
- Equipped with full lighting services
- Navigational aids including NDB and AWIB
- Airport offers significant airspace potential, with a capability of sustaining more air movements
- Aircraft fueling facilities
- Terminal access is located adjacent to Hunter Warbirds museum.

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 it is perfectly located to service the requirements of users from northern Sydney in the south to Newcastle in the north and Australia wide for inbound and outbound charter services.

Lake Macquarie Airport is also the home base of Red Bull Air Race World Champion Matt Hall. Matt Hall is a regular visitor to the Airport 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 Aviation operates three twin engine aircraft available for private charter including their Piaggio Aero Industries S.P.A P.180 Avanti II that offers seating for up to nine passengers. The charter service can fly groups to most destinations within Australia.

Lake Macquarie Airport is also home to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and NSW Ambulance aeromedical base. The owner consortium has submitted an expansion Development Application (DA) to Lake Macquarie Council, which was approved. The DA consists of four buildings adjacent to the Pacific Highway, three of which are hangers 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 hangers 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.

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 from ab-initio through to Recreational Licence, Private Pilot Licence to Commercial Pilot Licence, with Instrument and Multi Training also available. Joy flights, private charter operations, 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.

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 is hoping to resume services between Taree and Sydney February 2023.

MidCoast Council completed an upgrade in 2017 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.

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 provides 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

UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY

The Hunter has ample capacity to service any size development.

Heavy industry can liaise directly with the generation companies, including AGL 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 1.8 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 as well as Sydney and Wollongong.

Acquired by Santos in August 2022, the Hunter Gas Pipeline is an approved underground gas pipeline from Wallumbilla in Queensland to Newcastle via Narrabri, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland. Project value is estimated to be A\$1,200 million, creating 350 construction jobs and 30 operational and maintenance jobs. The aim is to deliver much-needed gas to east coast domestic markets in as short a time frame as possible. It will also be designed to transport hydrogen as customer demand evolves.

The Newcastle GasDock terminal is being developed at the Port of Newcastle to deliver a competitive infrastructure solution for natural gas imports into NSW by EPIK subsidiary Newcastle GasDock Company. Newcastle GasDock is planned to incorporate a 170,000 cubic metre class Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), a dockside jetty, and a pipeline lateral connecting the FSRU terminal to an interconnection point on Jemena's Sydney to Newcastle pipeline. In November 2020 EPIK announced that it plans to include LNG bunkering services as part of its development supporting the maritime industry in its shift towards cleaner burning marine fuel. In 2022 EPIK was seeking to secure a commercial partner to move the project forward.

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

Hunter Water has facilitated water saving and operational efficiencies for business customers across the region, by working in partnership to develop individualised Water Efficiency Management Plans. It's Smart Business to Love Water.

Water NSW 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.

MidCoast Council has water and sewage responsibilities and services for the entire MidCoast LGA. It operates six water supply systems. The largest is the Manning scheme, which provides water for residents from Harrington in the north to Pacific Palms in the south. The Council also operates four smaller scale water treatment plants to cater for residents of Stroud and Stroud Road, Bulahdelah, Gloucester and Barrington and Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens.

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

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. 5G coverage is available in many areas, particularly in the lower Hunter. 4G is available in most other areas.

The Hunter is connected to high-speed internet by a range of local and national internet service providers.



Glenbawn Dam

Infrastructure & Development

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 the Newcastle CBD was kickstarted with the NSW Government's investment of \$650 million starting from 2015 followed by billions of dollars of private investment in residential and commercial projects that continues to reshape the 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 also a number of major and smaller residential developments scattered across the region to house the Hunter's growing population.

After a number of years of new industrial land being launched, the release of new industrial estates has been quiet in last two years, however, some major releases are now coming to the market.



ONE Apartments Artist Impression



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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 Airport

Cessnock Airport is receiving increasing business investment enquiries due to its accessible location, proximity to major freight routes, capacity to absorb future growth and being uncongested airspace and unencumbered by Defence.

- Land is available on both sides of the airport for aviation-based development. The airport is ideal for:
- general aviation businesses requiring affordable premises with access to the Sydney and Hunter markets
 - businesses servicing home-build and ultra-light planes
 - on-site accommodation for flight school students
 - pilots flying planes into Cessnock for maintenance
 - the development of a hangar complex for private planes adventure tourism experiences.

Cessnock Civic Business Park

The Cessnock Civic Business Park is located on the southern edge of the Cessnock CBD to the south of South Avenue, with frontage to Vincent and Charlton Streets. Cessnock Civic Business Park has been rezoned and approvals were gained by Hunter Land to supply a perceived need for industrial and commercial users close to the Cessnock business district. Hunter Land developed building projects here for Bunnings, Reece Plumbing, and child-care operators.

Former Hydro site

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, is a joint venture between the McCloy Group and the Stevens Group. It includes plans for business, industrial and residential development as well as conservation of around 1300 ha of the site.

Hunter Economic Zone

Hunter Investment Corporation is looking to release further land in the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ). With an estimated \$3.5 billion end value once fully developed, the 550-hectare logistics and business project would be Australia’s largest Industrial Estate and Business Park at 3,200 hectares, and one of the largest business estates in the Asia Pacific region. It incorporates residential, commercial, industrial, aged care, hospital, schools, retail and community and emergency facilities.



MIDCOAST LGA

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. 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. The Northern Gateway is a high priority project in both the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 and the MidCoast Regional Economic Development Strategy, with the NSW Government committing \$15 million for Infrastructure works, to allow the first stage of the project to proceed.

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.

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 km 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.

NEWCASTLE LGA

Black Hill Industrial/ Hunter Business Park

Hunter Land and The Stevens Group are releasing 120 ha of prime industrial sites of industrial land on the corner of the M1 and John Renshaw Drive. The \$88 million staged development includes 200 industrial lots on land formerly owned by Coal and Allied. The full development application has been approved and work has commenced on site with registration of the first stage to take place in the first quarter of 2024. The Hunter Business Park has been recognised in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan as a key driver of employment in the Hunter region.

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.

Mayfield Development site

Promising to be a major economic stimulus in the near future, the Mayfield Development Site is a 90 hectare parcel of port-side land, located within the 152 hectare Mayfield Precinct. Part of the former BHP Steelworks site, the Mayfield Development Site has been extensively remediated and now represents the largest vacant port land site on the eastern seaboard of Australia. Port of Newcastle is seeking to develop the Mayfield Development Site for port related activities in order to accommodate a diverse range of cargo handling infrastructure and the promotion of trade. The site will initially be developed for bulk liquids. A multi-purpose cargo facility focused around bulk materials and general cargo has been identified as a future opportunity.

Newcastle Business Park

This 39.25 hectare site is strategically located in close proximity to the Port of Newcastle and has great re-development potential along with potential upside realisation from vacant buildings totalling 35,000 sqm. The functional industrial facility has 121,000 sqm of under roof office and warehouse accommodation and on-site rail spur, with exposure and access to Industrial Drive.

PORT STEPHENS LGA

Astra Aerolab

In late 2018, Astra Aerolab received \$11.7 million in NSW State Government funding, and it was cemented as the epicentre of the NSW Government’s Special Activation Precinct. Adjacent to Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown, Astra Aerolab is the world’s most uplifting defence, aerospace and innovation precinct. Stage 1 is comprised of Lots with direct airside access and is now leasing. Construction of the first on site commercial building is expected to begin in 2023. In a significant show of confidence in Astra Aerolab and the defence and aerospace industry at Williamtown, BAE Systems Australia has signed a 34-year extension on its current lease at Newcastle Airport. BAE also entered a new pre-commitment for up to 4.4 hectares of land on Astra Aerolab. The agreement sees Astra Aerolab providing a full range of property services, including future development of facilities on the pre-commitment land. The benefits of co-location and collaboration ensure Astra’s ‘lab-like’ environment connects businesses to the ideas and workforce of the future.

Kinross Industrial Estate

Large lots are available in Kinross Industrial Estate, Heatherbrae with convenient access of Camfield Drive. Stage 6B is the latest release, offering lots from 3,125 sqm to 4,308 sqm and some consolidation is possible to accommodate a larger user. Camfield Drive is now home to a wide range of users including Australian Plastic Profiles, Andersons Scaffolding, Reece Plumbing, Solo and Jayco Caravans.

Precinct 52

Precinct 52 is the next stage of the Williamtown Aerospace Centre (WAC). Extending the success of the Technology Place development, Precinct 52 will offer a greater spectrum of facility solutions. 14 hectares of land will be developed with full scale industrial road access. Precinct 52 will be the platform for world class warehouse, logistics, distribution, assembly, workshop, commercial and light industrial space. Further commercial facilities will be available with easy access to the RAAF Base Williamtown, Newcastle Airport, Newcastle Port and major road access to the M1 to Sydney and Brisbane and Newcastle CBD. Currently, three building projects have been designed and are

Infrastructure & Development

awaiting rezoning of the land through the Williamstown Special Activation Precinct process to enable more Defence companies to expand and move to the area.

Port Stephens Business Park

This limited land release is located in Taylors Beach just off Nelson Bay Road. The land benefits from flexible B5 Business Development zoning under the Port Stephens LEP 2011 and has the ability to amalgamate lots to cater for larger site requirements.

SINGLETON LGA

McDougall Business Park

MacDougall Business Park has over 65 hectares of industrial land. Bunnings, Ausgrid, Singleton Toyota, Farms Warehouse and many mining related businesses are currently in this estate.

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.

Mt. Thorley Industrial Estate

Mt Thorley is a 130 hectare estate located west of Singleton. It is a mature industrial area mainly 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.



Astra Aerolab Pocket Park



Precinct 52 plan



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Infrastructure & Development

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

The city of Newcastle is the business capital of the Hunter and has well 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.

727 HQ

727 HQ is set to be Newcastle's tallest office tower with it being a 15-storey commercial high rise. The project is set to include more than 11,000 sqm of commercial space to cater for up to 1,000 employees, a rooftop terrace, two retail spaces, more than 200 car parks and end of trip facilities including ground floor showers and bike storage. The site will also incorporate a Melbourne-style public laneway alongside the building connecting King and Hunter Streets, which will include artwork and decorative lighting. It is currently under construction and due for completion in Q1 2023.

Swift on Hunter

Altim Property's Hunter is the first A Grade commercial office building in Newcastle which will allow small businesses to own their own premises. Swift features 5 floors of sustainably designed commercial suites ranging in size. Suites for sale at Swift range in size from 50 sqm to 196 sqm all with car parking included. The Swift building also features end of trip facilities, bicycle storage rooms, licence plate recognition and is targeting 4.5 Star NABERS rating.



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 (four distinct stages).

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 completed in 2021. Stage 2 (124 apartments) was complete in 2022. Stage 3 and 4 will include 235 dwellings across five buildings, 1,731 sqm of retail floorspace and approximately 300 parking spaces.

The Store Site

Doma Group is leading the transformation of The Store site at 854 Hunter Street in Newcastle, with a \$200 million redevelopment that will take design and opportunity to new levels in the city's emerging West End. The redevelopment of the 12,000 sqm site will combine innovative design solutions to provide an integrated masterplan delivering a new 15,000 sqm standalone office, retail and two residential towers and structured carpark that is built over the NBI designed and approved by Transport for NSW. The office space is anchored by NSW Government tenants.

New office development for Carrington

Port of Newcastle plans to construct a commercial office building on vacant land within the existing commercial precinct at 46 Fitzroy Street, Carrington. It represents a \$30-\$35 million investment for Newcastle. A development application for the commercial premises has been lodged with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

New warehouse development at Kooragang

Port of Newcastle plans to construct a 3,000 sqm industrial warehouse development on vacant land at 70 Raven Street Kooragang. Located within an existing industrial precinct, the clever design maximises flexibility to cater for a wide range of uses, so it can be used for high clearance warehousing or other heavier industrial uses. The flexibility in design also provides the capability of being divided into two separate tenancies.

A development application for the warehouse has been lodged with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). Should the proposed development be approved, construction would take approximately 6 to 8 months from commencement.



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, HM, Target, Big W, Woolworths, Coles and Reading Cinemas. Located in the centre of Charlestown, Macquarie Tower is stepping up the offering in commercial spaces. Encompassing ground floor retail including a cafe, adjoining external leisure and seating area, a child care facility, secure parking, and an integrated building management system, Macquarie Tower raises the bar in complete commercial offerings in Charlestown, Lake Macquarie and the greater region. Offering expansive and unrivalled views across the pacific and to the mountains, Macquarie Tower consists of over 7,000 sqm of commercial and retail space. Construction has been completed on a landmark 30,000 sqm retail centre in Lake Macquarie creating more than 600 full-time jobs. Spotlight Group has created a \$90 million centre fronting the Pacific Highway at Bennetts Green. A Bunnings Warehouse, Spotlight and Anaconda stores anchor the site, with a number of other businesses, including two fast food outlets and a service station, also included. In 2021 Costco Lake Macquarie opened, which is a



landmark 14,000 sqm warehouse and fuel station at Cockle Creek, Boolaroo. There are a number of other major current, proposed and recently completed developments.

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. Maitland 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. In recent years Stockland Green Hills has undergone a \$412 million redevelopment that more than doubled the centre to around 70,000 sqm of gross lettable area.

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Infrastructure & Development

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 find that house prices are significantly lower than major capital cities. The HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report released in November 2022 reported that the median cost of a residential lot in Newcastle / Lake Macquarie was \$465,000, and the Hunter Valley was \$360,000 compared to \$650,000 in Sydney. The median lot size is also larger locally, Newcastle / Lake Macquarie were 516 sqm and the Hunter Valley 640 sqm compared to 450 sqm in 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 with up to 20,000 residents spread across 4 villages, surrounding a contemporary town centre. 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.

Mount View Grange

Launched in September 2018, Mount View Grange will be a master planned, 240 hectare estate with 450 to 800 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.

Wyndham Ridge

Wyndham Ridge embraces its natural setting so you can enjoy the best of true country living. With only 248 lots, Wyndham Ridge is also able to offer larger lot sizes, giving more space between homes and more of a connection to the countryside. The first release at Wyndham Ridge offers lots ranging from 600 sqm to 2,700 sqm. All lots are fully serviced to the boundary including gas and NBN. Wyndham Ridge is now sold out.

Regrowth

The Regrowth project spans 2000 ha and is planned to transform Kurri Kurri's smelter site into industrial estates, a business park and a new suburb called Loxford Waters. The site will see the positive incorporation of 1000 ha of environmental conservation land and over 2,000 new residential home sites. Other factors include environment remediation, industrial and business employment opportunities retirement living, childcare, education and recreational outcomes. Positioned in a strategic transport interchange location Regrowth and its future residents and

businesses capitalise on the expanding logistics hub of the Hunter Valley.

North Ridge

North Ridge is a landmark new residential estate in Bellbird, Cessnock. The carefully designed masterplan takes advantage of the existing natural terrain and ensures that many homes in North Ridge will enjoy expansive views of adjoining bushland and the greater Hunter Valley. With a range of lot sizes available, North Ridge offers the choice and flexibility to design and a home in the stunning Hunter Valley that suits various needs and budgets. Only a short commute to employment and schools during the week and with the vineyards and lifestyle options of the Hunter Valley on the weekend, North Ridge is an ideal choice for a new home. Lot sizes in the available stages 4b, 5 & 6 range between 517 to 2245 sqm.

LAKE MACQUARIE LGA

Eden Estates

Lake Macquarie's north will be home to up to 1000 new houses, 2000 more people and support 540 new jobs, following Council's endorsement to submit a Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to start the rezoning process. The 169 ha site north of Glendale and adjacent to City of Newcastle is well located for future urban development. The Eden Estates site straddles the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGAs, between Glendale and Wallsend, with the Newcastle Link Road dividing the site. The total site area is approximately 592 ha, with approximately 169 ha of the site within Lake Macquarie City. It is estimated 3000-4000 homes will be provided in total, with 750-1000 homes within Lake Macquarie City. It is also anticipated that a significant part of the site will be conserved for environmental outcomes.

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.

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. The Trinity Point development project started over 21 years ago, with two stages now complete. As part of the current proposal, stage three, The Trinity Point tourism precinct is planned to include a luxury hotel, restaurants and a function centre, gym, wellness centre including day spa, business centre, small convenience store and pool. We are currently proposing 180 residential apartments and for the hotel to have 218 beds, with 6 serviced apartments.

Cameron Grove Estate

Cameron Grove Estate is a premium residential community, located at Cameron Park a 30-minute drive from the heart of the Newcastle, and just 5 minutes away from the Hunter Expressway. Residents have access to parklands, the nearby Pasterfield Sports

Infrastructure & Development

Complex, plus a new shopping centre with Woolworths and other speciality shops will be built within the estate. Residential land and home and land packages are now selling.

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, future releases will include a retail precinct.

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.

Heritage Parc

Heritage Parc is a unique residential land estate in Maitland that offers flat easy-to-build-on land for sale, generous block sizes ranging from 437 sqm to 701 sqm. Over half the estate is dedicated to natural open space with 11 parks and playgrounds proposed and expansive waterways interconnected by cycleways and walking tracks. The neighbourhood offers superior facilities including picnic amenities, a community garden, a dog exercise area, children’s playgrounds, fitness circuits, sporting fields and amenities and an outdoor art gallery.

Thornton North

Thornton North is a future residential community spanning 19 hectares within the Thornton North urban release area. When complete the project will consist of approximately 140 residential homesites. Its location is well positioned just 10 minutes from the Maitland CBD, 5 minutes from Stockland Greenhills Shopping Centre and 30 minutes to Newcastle CBD and beaches. When complete the new community will home 144 homesites and approximately 400 residents. Future owners can look forward to all the hallmarks of McCloy Communities including mature street trees, statement public art installations and a striking entry feature.

Hereford Hill

Situated in a scenic location Hereford Hill is a new residential living opportunity coming to Lochinvar. The 25-hectare parcel of land off the New England Highway, will see approximately 280 new homesites created in the local community, proposed to range in size from 460 square meters to 1800 square meters. Future residents of all stages of life can look forward to enjoying the untapped potential these residential homesites offer and an abundance of new home inspiration with a 30 home Display Village included in the site.

Lochinvar Ridge

Located in the heart of Lochinvar. Lochinvar Ridge is a prestige master planned estate in a thriving and close-knit community. With generous lot sizes (800 sqm) surrounded by a vast serene landscape. Enjoy the relaxed lifestyle of the area and the diverse Hunter community. Positioned in Maitland’s newest growth centre of Lochinvar with significant employment areas close by, Lochinvar Ridge is an ideal location to choose your own builder and build a dream home.

Anambah Rise

Anambah Rise is conveniently situated in one of the Hunters fastest growing regions, with a wide range of retail, commercial and community spaces within close reach. Just minutes from the nearest shops and services, it’s a perfect start for first home buyers and growing families. There is an extensive selection of homes available from both Clarendon and Domaine Homes on lots from 450 to 672 sqm.

MIDCOAST LGA

Forster South

The McCloy Group welcomed Forster South to their pipeline in 2021, a secluded coastal hideaway amidst the booming area of the Mid North Coast. Spanning 48 hectares the site boasts over 550 metres of waterfront frontage on the Pipers Bay / Wallis Lake and 650 metres of convenient street frontage onto the Lakes Way. Forster South presents a unique future residential living opportunity in a highly convenient location within proximity to a Stockland Shopping Centre and all the highlights of coastal town living.

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.

MUSWELLBROOK LGA

Ironbark Ridge

Ironbark Ridge is a boutique family-friendly land estate with rural residential land for sale in Muswellbrook. In 2013, Ironbark Ridge was shortlisted for Best Residential Community in both the Urban Taskforce Awards and the UDIA (NSW) Awards for Excellence. The popularity of the community is due to the mix of features on offer. Huge acreage homesites range up to 8,301 sqm and come with fully serviced underground power and sewer. The large blocks feature wide frontages and elevated northerly aspects. Ironbark Ridge is also just minutes from Muswellbrook’s shops, schools, parklands and other town conveniences.

Infrastructure & Development

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.

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 (four distinct stages). 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 completed in 2021. Stage 2 (124 apartments) was complete in 2022. Stage 3 and 4 will include 235 dwellings across five buildings, 1,731 sqm of retail floorspace and approximately 300 parking spaces.

The Store Site

Doma Group is leading the transformation of The Store site at 854 Hunter Street in Newcastle, with a \$200 million redevelopment of the 12,000 sqm site will combine innovative design solutions to provide an integrated masterplan delivering a new 15,000 sqm standalone office (complete), retail and two residential towers and structured carpark that is built over the NBI designed and approved by Transport for NSW (complete). The residential towers to be known as The Store Residences consist of 356 units - a mix of one, two and three-bedroom apartments. The 30-storey buildings will be the city’s tallest at 99 metres, but rooftop infrastructure will extend beyond 100 metres. The podium situated above the Carpark will offers residents a host of recreational facilities spanning almost one acre in size—including a swimming pool, tennis court, spaces for private events, BBQ area, community gardens and children’s playground, all surrounded by landscaped open areas.

Dairy Farmers Towers

Dairy Farmers Towers marks the rebirth of one of Newcastle’s most iconic locations with over 180 residences, 5 floors of commercial space, and some of the best views of Newcastle. The residences will be situated in two towers that will become a new landmark amongst Newcastle’s city skyline. The North Tower will be 99 metres tall and the South tower will be 89 metres in height. Each tower will include layouts featuring 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. The iconic glass bottle and clock remain and will continue to live on through the redevelopment into Dairy Farmers Towers. The project is expected to be completed by late 2024.

ONE Apartments

Located in Newcastle’s CBD, ONE is a twin-tower development, offering one, two and three-bedroom luxury apartments with



market-leading-sized floorplates and a selection of vistas. ONE Apartments feature a Scenic Lounge on the 22nd floor, providing 360° panoramas over Newcastle Harbour, Stockton, Merewether and the Watagan Mountains. Also located on the western side of the 22nd floor, the Sunset Room is a bookable function room. ONE will even have its own private cinema.

Other developments

There is also a range of other apartment developments planned for Newcastle. These include:
Horizon at Lee 5 -105 apartments
Bowline – 97 units
The Crossing – 48 apartments
799-805 Hunter Street – 74 units
Element Apartments – 72 apartments

PORT STEPHENS LGA

The Bower

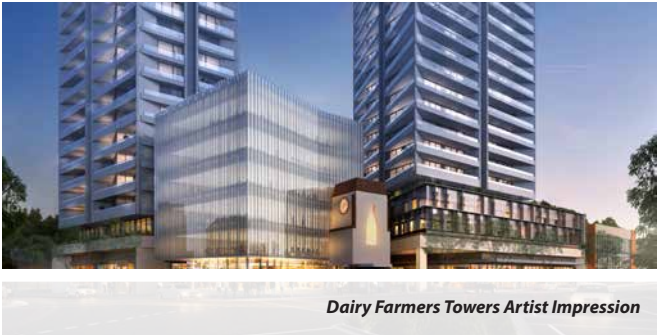
McCloy Group has released The Bower, a spacious 127 hectare residential land estate located off Medowie Road in Medowie. The Bower will consist of an estimated 405 homesites ranging from approximately 500 square metres to 5000 square metres across 57 hectares. The remaining 70 hectares will be preserved as state conservation area and open space.

The Gardens

This residential community is located at the heart of Medowie, its central location will offer purchasers a convenient stroll to the local shopping centre and community facilities whilst providing an easy 25 minute commute into Newcastle CBD. When complete The Gardens is anticipated to comprise of 211 residential homesites, with an average size of 550 sqm across the 21 hectare parcel of land. McCloy Group has announced the site will see future expansion back to Brocklesby Road, to the rear of the current site. An additional 2.9 hectares will be added to The Gardens enabling better access to housing within the LGA. The expansion will add to the existing amenity of the Gardens, all within walking distance of the town centre and community facilities already in operation.

The Village, Wallalong

The Wallalong project is proposed to include a mix of environmental, rural, residential, commercial, education, and recreation opportunities such as parks, playgrounds and playing fields. Located in the Port Stephen’s Local Government Area it is part of a broader development in the region. The Wallalong Urban Release Area is set on 630 hectares and has the opportunity to accommodate approximately 3,500 new homesites, which would alleviate significant pressure on land supply in the Lower Hunter. Over the life of the project, the local amenity would be managed through appropriate planning



An Envable 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 sportsperson. 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 below that of the major cities 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.

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. Hunter residents enjoy 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 a wide range of budgets.

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 November 2022 reported that the median cost of a residential lot in Newcastle / Lake Macquarie was \$465,000, and the Hunter Valley was \$360,000 compared to \$650,000 in Sydney. The median lot size is also larger locally, Newcastle / Lake Macquarie were 516 sqm and the Hunter Valley 640 sqm compared to 450 sqm in Sydney.

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, 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 Master Plan for the NSW Government's John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP) which includes a \$835 million investment in John Hunter Hospital and John Hunter Children's Hospital is now under construction.

The NSW Government's \$470 million new Maitland Hospital has been completed and offer state-of-the-art facilities for a wide range of treatments.

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 58 primary and secondary schools servicing all main towns.

Catholic secondary schools include:

- All Saints College - Maitland
- Catherine McAuley Catholic College – Medowie
- San Clemente High School - Mayfield
- St Bede's Catholic College - Chisholm
- St Catherine's Catholic College - Singleton
- St Clare's High School – Taree
- St Francis Xavier - Hamilton
- St Joseph's College - Lochinvar
- St Joseph's High School - Aberdeen
- St Marys Catholic College – Gateshead
- St Pauls Catholic College - Booragul
- St Pius X - Adamstown

University of Newcastle campuses are set in unique and beautiful locations where it can meet diverse student and study needs in a broad range of courses and programs offered across Australia and around the world.

The University's campuses located in the Hunter and adjoining Central Coast region are located just minutes away from spectacular beaches, waterways, national parks and State forests. The University also has a presence in metropolitan Sydney and a campus in Singapore.

The main campus at Callaghan is a beautiful mix of award-winning, architecturally designed buildings sitting across 140 hectares in a natural setting. The University's ongoing investment in state-of-the-art facilities at Callaghan will attract the best and brightest students, researchers, academic and professional staff.

The University of Newcastle plays an important part in the renewed sense of vibrancy in the Newcastle CBD and the Newcastle City campus is very much at the centre of the city's burgeoning arts scene.

NUspace harnesses the latest technology and innovation in teaching and learning to deliver a world-class student experience by engaging students in new and exciting ways. At Honeysuckle, Q Building provides cutting edge facilities for Creative Industries students to explore and develop their professional creative skills across a variety of visual formats and channels including broadcast, web, film, television, advertising, publishing, and encourages engagement in these industries.

The impressive Conservatorium of Music is also located in the Newcastle City campus. Its premier Concert Hall is a much-loved performance venue for local, interstate and international artists.

Students and staff at the University place high value on their environment and the lifestyle they enjoy by working, studying and living in Newcastle.

TAFE NSW has a major presence in the Hunter Region, with 13 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.

TAFE NSW Scone is located in the Upper Hunter Valley in Scone, a town known as the horse capital of Australia. Conveniently situated next to the racecourse and the Equine Research Centre, TAFE NSW Scone features state-of-the-art stables, a riding area, and farrier's workshop.

Tokyo-based Nihon University welcomed the first students to its new international campus in Newcastle in January 2022. With over 70,000 students, Nihon University is the largest private educational institution in Japan. Originally founded in 1189 as the Nihon Law School, the University now comprises 16 colleges, 20 postgraduate schools, and 32 research institutes. The Newcastle campus is the University's first overseas location.

Shopping

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

Larger centres such as Westfield 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, with recent examples 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 Project which transformed Central Maitland for both retail and recreation. A 14,000 sqm Costco has also recently been built at Lake Macquarie.



Aerial Cypress Golf Course
Josh Vincent & Cessnock City Council

An Envable Lifestyle

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 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, the

Newcastle Jets in the National A-League and the Newcastle Jets FC in the A-League Women – 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 provides state of the art facilities for the local community.

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.

A transformed sports & entertainment precinct is planned at Broadmeadow. 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.

Surfing is a high participation sport in the Hunter because of the great selection of exceptional surfing beaches. Newcastle's Surfest is the largest surfing festival in the southern hemisphere.

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.

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 an 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 home to a wide range of festivals that attract an increasing number of visitors to the Region. These include Newcastle Jazz Festival, Hunter Valley Food & Wine Festival, Bitter & Twisted International Boutique Beer Festival, Lovedale Long Lunch, This That Festival, Taree Aquatic Powerboat Easter Spectacular, Hunter Valley Steamfest, Dungog Rodeo, Love Sea Food Tastes Port Stephens, Scone Horse Festival, Festival of the Fleeces and many others. A number of regional shows are also held annually.



Food served at QT Newcastle

An Envable Lifestyle

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, Eastern Air Services, Link Airways, Bonza and Regional Express with direct flights to 12 direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.

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 relatively uncongested roads and ample parking facilities.

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 followers of other religions in the Hunter, including Buddhism and Islam.

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

Local Government Areas

The Hunter is divided into 10 Local Government Areas:

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

The Hunter Joint Organisation 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 www.hunterjo.com.au



Pokolbin Mistletoe Lane
Josh Vincent & Cessnock City Council



Local Government Areas

CESSNOCK LGA

Area: 1,965 sq km
Population: 64,082 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 40 km west of Newcastle; 120 km north of Sydney

Cessnock City offers significant advantages for businesses looking to establish or expand their presence in NSW's powerhouse economy, the Hunter Region. Cessnock City is strategically located to service the surrounding region including Newcastle City, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and the Upper Hunter, as well as the Central Coast. Cessnock City 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 City is directly accessible from the Pacific 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 of the City, providing direct access to the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.

By 2041, Cessnock's population will have grown to almost 98,000 people and another 10,000 homes will have been built in our towns and villages to accommodate the growth. Behind this growth is a liveable region renowned for its relaxed country lifestyle, excellent infrastructure, skilled labour and strategic location.

Hunter Valley Wine Country, in Cessnock City is the most visited wine region in NSW and the oldest surviving commercial wine region. A range of business opportunities exist to leverage from the prominent visitor economy in the events, arts and culture, food, wine and beverage, and aviation areas. There is a diversity of economic activities in Cessnock City including manufacturing, construction, accommodation, tourism, health care, residential care, training services, agri-business, resource recycling and food services. Cessnock City is home to specialist training in hospitality, viticulture, horticulture, heavy machinery operations and maintenance. There is also substantial growth in beverage manufacturing, construction, health care, accommodation and food services, education and training, public administration and warehousing.

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 abundant grazing and pastoral lands.

Mayor: Councillor Jay Suvaal
General Manager: Ken Liddell
Address: 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock NSW 2325

For further information contact:
Cessnock City Council Economic Development Unit
Phone: +61 2 4993 4100
Email: economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.advancecessnock.com.au

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Local Government Areas

Local Government Areas

DUNGOG LGA

Area: 2,250 sq km
Population: 9,525 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 76 km north of Newcastle

Dungog Shire is in the Upper Hunter Region and is renowned for its forests, mountains and picturesque river villages. It is bordered in the north by the Barrington Tops plateau and its national park, which is part of the Great Dividing Range.

Dungog Shire is an area of unparalleled natural beauty featuring two principal rivers; the Williams River to the east of the Shire and the Paterson River to the west. Both rivers are tributaries of the Hunter River and contribute over 40% of the flow to the river.

With some of the most extensive subtropical rainforests in the world, visitors come to explore the 13,000 ha of state forests and 37,500 ha of protected conservation areas and nature reserves, where you can relax, camp or picnic beside pristine rivers - taking a refreshing swim, paddle a canoe or throw in a fishing line. For those looking for a more wilderness adventure, an adventure up the Barrington Tops, or a walk, mountain bike, run or horse ride at the renowned Dungog Common might be more your speed.

With a long history and innumerable heritage buildings, Dungog Shire offers numerous art galleries, speciality shops, pubs and cafes that extoll the history of the community; retaining a hint of

a by-gone era. With the iconic Horseshoe drive allowing visitors to take in the magnificent scenery through authentic country towns, it's no surprise it's one of the most popular routes.

Dungog Shire is a vibrant rural community, strongly committed to maintaining and celebrating its unique lifestyle. Nowhere else in the Hunter will you find such a mixture of creative businesses and events boarded by productive and innovative farms. Over the recent years the shire has been an increase in the number of art, craft, creative businesses and events, with both a retail and tourism focus, including the internationally acclaimed Dungog Festival and Sculpture at the Farm.

For those living in the Dungog Shire, the township boasts a hospital and excellent educational facilities; including Tocal Agricultural College, and with short drives to other popular Hunter destinations, it's no wonder the population has increased by 10% in two years as people move to this natural wonderland.

Mayor: Councillor John Connors
General Manager: Gareth Curtis
Address: 198 Dowling Street, Dungog NSW 2420

For further information contact:
Economic Development Manager
Phone: +61 2 4995 7777
Fax: +61 2 4995 7750
Email: shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.dungog.nsw.gov.au and www.visitdungog.com.au

LAKE MACQUARIE LGA

Area: 649 sq km
Population: 213,967 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 110 km north of Sydney

With a lower cost base and higher staff retention than larger urban settings, Lake Macquarie is well positioned for significant growth.

The City offers:

- Strong population growth opportunities with low development and operational costs
- Population potential to grow to 311,500 by 2038 (+2.7% pa) consistent with the high growth scenario which foresees Lake Macquarie City as part of the expanding global city of Sydney
- Strong supply of residential land, both infill and greenfield
 - 2,926 new dwellings pa (+3.3%) needed to achieve high population growth scenario
 - Industrial land up to 80% less than Sydney
 - Commercial rental 25% lower than Sydney
- Significant tracks of desirable land for infill, brown and greenfield development

A supportive planning, development and investment environment in a strategically placed location:

- Customised support to reduce costs and encourage timely delivery
 - 90 mins drive to Sydney and adjacent to the City of Newcastle and Central Coast
 - 25 mins to the Port of Newcastle, Australia's largest east

coast port

- Access to three airports: Newcastle, Sydney and Lake Macquarie Airport

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 - <https://www.lakemac.com.au/For-business>
- Emerging enterprise grade internet connectivity
- CELL (Circular Economy Living lab)

Higher levels of staff retention, with an idyllic lifestyle offering:

- Productive, skilled workforce, with lower employee costs
- High quality of life and low cost of living is great for retention

Dantia is the economic development company for Lake Macquarie City. Dantia creates opportunity through empowering people and entities to grow & prosper in the Lake Macquarie region.

Mayor: Councillor Kay Fraser
General Manager: Morven Cameron
Address: 126-138 Main Road, Speers Point NSW 2284
Website: <https://www.lakemac.com.au/For-business>

For further information contact:
Economic Development: Joshua Sattler
Phone: +61 427 908 217
Email: info@dantia.com.au



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dantia.com.au

Local Government Areas

MAITLAND LGA

Area: 396 sq km
Population: 90,553 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 27 km west of Newcastle, 170 km north of Sydney

Maitland City Council invites businesses and investors seeking affordable commercial real estate, greenfield and infill development opportunities, an outstanding location and connectivity, a growing population and consumer base, and strong networks and Council support, to make it Maitland.

Nestled on the picturesque Hunter River, Maitland boasts a desirable location, just 90 minutes from Sydney and 30 minutes from Newcastle. Located near the Hunter Expressway and with regional rail networks and transport corridors at its doorstep, Maitland offers ready freight and passenger solutions, and easy access to global markets through Newcastle Airport and the Port of Newcastle.

Maitland's thriving economy generates an annual economic output of \$10.9 billion and a gross regional output of \$5.4 billion (June 2021). 5,200 active businesses support the growth of Maitland's economy and more than 18,000 jobs. Maitland's major employing industries include healthcare and social assistance (16.4%), retail trade (12.3%) and construction (11.5%).

The opening of the new Maitland Hospital at Metford in January 2022 has significantly accelerated growth in Maitland's health



Whether it's for business or investment, make it Maitland.
We're here to help. Contact Maitland City Council's City and Visitor Economy team.
02 4934 9868 business@maitland.nsw.gov.au
maitland.nsw.gov.au/business



sector. The hospital has paved the way for East Maitland to transform into a regionally significant, health and medical precinct, with many healthcare businesses relocating to the area.

At the heart of the city is Central Maitland, where impressive heritage buildings sit alongside vibrant public spaces and multi award winning contemporary developments, including The Levee, The Riverlink and Maitland Regional Art Gallery. The potential to attract state significant events has been boosted by Maitland Regional Sports Complex and the upgraded Maitland Netball Courts. Maitland Administration Centre (opening early 2023) offers state of the art facilities for both Council staff and the community. Maitland's Destination Management Plan 2030 outlines an exciting and ambitious range of investment opportunities to grow Maitland's visitor economy. The Maitland Gaol Development Plan will also ensure the Gaol's long-term sustainability and assert its position as one of the most iconic tourist destinations in regional NSW.

By 2041, an estimated 144,500 people are expected to call Maitland home. Maitland's rapid growth is testament to the outstanding liveability on offer. With an eclectic mix of boutique villages and commercial centres, productive industrial and business lands, and rich agriculture, Maitland offers highly attractive business opportunities, exciting employment prospects and strong business support.

Mayor: Councillor Philip Penfold
General Manager: David Evans PSM
Address: 285-287 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320

For further information contact:
Coordinator City and Visitor Economy
Phone: +61 2 4934 9868
Email: business@maitland.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/business

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MIDCOAST LGA

Area: 10,054 sq km
Population: 96,425 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 172 km north of Newcastle

The MidCoast region covers over 10,000 sq km and encompasses Gloucester and the Barrington Tops, Great Lakes, and the Manning Valley. With stable development, an unbeatable lifestyle and 195 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 sq km of national parks, 85 sq km 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 \$220 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 20.2% 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 Northern Gateway Transport and Logistics Hub.

Mayor: Cr Claire Pontin
General Manager: Adrian Panuccio
Offices: Yalawanyi Ganya, 2 Biripi Way Taree 2430

MUSWELLBROOK LGA

Area: 3,405 sq km
Population: 16,463 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 130 km north-west of Newcastle

Muswellbrook Shire is centrally located in the Upper Hunter Valley, by road approximately three hours from Sydney, two hours from Tamworth and 90 minutes from Newcastle. The Shire is rich in natural resources with 1,455 sq km (43%) of 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.

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. Liddell and Bayswater power stations will close in 2023 and 2035 respectively.

Muswellbrook has the natural assets, infrastructure and skills to become Australia's 'new energy' powerhouse, capitalising on the global momentum behind clean energy, sustainable food and bio-innovation to create new industries and jobs. This is due to Muswellbrook's key comparative advantages which include: transport and enabling infrastructure, close energy system integration and skills base. Muswellbrook LGA is well positioned to develop clean energy generation. In addition to solar and wind energy generation, the region has financially competitive sites for construction of Pumped Hydro Energy Storage. Muswellbrook LGA is also a region with competitive and comparative advantages for developing bio-ethanol and green chemicals production with suitable land, reliable and existing rail freight networks and transport links to a major exporting port.

Muswellbrook's economic development strategies are linked to Council's Community and Economy directorate which seeks opportunities for new business and employment opportunities and sustainable regional transition for the Upper Hunter Region.

Mayor: Councillor Steve Reynolds
General Manager: (Acting) Derek Finnigan
Address: Campbell's Corner 60-82 Bridge 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

Local Government Areas

NEWCASTLE LGA

Area: 187 sq km
Population: 167,317 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 170 km north of Sydney

Newcastle is a creative, culturally rich and innovative city boasting gorgeous natural assets and a warm and welcoming community.

With an average commute time of 15 minutes, Newcastle offers all the benefits of a modern, smart city including world-class services and facilities, top-tier education and employment.

It's little wonder, then, that Newcastle's appeal as a convenient, liveable city is growing, with more people relocating from metropolitan centres like Melbourne and Sydney than ever before. This included a 10% increase during the height of COVID in 2021, while the latest figures from Regional Australia Institute's quarterly Regional Movers Index show this trend remains strong, with capital city migration to Newcastle increasing by 1% in the 12 months to September 30. According to the data, Newcastle also performed stronger than the top five LGAs from the June to September quarters, with a 7% increase compared to a 5% jump on the Gold Coast, a 6% rise in Geelong and Wollongong and a negative 1% result on the Sunshine Coast.

Young professionals are driving this migration trend, with 30 years the average age of people moving from a capital to Newcastle, younger than all other gateway cities.

Part of Newcastle's appeal lies in a culture of creativity and pioneering innovation present across the LGA. As an emerging global city, Newcastle boasts a dynamic and rapidly expanding innovation ecosystem, where a shift toward a knowledge economy with specialist clusters in science, engineering, health, renewable energy, and defence and aerospace, is helping to transform and reinvigorate the city.

City of Newcastle has invested significantly in smart city infrastructure, support programs for local business people, and initiatives like New Move and NewSkills – both aimed at attracting skills and talent to the region and supporting the development and growth of Newcastle businesses and their staff.

Connected to the world via an international airport and deep-water port, Newcastle is also undergoing significant commercial and residential renewal, particularly in the east and west ends of the inner city, helping Newcastle realise its full potential as a truly compact, convenient, and liveable global city.

Lord Mayor: Councillor Nuatali Nelmes
CEO: Jeremy Bath
Address: 12 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West, NSW 2300

For further information:
Phone: +61 2 4974 2000
Email: movetonecastle@ncc.nsw.gov.au
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Local Government Areas

PORT STEPHENS LGA

Area: 858 sq km
Population: 75,282 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 170 km north of Sydney

The Port Stephens Local Government Area (LGA) is situated on the northern boundary of the City of Newcastle and encompasses the Tomaree National Park, the Worimi Conservation Lands and a 98,000 hectare Marine Park. Almost 75,000 people call Port Stephens home and this is predicted to grow to over 90,000 over the next 20 years.

The Port Stephens' economy has a diverse industry and employment base built around the natural environment. Well established manufacturing, defence and aviation facilities together with access to markets in Sydney, the Hunter and the Port of Newcastle, are key strengths.

Location and access to transport infrastructure create 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 and innovative manufacturing sector at Tomago leading in metals manufacturing, heavy engineering and light industrial activities.

Port Stephens GRP, estimated at \$5.4 billion per annum, accounts for 4.11% of the overall Hunter GDP. The major employment sectors include Public Administration & Safety (inc Defence), Manufacturing, Construction, Retail Trade and Accommodation &

Food Services, collectively employing 48% of the 27,346 people working in the area. The local economy includes over 5,000 actively trading businesses.

Williamstown is home to Newcastle Airport, RAAF Base Williamstown and a number of high-profile primes in defence, aviation, aerospace and technology. In May 2020, the NSW Government announced the area as NSW's 5th Special Activation Precinct (SAP), which will essentially fast-track planning and prioritise investment to further stimulate economic activity and development. A \$66 million funding investment from the State will bring the airport's runway to Code E standard allowing larger aircraft to land. This development significantly expands the potential for international connections, creating opportunities for business across a range of sectors, including tourism.

A major visitor destination in NSW, Port Stephens' visitors flock to experience the unique natural attractions, with its underwater marine oasis, kilometres of coastal bushland and the largest sand dunes in the southern hemisphere. High profile sporting events feature throughout the year, alongside local festivals featuring award winning craft beer, fresh seafood and local culinary delights.

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

For further information contact:
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Phone: +61 2 4988 0536
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Website: www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au

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Local Government Areas

SINGLETON LGA

Area: 4,893 sq km
Population: 24,719 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 80 km west of Newcastle, 200 km north-west of Sydney

With a diverse industry base, skilled labour force and location on a major transport route, Singleton is the conduit for the Hunter supply chain, forming an attractive business and commercial destination as the home of major industries including coal mining and construction, manufacturing, defence, agricultural production, and viticulture. Singleton is rapidly becoming a destination of choice for investment.

As the gateway between the Upper and Lower Hunter, the Hunter Expressway makes Singleton easily accessible to the Port and coastal attractions of Newcastle, as well as an easy 2 hours' drive to Sydney. Rail and air transport links allow convenient access to major cities on the eastern seaboard and beyond. Supporting the key engine industries are the industrial estates of Mount Thorley and Masion Dieu industrial estates and McDougall Business Park presenting opportunity for investment and business growth. As a major economic powerhouse at the heart of the Hunter Renewable Energy Zone, Singleton offers opportunity for innovation and investment for emerging industries with a strong skills base.

The recent revitalisation of the Town Centre, digital infrastructure upgrades including the NBN business fibre zone and construction

of the new Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre, sporting facilities and award-winning parks, make it a perfect choice for liveability, lifestyle, and investment. The development of creative industries connected with the new Arts and Cultural Centre brings new local and regional collaborations. The Singleton New England Bypass project commencing in 2023 presents further opportunity for growth and diversity, as the economy evolves.

Singleton also boasts natural attributes and historical significance, surrounded by the beauty of Lake St Clair, Mount Royal, Yengo and Wollemi National Parks and is an important centre of Aboriginal and colonial heritage. Home to the oldest wine region in Australia, it's also a great place to enjoy the good life as well a destination for economic investment.

With city conveniences and a rural heartbeat Singleton truly is a great place to live, work and play.

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



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Local Government Areas

UPPER HUNTER LGA

Area: 8,096 sq km
Population: 14,254 (ABS 2021 ERP)
Location: 152 km north-west of Newcastle

The Upper Hunter LGA includes the major centres of Scone, Merriwa, Murrumbidgee and Aberdeen and around 10 surrounding villages. Predominantly a rural area, agriculture remains the main local economic driver which includes the world's second largest thoroughbred breeding industry with its associated service industries. The Upper Hunter is located just north of the coal mining centre of Muswellbrook, an easy drive for workers and businesses.

The region is connected by the New England and Golden Highways and Northern Rail Line. The Scone Regional Airport services a number of charter, aircraft construction and maintenance businesses, supports air traffic related to local business and is currently undergoing a major redevelopment. Plans are underway for implementation of the Airport Masterplan and construction of a Warbird Visitor Attraction.

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 has included extensive roof coverage and soft flooring for livestock welfare as well as online selling. Hunter Valley Meats Scone (JBS) is a major employer. With Halal accreditation and an export licence supplying beef to most major Asian markets, it is an important manufacturing industry employing over 500 workers.

With approval for the Kyoto Energy Park (a 35 wind turbine and large solar farm) near Scone and the Liverpool Range Wind Farm (267 turbines) on the western side of the shire, there are great opportunities for industries related to clean energy production.

The relatively inexpensive land provides significant opportunities for business relocation. Council and privately owned residential land developments provide affordable housing in all the population centres. There is supply of industrial land in a range of lot sizes in Scone. With the Scone bypass completed, there are many opportunities for business investment and development within the Scone CBD. Planning and implementation is well underway for the revitalisation of the four major towns. Council is also commissioning a Destination Management Plan which will showcase the unique assets and experiences on offer.

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

Mayor: Councillor Maurice Collison
General Manager: Greg 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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UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL

Business Organisations

EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Australian Industry Group (Ai Group)

Regional Manager NSW: Terry Crotty
Suite 1 “Nautilus” 265 Wharf Road, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 8300
www.aigroup.com.au

Business Hunter

President: Tony Rhodes
CEO: Bob Hawes
Suite 1, Level 1, 165 Lambton Road, Broadmeadow NSW 2292
Phone: +61 2 4969 9600
www.businesshunter.com

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

Australia Stock Horse Society

President: Brendan Shearer
PO Box 18, Scone, NSW 2337
Phone: +61 2 6543 6286
<https://ashs.com.au/>

Engineers Australia – Newcastle Division

General Manager: Helen Link
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

Chair: Lee Smith
PO Box 124, Mayfield NSW 2304
<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

Hunter Valley Law Society

President: Nada Vujat
Phone: +61 4016 5111
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 (HCCDC)

Chief Executive: Valentina Misevska
6 Stewart Avenue Newcastle West NSW 2302
PO Box 813, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4904 2750
www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au

Master Builders Association of Newcastle

President: Brad Garrard
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 1, 11 Barrack St Sydney, NSW, 2000
Phone: +61 2 9033 1900
www.propertycouncil.com.au

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Barrington Coast

Marketing Officer: Ben Andrews
12 Little Street, Forster NSW 2428
Phone: 1800 802 692
<https://barringtoncoast.com.au/>

Denman Community Technology Centre and Visitor Information Centre

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

Destination NSW

Chief Executive Officer: Steve Cox
GPO Box 7050
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone: +61 2 9931 1111
www.destinationnsw.com.au

Destination Port Stephens

Chair: Sarah Smith
Shop 32a, 71, Victoria Parade,
Nelson Bay, NSW 2315
Phone: +61 2 4981 2964
www.portstephentourism.com.au

Dungog Shire Visitor Information Centre

198 Dowling Street, Dungog NSW 2420
Phone: +61 2 4992 2212
Postal Address: PO Box 95, Dungog NSW 2420
www.visitdungog.com.au

Gloucester Visitor Information Centre

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

CEO: Jennie Curran
2090 Broke Road, Pokolbin 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 2 4921 0740
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

Merriwa Visitor Information & CTC Centre

34-40 Vennacher Street, Merriwa NSW 2329
Phone: +61 2 6521 7046
www.upperhuntercountry.com/towns/merriwa/

Murrurundi Visitor Information Centre

113 Mayne Street, Murrurundi NSW 2338
Phone: +61 2 6540 1364
www.upperhuntercountry.com/towns/murrurundi/

Muswellbrook Visitor Information Centre

126 Bridges Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Phone: +61 2 6549 3891
<https://muswellbrook.org.au/>

Newcastle Tourism Industry Group

Chair: Kent Warren
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
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/towns/scone/

Singleton Visitor Information & Enterprise Centre

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

Tourism Advancing Gloucester

27 Denison Street, Gloucester NSW 2422
Phone: 0427 589 075
<https://gloucestertourism.com.au>

Business Organisations

SUPPORT NETWORKS

Business Growth Centre

Opening in 1998, the Business Growth Centre was established as a not-for-profit Business Enterprise Centre, Business Incubator and Registered Training Organisation to support and grow small/micro businesses in Lake Macquarie. On July 1, 2021, Central Coast Community College took over the running of the Lake Macquarie Business Growth Centre.
Director: Mark Sargent
48 Oakdale Road, Gateshead NSW 2290
Phone: +61 2 4942 3133
www.businessgrowthcentre.org.au

Committee for the Hunter

The Committee for the Hunter is an independent and inclusive champion for the people of the Hunter and their enterprises, providing effective advocacy and thought leadership to help build a sustainable and prosperous future for the region.
CEO: Alice Thompson
<https://hunter.org.au>

Dantia

Dantia is the economic development company for Lake Macquarie City. Its sole purpose is to create investment and long-term employment opportunities for the growing city of Lake Macquarie and the region. Dantia creates opportunity by empowering people and entities to grow and prosper in the Lake Macquarie region.
CEO: Joshua Sattler
Level 1, 63 Ridley Street, Charlestown NSW 2290
Phone: +61 2 4905 0088
www.dantia.com.au

BUSINESS HUNTER



WE'RE IN BUSINESS TO HELP BUSINESS

THE LEADING VOICE ON KEY ISSUES AFFECTING HUNTER BUSINESSES SINCE 1886.

We engage with stakeholders at all levels of government to advocate for public and private investment that promotes the economic growth and diversification of the region and policies that support businesses to grow, prosper and create jobs.

SPEAKING UP FOR BUSINESS



www.businesshunter.com | 02 9466 4665 | info@businesshunter.com



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Business Organisations

Hunter Angels
Hunter Angels is an angel investor group that invests in emerging and growing businesses. They hold regular member events and pitc evenings and its members invest in approximately 10+ companies each year.
Executive Officer: Gordon Whitehead
Level 1, 63 Ridley St Charlestown NSW 2290
Phone: +61 2 4905 0088
<http://hunterangels.com.au>

Hunter Creative Alliance
Hunter Creative Alliance (formerly ICAN) was formed by representatives from cross-disciplinary Hunter-based arts and culture organisations and bodies with the aim of establishing a platform for advocacy and collaboration.
PO Box 48, Mayfield NSW 2304
www.huntercreativealliance.com.au

Hunter iF
Hunter iF is a not-for-profit support organisation that encourages and facilitates investment, jobs and growth by providing a one stop shop for innovation in the Hunter through a comprehensive, connected and cohesive package of services, programs and opportunities.
Executive Officer: Gordon Whitehead
6 Dick St, Newcastle West, NSW, 2302
Phone: +61 2 4022 9522
<https://hunterif.com.au/>

HunterNet Co-operative Limited
Incorporated in 1992, HunterNet is a network of manufacturing, engineering and specialist services companies located in the Hunter and Central Coast Regions of NSW.
CEO: Ivan Waterfield
Level 3, 755 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 4482
www.hunternet.com.au

Hunter Defence
Hunter Defence is a collaborative task force focused on demonstrating the capability of established Hunter defence industry suppliers to government and primes, as well as upskilling local SMEs to become 'Defence ready'.
CEO: Ivan Waterfield
Level 3, 755 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 4482
www.hunternet.com.au/hunter-defence/

HunterNet Group Training Company
Recognised by the Department of Education & Training as a Registered Group Training Organisation, HunterNet Group Training Company employs apprentices and trainees who are then placed with a host employer.
COO: Nick Couper
Level 3, 755 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4925 4482
www.hunternet.com.au/hunternet-group-training/

Hunter Joint Organisation
Fosters co-operation and resource sharing between its ten member councils, encourages investment and advocates for the local government areas it represents.
CEO: Joe James
59 Bonville Avenue, Thornton NSW 2322
Phone: +61 2 4978 4040
<https://www.hunterjo.com.au/>

Hunter Region Business Hub (THE HUB)
One of over 100 BEC's that operate nationally to provide new and existing micro, small and medium business clients with practical assistance in business planning, advice on marketing, budgeting and cash flow.
General Manager: Kerry Hallett
PO Box 195, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327
Phone: +61 2 4936 2557
www.huntervalleyhub.com.au

Hunter Young Professionals (HYP)
Hunter Young Professionals (hyp) is a community of professional individuals who value unique experiences and learning opportunities to develop their skills beyond their tertiary education.
President: Danielle O'Neill
www.hunteryoungprofessionals.com.au

Regional Development Australia Hunter
RDA Hunter collaborates to support economic development of the region.
Executive Officer: Trevor John
PO Box 159, Hamilton NSW 2303
Phone: +61 2 4940 8355
www.rdahunter.org.au

The Business Centre (Newcastle Region)
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: Steve Wait
6 Dick St, Newcastle West NSW 2302
Phone: +61 2 4925 7700
www.businesscentre.com.au

RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

CSIRO Newcastle
CSIRO is Australia's national science research agency. The energy centre in Newcastle hosts the solar field and energy research hub.
Communications Manager: Nicholas Kachel
10 Murray Dwyer Circuit
Mayfield West NSW 2304
Phone: +61 2 4960 6000
<https://www.csiro.au/en>

Hunter Research Foundation Centre (HRFC)
HRFC helps to support such transitions by informing industry, government and the community with a sound base of socio-economic evidence. The Centre's focus is providing rigorous, independent research and analysis that is readily understood and clear in its implications.
409 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: +61 2 4985 4311
www.newcastle.edu.au/hrfc

Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise (KEE)
Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise provides services to researchers from the University of Newcastle, as well as connecting industry with the University's world-class research and technologies.
Acting Director: Professor Brian Kelly
www.newcastle.edu.au/engage/business-and-industry/knowledge-exchange-and-enterprise

Newcastle Institute for Energy & Resources (NIER)
C Block, Ground Floor (Room: NIERC-G30)
70 Vale St, Shortland, NSW 2307
Phone: +61 2 4985 4979
www.newcastle.edu.au/research/centre/nier



NIER-Mohammed J Ajrash Al-Zuraiji
University Of Newcastle

Business Hunter
President: Tony Rhodes
CEO: Bob Hawes
165 Lambton Road, Broadmeadow NSW 2292
Phone: +61 2 4969 9600
<https://www.businesshunter.com/>

Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc.
President: John Sahyuon
63 Stroud Street, Bulahdelah NSW 2423
Phone: +61 2 4997 4764
<https://www.facebook.com/BulahChamber>

Business Port Stephens
President: Mel Turner
Shop 32B Nelson Towers
71 Victoria Pde Nelson Bay NSW 2315
Phone: +61 455 844 751
<https://www.businessportstephens.com/>

Business Singleton
President: Sue Gilroy
PO Box 298, Singleton NSW 2330
Phone: +61 400 460 412
<https://www.businesssingleton.com.au/>

Central Hunter Business Chamber
Interim President: Tony Gates
12 Clift St, Branxton NSW 2335
Phone: +61 2 4938 3710
<https://centralhunterbusiness.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
PO Box 115, Denman NSW 2328
Phone: +61 427 062 885
www.visitdenman.com.au

Dungog District Chamber of Commerce
President: Marion Stuart
PO Box 210, Dungog NSW 2420
Phone: +61 428 921 899
www.ddcc.org.au

Forster Tuncurry Business Chamber Inc
President: Simon France
PO Box 380, Forster NSW 2428
Phone: +61 499 779 972
www.ftchamber.com.au

Gloucester Chamber of Commerce
President: Matt Clinch
PO Box 111, Gloucester NSW 2422
Phone: +61 478 599 283
www.gloucesterchamber.com.au

Hamilton Regional Business Association
President: Darcy Walker
PO Box 317, Hamilton NSW 2303
Phone: +61 488 102 650
<http://www.hrba.com.au/>

Harrington and Surrounds Business and

Business Organisations

Community Associations Incorporated Management Committee
President: Cliff Hoare
PO Box 1, Harrington NSW 2427
Phone: +61 418 268 998
www.harringtonandsurrounds.com.au

Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber
President: Roz Bastow
PO Box 255, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327
Phone: +61 2 4936 2557
www.kurrikurri.com

Lake Macquarie Business Ltd
President: Richie Williams
PO Box 1242, Warners Bay 2282
Phone: +61 2 4971 4020
www.lakemacbusiness.com.au

Lovedale Hunter Chamber of Commerce
701 Lovedale Road, Lovedale NSW 2320
www.lovedalehuntermvalley.com.au

Maitland Business Chamber
President: Michael Maffey
PO Box 77, Maitland NSW 2320
Phone: +61 429 343 340
www.maitlandbusiness.com.au

Mandurah Hunter Indigenous Business Chamber
CEO & Chairperson: Debbie Barwick
2/1 Sabre Close, Rutherford NSW 2320
Phone: +61 2 4932 7722
<https://nswicc.com.au/mandurah-hibc/>

Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc
President: Mike Kelly
PO Box 683, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Phone: +61 438 517 311
www.muswellbrookchamberofcommerce.com.au

Myall Coast Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Inc.
PO Box 70, Hawks Nest NSW 2324
Phone: +61 400 018 197
<https://www.facebook.com/myallcoastchamber/>

Northlakes Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 218, Cardiff NSW 2285
Phone: +61 401 102 285
<https://www.facebook.com/Cardiff.NSW>

Old Bar Manning Point Business & Community Association
President: Mel Rosamond
Address: PO Box 187, Old Bar NSW 2430
Phone: 0490 449 643
www.obmp.com.au

Scone Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.
President: Rachael McGuirk
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

Taree Business Chamber
President: John Stevens
PO Box 805, Taree NSW 2430
Phone: +61 466 918 844
<https://tareebusinesschamber.com.au/>

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

Warners Bay Chamber of Commerce
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: Matt Burnett
PO Box 25, Wingham NSW 2429
www.winghamchamber.com.au/our-chamber

Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce
President: Kylie Gemmell
Phone: +61 411 135 735
www.visitwollombi.com.au

Government Assistance

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:

- Facilitates regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.
- Promotes greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grants programs and research.
- Improves Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.

Contact: CEO & Director of Regional Development: Trevor John
Room 5AG, Block A/266 Maitland Road, Tighes Hill NSW 2297
PO Box 159, Hamilton NSW 2303
Phone: +61 2 4940 8355
Email: admin@rdahunter.org.au
Web: www.rdahunter.org.au

AUSINDUSTRY

AusIndustry supports businesses to grow, diversify and thrive through a range of government programs and services. They connect you with the right advice, networks, opportunities and funding to help you build your business.

Ausindustry supports businesses to become strong, self-reliant and competitive in a global environment. They enable businesses to transform through strengthening capabilities, introductions to new networks and helping access funding to reach their full potential.

They connect businesses with programs and services to achieve their business vision.

The AusIndustry outreach network is your local business connection, with offices in every state and territory, in capital cities and regional areas.

Their local experts will work directly with your business to provide targeted support and guidance. They will connect you to the right government programs and services for your business at a local, state and federal level.

Contact: Grayson Wolfgang
Phone: 0429 539 134
Email: Grayson.Wolfgang@industry.gov.au
Web: www.business.gov.au

NSW Government – Department of Regional NSW

The Department of Regional NSW leads investment attraction, promotion and strategy work across regional NSW.

The Hunter-Central Coast Regional Development team provides end-to-end support for businesses wishing to set up or expand their operations in the Hunter and Central Coast and holds specialist expertise in investment attraction and knowledge in key engine, emerging and new industries.

It works closely with the NSW Government’s overseas trade representatives to attract investment and talent and connect into innovation ecosystems.

Contact: Department of Regional NSW
Email: Regional.HunterCentralCoast@regional.nsw.gov.au

AUSTRADE

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Austrade, promotes Australian trade, investment, tourism and education to the world. They deliver services to grow Australia’s economic prosperity.

Austrade are experts in connecting Australian businesses to the world and the world to Australian business. Their global network turns local market connections and insights into valuable export and investment support.

Austrade contributes to Australia’s prosperity by:

- linking Australian businesses to global export opportunities
- providing market and industry insights, making it easier for businesses to go global
- attracting international investment to drive local jobs and develop skills
- leading policy and programs for Australian tourism and the visitor economy
- attracting international students to study with Australia.

As Australia’s leading trade and investment agency, Austrade can:

- open doors
- unlock opportunities
- help Australian businesses go further, faster.

Contact: Austrade Regional Representative: Isaac Court
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

Four Walls Commercial is a boutique commercial property agency specialising in the sale, lease and management of commercial, retail and industrial buildings.
www.fourwallscommercial.com.au



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https://outofthesquare.com



The University of Newcastle

A global top 200 university, the University of Newcastle has delivered superior education and world-class research since 1965.
www.newcastle.edu.au



SILVER SUPPORTERS

Cessnock City Council
www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Collaborative Construction Solutions
www.collaborative.com.au

Dantia
www.dantia.com.au

Evoke Projects
www.evokeprojects.com.au

Glencore
www.glencore.com

HunterNet
www.hunternet.com.au

HVTC
www.hvtc.com.au

MBA Group Training & Personnel
www.mbagtp.com.au

McNamara Adams
www.mcnamaraadams.com.au

MOVABLE
www.movable.com.au

NCP Printing
www.ncp.com.au

Newcastle City Council
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Nova Systems
www.novasystems.com.au

NSW Government - Department of Regional NSW
www.nsw.gov.au/regionalnsw

Port of Newcastle
www.portofnewcastle.com.au

Regional Development Australia – Hunter
www.rdahunter.org.au

Scorpion International
www.scorpioninternational.com

Singleton Council
www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

Upper Hunter Shire Council
www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Varley Group
www.varley.com.au

BRONZE SUPPORTERS

Business Hunter
www.businesshunter.com

EJE Architecture
www.eje.com.au

Housing Industry Association – Newcastle
www.hia.com.au

Maitland City Council
www.maitland.nsw.gov.au

Stevens Construction
www.stevensconstruction.com



2023

HUNTER INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS