

The background of the entire page is a cosmic scene. The top half is a deep purple and blue space filled with numerous small, distant stars. A soft, ethereal glow of the Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the upper left. The bottom half of the image transitions into a bright, warm orange and yellow glow, representing the horizon of a celestial body like a sun or planet, with a curved edge visible at the very bottom.

# 2024 HUNTER INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

**YOUR NEXT SMART BUSINESS, INVESTMENT &  
LIFESTYLE CHOICE IS ON THE HORIZON**



# 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 \$73.3 billion (Remplan) and 57,971 businesses (ABS, June 2023).

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 seaport, 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 a gross regional product of \$73.3 billion (Remplan) and 57,971 businesses (ABS June 2023)



The Port of Newcastle is one of Australia's largest ports with \$71 billion of trade in 2022



Over 1.2 million annual passenger movements through Newcastle Airport



Close proximity to major Australian markets



Global top 175 university



Population of 787,182 (ABS June 2022 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.**

# Government Welcomes

## Federal Government

The Hunter is a powerhouse region with an abundance of potential. In its long history lies a remarkable story of building and advancing of our nation.

Donald Horne, a son of the Hunter and one of our great thinkers, called for Australia to be, a country where intelligence and imagination are prized.

Intelligence and imagination are so much a part of the Hunter’s spirit; driving the Australian economy into the future.

The Hunter has been part of our nation’s energy story for generations. It’s an aspect of the region’s catalogue of long-recognised strengths in resources, a skilled and adaptable workforce, deep-water port, and tourism.

As the world’s energy needs transform, it’s time to build on those strengths, seize opportunities and shape the future, instead of allowing it to shape us.

Governments at every level are investing in Newcastle and the Hunter. Partnerships in manufacturing, technology, innovation, education, and research, are standing up across the region – fuelled by the Hunter’s outstanding potential to be a renewable energy superpower.

## State Government

The Hunter is experiencing a jobs and population boom. As the nation’s leading regional economy, it’s not hard to see why.

The Hunter provides meaningful work for around 400,000 people – in industries as diverse as mining, construction, education and health care.

These communities have helped build the Hunter into an economic powerhouse. But the region’s appeal is built on so much more.

With stunning natural scenery and tightknit communities by the beach or in the bush, moving to the Hunter can feel like winning the “lifestyle lottery.”

As a government, we want to ensure that this historic growth is sustainable; that everyone can put a roof over their head and access essential services like healthcare and education.

This means scaling up our investment in service delivery and infrastructure.

We want to keep the Hunter moving, so we’re working with our Commonwealth counterparts to extend the Pacific Motorway to Raymond Terrace, complete the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and upgrade the Hexham Straight.

With Maitland now the fastest growing regional city in NSW, we’re also investing in the next stage of the Thornton rail bridge duplication.

We want all our kids to have a great education. So, we’re building a new high school in Medowie, upgrading high schools at Hunter River and Irrawang, and redeveloping Gillieston Public School.

From Muswellbrook’s Hunter Innovation Precinct, to the international terminal at Newcastle Airport, and the Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub, the Hunter is playing to its strengths. In return, we’re enabling the region to embrace the vast scope of economic and job opportunities arising from new technologies and advanced manufacturing.

What I see happening in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley embodies where we need to go as a country. Building the depth, diversity and resilience of our regions assures us we can meet the challenges of today, and plan for the prospects of the future.

I applaud the 2024 Hunter Investment Prospectus for providing a gateway to the opportunities of today and tomorrow.

**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**  
**Prime Minister of Australia**



A growing population will place a greater demand on our healthcare services. So, we’re continuing to expand facilities at John Hunter and making major investments in Cessnock, Manning and Muswellbrook Hospitals.

We’ve worked hard to attract and retain essential workers to keep our schools and hospitals running - increasing their pay and improving their conditions.

We’re also working to make housing more affordable and increase supply. We’ve allocated \$1.5 billion from the new Housing and Productivity Contribution to deliver enabling infrastructure in key growth areas, including the Lower Hunter.

People love the Hunter and are voting with their feet. Investors are also flocking to the region.

Now, it’s the responsibility of the Government to honour these choices by delivering the essential services and infrastructure to underpin it all.

I look forward to working with you as the Hunter continues to grow and thrive.

**The Hon Chris Minns MP**  
**Premier of New South Wales**



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*Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association*





# 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.

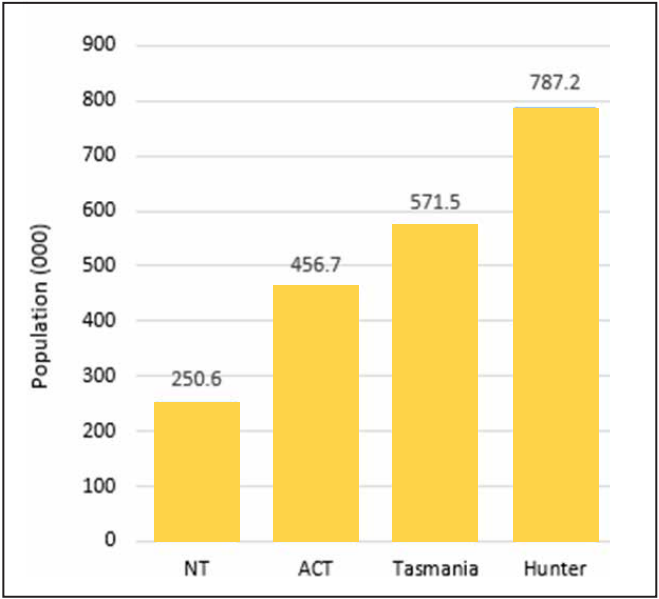
Covering an area of nearly 33,000 sq km, the Hunter is roughly located between latitudes 31.5° and 33° south and longitudes 150° and 152° east. It is the most populous regional area in Australia. With 787,182 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2022 estimated resident population), the Hunter has significantly more people and greater economic output than Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.

*The Hunter truly has  
it all – it’s a great  
investment and  
business location  
plus a great  
place to live.*

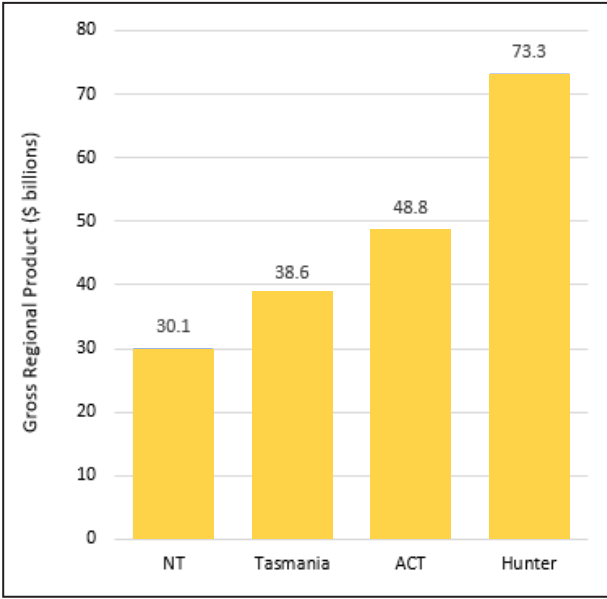
Newcastle



Comparative populations (ABS 2022 ERP)



Comparative Gross Regional Products (ABS, Remplan)



# Economic Powerhouse

According to Remplan, the Hunter has a gross regional product of \$73.3 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.

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 are characterised by a “can do” attitude that is fuelling sustained economic growth and a secure future. These factors, combined with the Hunter’s numerous other competitive advantages, have seen billions of dollars invested in recent years by a host of companies, including major national and international corporations.

# 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.



An Australian Government Initiative

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](http://www.hmic.org.au)





# Economic Powerhouse



Around Hermitage Association

The Hunter economy’s increasing focus on innovation and intellectual resources is making existing industries more efficient, gaining new global markets and creating new industries that will hold the Hunter in good stead for the future. Increased levels of cooperation between industry, government, educational

institutions and other organisations are helping to increase levels of local innovation and driving growth.

The Newcastle CBD 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 also 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.

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EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

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ROAD SIGNS | COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE  
SAFETY PRODUCTS | MINING

**BUY ONLINE**  
Save \$10 Off Your First Order

# Small enough to care.

Big enough to *Defy* Expectations!

Marketing » Video Production » Websites » Design

OUT OF THE SQUARE



# 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 in the 2021-2022 financial year Sydney had a net internal migration of -51,738 people. 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 420,883 (June 2023, Jobs and Skills Australia) 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 around 350,000 and a workforce of over 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.

University of Newcastle



We create  
well – places<sup>™</sup>

We believe people are the product of their environment. The better equipped they are, the more likely they are to do well.

Our approach to designing for workplace begins and ends with understanding the people it's for. So we not only create the right space, but harness a sense of place, and ultimately help improve occupant health, wellbeing and productivity. We call this creating 'well-places'.

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Does well for employees,  
Does well for clients,  
Does well for culture.



# Economic Powerhouse

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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

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

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

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

The education and training sector is also a major employer in the Region, accounting for around 9% 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 our planet.

Almost 37,000 students from over 100 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. Every undergraduate student at the University now undertakes a Career-ready placement as part of their degree. This gives them the opportunity to work with industry as part of their study and 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. The university is proud to be the first university in Australia to receive a SAGE Cygnet Award for Indigenous Cultural Competency, recognising their commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff.

To find out more, visit [www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

# Economic Powerhouse

### TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW offers a wide range of training solutions to support Hunter professionals and businesses. Designed by qualified TAFE NSW teachers, the future-focused courses use the latest technology to develop new skills safely.

Students can prepare for the future of industry and study renewable energy skillsets and electric vehicle maintenance; study Aviation and get hands-on experience, building a Zenith STOL 750 from scratch or restoring a Catalina aircraft in a purpose-built workshop in partnership with local industry and universities; or choose from hundreds of courses to build on skills for your business.

TAFE NSW delivers nationally accredited training and education, including short courses, school programs, degrees, diplomas, and certificates tailored to student and business requirements.

Courses can be delivered either on campus, online, or a combination of both and in the workplace.

For more information about TAFE NSW, visit [tafensw.edu.au](http://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 six campuses. Their students experience higher levels of completion rates and outcome metrics than many other education providers.

# Develop your future workforce



Partner with us to harness next generation thinking, build your talent pipeline, and help shape tomorrow's leaders through career-ready placements.

**Partner with us**

2023 1030 CRICOS Provider 001093



# TAFE NSW



## Breathe new life into your business

If you're working in the Electrotechnology, Aviation, Mining, Electric Vehicle solutions or Renewable Energies industries and would like a workforce with up-to-date, job-ready skills, then enrol your staff with TAFE NSW. We offer a wide range of training solutions developed with industry to meet current and future business demands. Courses can be tailored to your needs and are delivered flexibly: either onsite, online, on campus, or a combination. So if you're ready to breathe new life into your business, contact TAFE NSW today.

- + Electric vehicle maintenance
- + Welding featuring augmented reality\*
- + Mining Skills
- + Renewable Energy and Sustainability
- + Aviation

[tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au)

131 601





# Economic Powerhouse

They are also a place that delivers marginalised and disadvantaged communities with access to learning.

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](http://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](http://www.hvtc.com.au)**

Atwea



### King's Own Institute (KOI)

King's Own Institute (KOI) is a private institution of higher education offering high quality accredited diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Accounting, Business, Management, Information Technology (IT) and postgraduate courses in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

King's Own Institute (KOI) is Newcastle's first private institute of higher education. The institute is located in purpose-built premises in Darby Street, Cooks Hill. This easily accessible location is in the heart of the Newcastle CBD and provides, both domestic and international students, with advanced learning facilities.

The contemporary teaching environment supports a hybrid mode of flexible learning, allowing students to interact and work collaboratively in a face to face or online environment.

**For more information visit <https://koi.edu.au/newcastle/>**

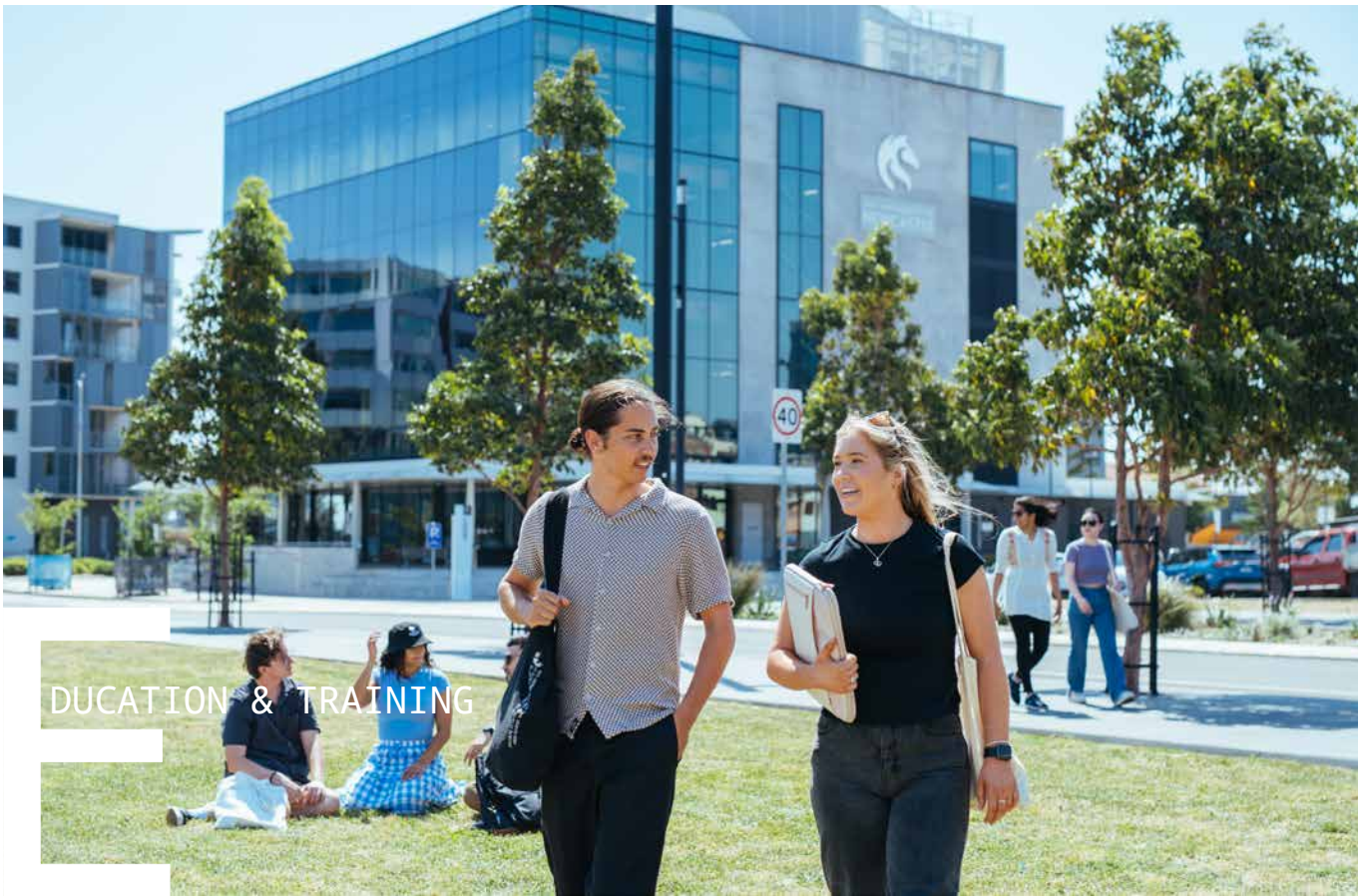
### Hunter Trade College

Hunter Trade College is a senior school (Years 11 & 12) and a Registered Training Organisation based in Telarah offering a comprehensive work placement program for young people. Their hands-on approach and quality facilities give students the chance to thrive in their chosen trade.

They support students to reach their potential through a safety-first focus, quality academic and technical courses, a supportive and inclusive environment and work-based learning opportunities.

**For more information visit <https://htc.nsw.edu.au/home/>**

# Economic Powerhouse



University of Newcastle

### 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 Initiative. The initiative provides life-stage specific, learning experiences that together create a pipeline of opportunities and activities for school and higher education students.

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 career pathways awareness raising activities. 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](http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au)**

### 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](http://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.



# 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 economies.

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](mailto:admin@rdahunter.org.au)**

### UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

University of Newcastle researchers drive discoveries that challenge conventional thinking, break new ground and change lives. They use their expertise and collaborations to not only create new knowledge but use it to help reinvent our regions. Strong partnerships – both new and established – are central to this.

### Research institutes and centres

Backed by world-class research institutes, the University of Newcastle strives to be the research and innovation engine room for its regions.

The Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources forges collaborations between multi-disciplinary research teams and industry partners that deliver transformational innovation across four sectors of regional and national importance: energy, resources, food and water. It also supports the growth of future industries through extensive engagement with partner networks and hands-on professional development for PhD students working with industry partners.

The Institute for Regional Futures partners with government, industry and community to provide research, evidence and strategy that informs policy and supports decision making for the future of our regions. Its team of generalist researchers collaborate with experts across the University to deliver

interdisciplinary research on regions and regionalism, both nationally and internationally.

The Hunter Medical Research Institute is a collaboration between the University of Newcastle and the Hunter New England Local Health District. Located on the grounds of the John Hunter Hospital precinct, HMRI is Australia's only regional medical research institute.

The University also has a range of research centres dedicated to creating new breakthroughs and delivering innovations aligned to the University's four engagement priorities: Better Healthier Living, Connected Communities, Next Generation Resources and Growing Industries.

HMRI



### Industry engagement

To help its regions thrive, the University connects its research and innovation partners with industry engagement teams that have expertise in research translation, commercialisation and business development.

The Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise (KEE) team forges connections between researchers and industry with the aim of delivering commercial outcomes. With a focus on business development and intellectual property commercialisation, KEE facilitates collaborations that solve industry issues and deliver impact.

To support local startups and entrepreneurs, the Integrated Innovation Network (or I2N) is the University's entrepreneurship and venture development unit. It fuels the success of innovators, entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses by connecting them to community, customers, coaching and capital – with the aim of growing and diversifying our regional economies.

The University of Newcastle Research Associates (TUNRA), which is a subsidiary of the University of Newcastle, facilitates commercial consultancy engagements with industry. It enables businesses, industry and government to engage with University researchers on consulting and contract research projects to solve challenging industry problems.

**For further information visit [www.newcastle.edu.au/research](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research)**

# 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](http://www.circulareconomylivinglab.com.au)**

### Dashworks

Backed by Dantia, Lake Macquarie's economic development company, Dashworks offers modern co-working, private office, virtual office, and meeting room hire for innovators, creators, and doers in Lake Macquarie. The members are a collection of motivated entrepreneurs, startups, professionals, creatives and product developers.

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.

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.

**For more information see [www.dashworks.com.au](http://www.dashworks.com.au)**

### 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.

### 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.

# Research solutions to transform our region



Partner with us to translate research into life-changing improvements for our communities and the world.

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Learn more





# Economic Powerhouse

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 an angel investing group committed to identifying and investing in innovative, early-stage companies with the potential for high growth in the Hunter region and adjoining areas.

They prioritise companies with a clear path to monetisation and are led by a diverse team. Hunter Angels also look for founders with a strong vision and the ability to execute on that vision. The goal is to support and invest in these companies to help them achieve their full potential.

In addition to providing funding and support to early-stage companies, Hunter Angels also believes in the importance of mentorship and guidance for entrepreneurs. Members are experienced investors and professionals and will work closely with the companies they invest in to provide valuable insights and advice and to help them navigate the challenges of growing a business.

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

### 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 is a 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](http://www.themelt.io)

### 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](http://www.eighteen04.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 beginning operations in Newcastle, SingularityU now operates across several Australian cities. It has access to over 35 SingularityU experts based in Australia and over 300 international SU experts.

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. We curate bespoke programs to address global and organisational challenges and opportunities.

For further information email [christina@utopiax.global](mailto:christina@utopiax.global)

*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.*

# 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.



Port of Newcastle

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. The Airport is also currently undergoing a major expansion and upgrade of its international passenger terminal.

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 advisers and support services and programs in the Hunter Region. They provide advice to local Hunter businesses on export-related issues, including planning for export, market opportunities, market entry and export grants.

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

For further information please visit Department of Regional NSW at [www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw](http://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw) and Austrade at [www.austrade.gov.au](http://www.austrade.gov.au)

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# Economic Powerhouse

## BUSINESS SERVICES

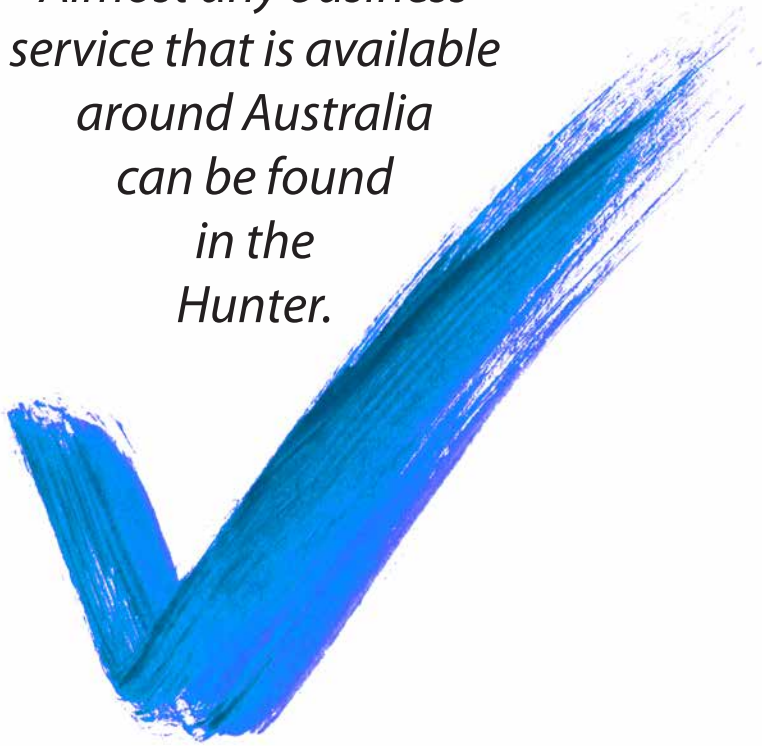
The Hunter Region boasts a diverse range of high-quality business services and is particularly strong in professional services. There is a wide variety of both Hunter-grown business service companies and local offices of national and international companies who have realised the value of doing business 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 merged in 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](http://www.yellowpages.com.au).

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



# PRINT.

## Explore the Possibilities.

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From stationery to magazines, point-of-sale to packaging, direct mail to inventory management and distribution, our comprehensive production facilities combined with our expertise ensure the right solution is offered for your print and communication needs.

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[ncp.com.au](http://ncp.com.au)

#### SYDNEY OFFICE

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**NEWCASTLE'S MOST EXPERIENCED AND VERSATILE PRINTING COMPANY**

# 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 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, RDA Hunter applied the OECD's and EU'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.

*Ampcontrol & Steber International*

*University of Newcastle*

*Cessnock City Council – Roche Estate*  
*Photo by Josh Vincent*



# 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.

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.

In 2023 BAE Systems Australia secured a new contract with Lockheed Martin to activate an F-35 Asia-Pacific Regional Warehouse at its Williamtown aircraft sustainment operations. Housing critical parts of the Joint Strike Fighter, the warehouse is the third facility in the global support solution for the F-35 program with locations already in the Netherlands and United States. In addition to maintaining Royal Australian Air Force F-35 aircraft, the facility will support F-35 variants operating in the region. This includes aircraft operating out of Singapore, Japan and South Korea, from US Navy and Royal Navy carrier aircraft and US Marine Corps F-35Bs deployed in the region.

Boeing Defence Australia was the prime contractor for the F/A-18 TLS while it was in operation. It 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, Jetstar, Link Airways, Qantas and Virgin Australia operate commercial services from Newcastle Airport delivering direct flights to Australia's major centres and onward connections to other overseas destinations.

### Astra Aerolab

Adjacent to Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown, Astra Aerolab is a major defence, aerospace and innovation precinct. The first stage is development ready, with the roads and enabling infrastructure built, all the statutory approvals and a construction contractor panel in place.

Astra's strategic regional importance as a world leading defence, aerospace and innovation precinct has been reinforced with the announced expansion of BAE Systems Australia's existing facilities at Astra Aerolab having secured the F-35 maintenance contract, valued at more than \$100 million.

In 2023, Astra Aerolab achieved a major milestone with the planning approval for the development applications of the first two building projects. These buildings, designed to accommodate SMEs, startups, and education and training facilities, are set to commence construction in 2024.

### 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 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.

### Williamtown Aerospace Centre Precinct 52 (WAC P52)

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, four Defence tenanted building projects have been designed and are now subject to a State Significant Development application with the NSW Government DPE. The WAC SSD application has been supported by the Federal Government's PFAS Independent Review to enable the PFAS impacted areas to be used for Defence industry and facilitate more Defence companies to expand and move to the Williamtown area.



# Economic Powerhouse

## Coal Mining

Coal mining has had a long history in the Hunter Region, dating back to its first discovery in the 18th century. It continues to be a major contributor to the Hunter's economy with \$61.40 billion in coal exported through the Port of Newcastle in 2022.

According to the latest NSW Mining Industry Expenditure Survey released by The NSW Minerals Council in 2021-2022, the 27 participating mining companies provided:

- 10,024 direct jobs in the region
- direct spending in the region of \$6.3 billion
- 3,028 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.
- **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. Also located at Newstan is the Northern Coal Services facility, where coal for the export market is stock piled, processed and loaded by rail to the Port of Newcastle.



## Advancing careers. Advancing everyday life.

With a team of 6,320, our coal business contributed \$8.1 billion to New South Wales in 2022.

6,320  
Direct jobs

3,040  
Suppliers

\$8.1B  
Total direct contribution

To find out how we can help advance your career, visit [glencore.com.au/careers](https://glencore.com.au/careers)

**GLENCORE**



# Economic Powerhouse

- **Glencore** is a world leader in export of thermal coal and in the Hunter owns Bulga, Hunter Valley Operations (49% Glencore, 51% Yancoal), Integra, Liddell Coal Operations Glencore (67.5%) and Mitsui Matsushima Australia (32.5%), 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. The Muswellbrook Coal open cut mine is now closed and undergoing rehabilitation. 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.

## 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 136.3 million tonnes of coal in 2022.

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.

**Port Waratah Coal Services**



COAL MINING

# 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.

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.



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

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



# 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 are based at the RAAF Base at Williamstown.

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

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

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

### Hunter Defence

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.

### Astra Aerolab

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Astra Aerolab Industrial Building Render



# Economic Powerhouse

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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.

To find out more, visit [www.newcastle.edu.au/research/priorities/defence-capability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/priorities/defence-capability)

F-35A Lightning II fighter





# 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 three 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 closed in April 2023. Eraring station is scheduled to close 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.

### Hunter Power Project

The \$950 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 now Liddell Power Station at Muswellbrook is retired. 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. Construction is projected to inject \$800 million into the Hunter economy and create up to 250 construction jobs in the Hunter. There are plans to have it run on green hydrogen in the future. It is on track to open December 2024.

### Major power stations

Generator	Power Station	Type of Station	Location	Capacity
AGL Macquarie	Bayswater	Coal-fired	Muswellbrook/Singleton	2,640 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

### 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.

### 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 2023 was ranked 28th in the world 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.

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 Trailblazer Recycling and Clean Energy (TRaCE) Program. The program is a partnership with UNSW and the University of Newcastle that is fast tracking the commercialisation and impact of the University’s recycling and clean energy research.

The program will include opportunities for further industry engagement through research projects, as well as opportunities to co-design and deliver education programs to align with the rapidly evolving market of recycling and new energy technologies and provide a pipeline of talent for these emerging industries.

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 [www.newcastle.edu.au/nier](http://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 the skills, capability and commercialisation opportunities in



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# Economic Powerhouse

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 Clean Energy Precinct**  
Australia's deepwater global gateway is creating the Port of the Future in Newcastle – regenerating a 220-hectare parcel of industrial wasteland into a dedicated Clean Energy Precinct that will position Newcastle and the Hunter Region as a leading production, storage and export hub for future clean energy products and technologies including hydrogen and green ammonia. Through the Clean Energy Precinct, Port of Newcastle will support all hydrogen, and clean energy projects in the Hunter by providing land, utilities, storage, transport and export infrastructure and services – in turn generating over 5800 jobs, new educational pathways and expanded economic growth.

Supported by a \$100-million Commonwealth Government funding commitment which effectively designates the Port as the State's future hydrogen hub, the purpose of the Clean Energy Precinct is to establish a clean energy economy in the Hunter Region and accelerate the demand for the economy. Port of Newcastle will enable the new clean energy economy by forming connections across infrastructure, markets and people.

**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. At the end of 2023 AGL and battery recycling start-up, Renewable Metals, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a pre-feasibility study into establishing a lithium battery recycling facility at AGL's future Hunter Energy Hub.

**Tomago Battery**  
AGL Energy is proposing to build, operate and maintain a battery of approximately 500 MW and up to 2,000 MWh capacity at Tomago. The battery has the potential to improve the reliability of the grid by storing low-cost power for use during times when generation costs are higher. Stored electricity can also be made available for immediate dispatch when energy demands exceed generation. AGL expects the battery to provide socioeconomic outcomes including the potential benefits relating to increased employment opportunities. The project would provide up to 200 jobs during the construction phase and up to 6 full time jobs during operation.

**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 started construction in May 2023 of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which is anticipated to be 850 MW / 1680 MWh. Construction is expected to be completed before August 2025. 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. All three BESS are currently at an early stage of development with land secured and the initial phases of planning and grid connection underway.

**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.

**The 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, 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 October 2023 the modified project is looking at 185 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

# Economic Powerhouse

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. Mott MacDonald has been appointed as owner's engineer for the Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project.

**Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy (NOWE)**  
EDF Renewables Australia, as part of a strategic partnership with Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy (NOWE), is developing an offshore, floating wind farm in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Newcastle. Well situated near the Port of Newcastle and transmission networks, the NOWE project is proposed for the area in the Pacific Ocean off the Hunter declared under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act by the Commonwealth Government. The project will contribute to the electricity grid supply as local coal-fired power stations retire, promoting clean energy and a sustainable future for the region.

The wind farm is part of the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) as part of the NSW Government Electricity Infrastructure roadmap. The declared area stretches over 1,800 sqkm between Swansea and Port Stephens and could generate up to 5 GW of wind energy, enough to power an estimated 4.2 million homes and power local industries into the future. The revised zone will be 20 km from the coast in the north and over 35 km from the coast in the south. These changes enable continued safe management of shipping and other sea industries. Offshore infrastructure will also be limited to a height of 260 m to address aviation safety.

**The Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project**  
BlueFloat Energy and Energy Estate's The Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project is located within the declared offshore wind zone, between Newcastle and Nelson Bay off the Hunter-Port Stephens coast in NSW. With up to 115 floating wind turbines and three offshore substations, the project will sit approximately 25-45 km off the coast. It is set to generate enough electricity to power 825,000 homes, the equivalent of almost a quarter of all households in NSW. The project will create hundreds of ongoing jobs whilst attracting international investment and growth for the region.

**Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub**  
The Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub project proposes to deliver a safe, reliable, and commercial-scale hydrogen supply chain in the Newcastle industrial and port precinct. Located on Kooragang Island, Phase 1 of the project aims to decarbonise part of Orica's nearby ammonia manufacturing plant existing natural gas feedstock with hydrogen. Some hydrogen produced will also be made available as a fuel for buses and trucks, displacing the use of diesel. The first phase is modest in size and provides an alternative energy source to help local industry decarbonise. Given the proximity Port of Newcastle's Clean Energy Precinct and deep-water port, the project is being designed with the potential to be scaled up to an export development in the future, providing employment growth opportunities and further energy diversification for the region. Origin, in collaboration with Orica, is continuing to assess the development of the hub. The project is currently progressing through the front-end engineering design stage, which will help inform the technical and commercial details of the project, prior to a final investment decision being made.



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# 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.

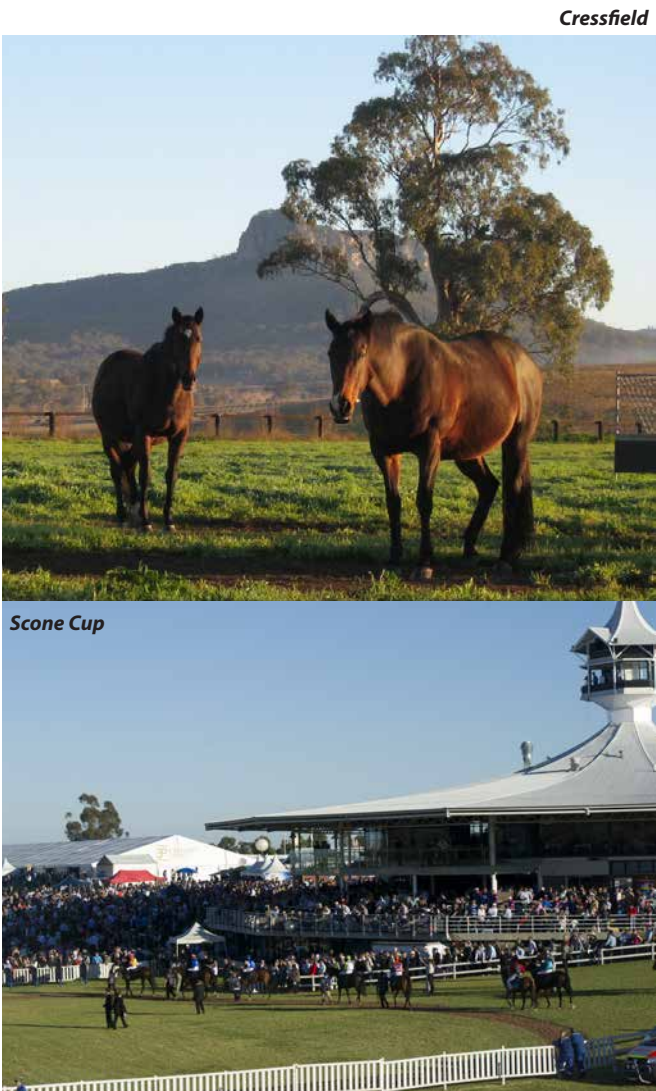
Over 75 studs are located in the area and the majority of these sell horses to both the Australian and overseas buyers.

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.

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



# 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 Whittingham, JBS Australia - Scone Abattoir, Steggles Poultry Abattoir at Beresfield and NH Foods' Wingham Abattoir.

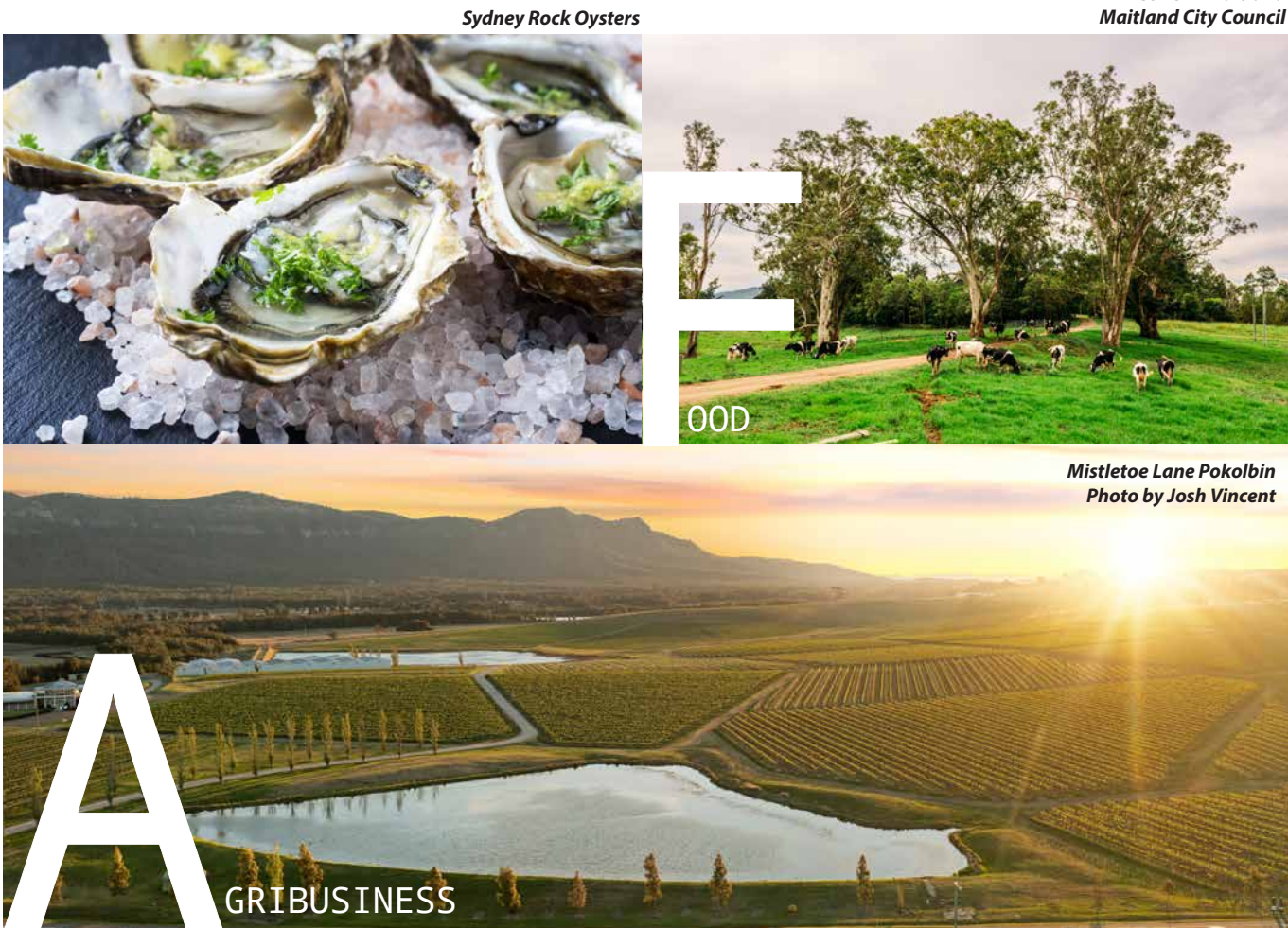
The dairy industry is centred around Dungog, Gloucester and the Manning. Tim Bale set up Manning Valley 'Farmers Own' milk, which distributes through Woolworths. The product has been a huge success with seven Manning Valley dairy farmers producing up to 12 million litres of milk a year (25% of NSW milk).

With 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.





# Economic Powerhouse

## HEALTH

Health is a major industry sector in the Hunter Region, employing around 16.7% of the workforce, which is significantly higher than the national figure of 15.3%.

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 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 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

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.

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital is undergoing a major redevelopment. Expected to be completed in 2026, the improved hospital will offer 248 private inpatient beds, 14 operating Theatres, three Cardiac Catheter Labs plus Hybrid and Vascular labs, Critical Care, Intensive Care and an enhanced 24 hr Emergency Department, as well as on site Radiology and Oncology services.

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 600 medical researchers, students, and support staff across multiple campuses and 19 key translational research programs: Active

Living; Asthma and Breathing; Brain Neuromodulation; Cancer Detection and Therapy; Drug Repurposing and Medicines; Equity in Health and Wellbeing; Food and Nutrition; Healthcare Transformation; Healthy Minds; Heart and Stroke; Infection; Immune Health; Infertility and Reproduction; Injury and Trauma; Mothers and Babies; Population Health; Precision Medicine; Surgical and Perioperative Care; and Women's Health.

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.

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 new Health Innovation Living Lab (HILL) is a partnership between the Hunter New England Local Health District and the University. HILL is designed to help develop health innovation in the region, with a focus on commercialising and scaling up technologies that are likely to have the greatest impact on equity of care for rural and regional communities, including digital health, sustainability in healthcare, medical technology, as well as operations and logistics. In 2024, the University will also partner with the Central Coast Local Health District on the Central Coast Health & Wellbeing Living Lab in an exciting step that will have a focus on healthy ageing.

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. There are also seven Community First Responder centres.

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.

# 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 our resources and technology. In fact, every student starting a degree at our University now undertakes a Career-ready placement as part of their degree. These placements ensure graduates are highly employable when they finish their degree and creates a pipeline where businesses can identify highly employable graduates.

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, Kardinia Energy is the commercial and manufacturing partner for organic printed solar panels that have been developed by the University's Professor Paul Dastoor. These solar cells are printed on an ultra-lightweight, laminate material that's similar in texture and flexibility to a potato chip packet. This gives the panels unprecedented portability and flexibility to suit a range of applications.

**HUNTERNET**  
The power of many

**Manufacturing is in our DNA.**

We are committed to promoting and supporting the manufacturing industry within the Hunter region.

We nurture connection, collaboration, innovation and growth among our members.

**HUNTERNET CAREER CONNECTIONS**  
Developing skills for success

**HUNTERNET FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM**

**HUNTER DEFENCE**

**NEW H2**  
HUNTER HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER

**EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF MANY**

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# Economic Powerhouse

Kardinia is establishing a manufacturing facility at our NIER precinct to support commercial production of the organic printed solar panels.

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 13 years, these programs have impacted more than 90,000 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 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.

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.

Many Hunter companies are now increasing the levels of design or 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.

Downer Group



# 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.

For the 12 months to 30 June 2023, the Hunter attracted 11.85 million visitors (up 47.6% on the previous year) and around \$4 billion expenditure (up 67.9% on the previous year).

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.

The Airport is serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, Qantas, Link Airways, Eastern Air Services, FlyPelican and Bonza, flying to 13 direct domestic 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. In the 2023 financial year 14 cruise ships visited Newcastle.

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.

Cessnock City Council



Cessnock City Council





# Economic Powerhouse

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

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

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

Tourism is one of the major industries of the Mid Coast LGA. Known for its natural assets, the Manning Valley offers nine stunning National Parks and Reserves, 45 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.



TOURISM

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.

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 sportsperson and the sports watcher. One of the major tourism sports in the Hunter is golf, with the Region boasting numerous world-class golf courses, several of which also incorporate top-quality accommodation facilities.

For those that enjoy watching sport, the Region offers a wide range of sporting attractions, including national 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 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.

Paul Bennet Airshows

## MAJOR PROJECTS

The Hunter continues to attract many billions of dollars of investment in projects. The following represents some of the major projects being constructed or planned for the Region.

### \$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.

### 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. As part of the development where Hunter Street meets Market Street, a new Italian-style plaza will be built.

### Port of Newcastle Clean Energy Precinct

Port of Newcastle is regenerating a 220 hectare parcel of industrial wasteland into a dedicated Clean Energy Precinct that will position the Hunter as a leading production, storage and export hub for future clean energy products and technologies including hydrogen and green ammonia. Through the Clean Energy Precinct, Port of Newcastle will support all hydrogen, and clean energy projects in the Hunter by providing land, utilities, storage, transport and export infrastructure and services – in turn generating over 5800 jobs, new educational pathways and expanded economic growth. It is estimated it will provide a \$4.2-billion increase to gross regional product of the Hunter. Supported by a \$100-million Commonwealth Government funding commitment which effectively designates the Port as the State's future hydrogen hub, the purpose of the Clean Energy Precinct is to establish a clean energy economy in the Hunter Region and accelerate the demand for the economy. Port of Newcastle will enable the new clean energy economy by forming connections across infrastructure, markets and people.



# Economic Powerhouse

### 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. 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.



### 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 have now shortlisted the top concepts for a final design stage and look forward to announcing the successful partner soon. Construction will begin once the development is approved.

### Cedar Mill Hunter Valley

Cedar Mill Group acquired a 105-acre lot of land in the heart of Hunter Valley Wine Country – Pokolbin as part of a \$100+ million project to transform the site into an outdoor amphitheatre and tourism destination. Slated to open in 2024, the vision is to create a world-class, year round tourism precinct and a village centre that captures the essence of the Hunter Valley Wine Regions experience, creating amenities for tourists and locals alike. Cedar Mill Hunter Valley will have a Museum and a retail precinct to create a village centre. The Amphitheatre will bring the world's greatest acts and the serviced apartments, hotels and event spaces are designed to set a new benchmark in the region.

### 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



# Economic Powerhouse

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% 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. The \$110 million project will include significant upgrades to the airport's existing terminal building, providing a world-class passenger experience for the region. The Newcastle Airport Terminal Expansion began mid-2023, with completion scheduled for mid to late 2024. The project is anticipated to create more than 500 construction jobs throughout its life and will provide long-term benefits for the region. The terminal and runway upgrade in total will create 4,410 jobs throughout the airport precinct after construction.

## 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 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 and aquatic play park that is set to be the largest in Australia.

## 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 is 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. Construction began on 31 May 2023 and is expected to be completed before August 2025. 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. The WSB project is expected to stimulate up to \$1 billion in private investment into new energy storage and associated network augmentations, generate significant capital investment in the Hunter and Central Coast regions, and support over 100 jobs during construction.



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# Economic Powerhouse

## 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 included the now complete Guard Tower Experience, which became available in December 2023.

## 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.

## 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.

## BAE Systems F-35 Asia-Pacific Regional Warehouse

BAE Systems Australia has secured a new contract with Lockheed Martin to activate an F-35 Asia-Pacific Regional Warehouse at its Williamstown aircraft sustainment operations. Housing critical parts of the Joint Strike Fighter, the warehouse is the third facility in the global support solution for the F-35 program with locations already in the Netherlands and United States. In addition to maintaining Royal Australian Air Force F-35 aircraft, the facility will support F-35 variants operating in the region. This includes aircraft operating out of Singapore, Japan and South Korea, from US Navy and Royal Navy carrier aircraft and US Marine Corps F-35Bs deployed in the region. The new contract will provide a foundation for jobs growth at the company's Williamstown facility. By 2031, over 360 jobs will be created through the Regional Warehouse Program at the Williamstown precinct.

## 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.

## Dairy Farmers Towers

Dairy Farmers Towers marks the rebirth of one of Newcastle's most iconic locations with over 180 residences, five floors of commercial space, and some of the best views of Newcastle. The residences will be situated in two towers, 99 m and 89 m 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. The first building in the Honeysuckle precinct, Q Building 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 (SOI) and Integrated Innovation Network (I2N). The Next phase of its Honeysuckle campus has been launched with plans for a nine-storey student accommodation tower with ground-floor retail and eight levels of student accommodation with 480 beds.

## Lower Hunter Freight Corridor

The corridor for a future 30 km 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.

## The Merewether

A \$120 million retirement living resort project is being constructed at Merewether Golf Club. A joint venture between ThirdAge and the club, The Merewether 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.

## 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 600 MWh of storage.

## Hunter Power Project

The \$950 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 now Liddell Power Station is retired. The 660 MW gas-fired power station will supplement Snowy Hydro's generation portfolio with peak dispatchable capacity. Construction is projected to inject \$800 million into the Hunter economy and create up to 250 construction jobs in the Hunter. There are plans to have it run on green hydrogen in the future. It is on track to open December 2024.



# Economic Powerhouse

## 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 with a 60% increase in Intensive Care Unit capacity and almost 50% more theatres. The 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; and operating theatres, interventional and procedure spaces. Enabling works began in April 2022. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026.

## The Liverpool Range Wind Farm

The Liverpool Range Wind Farm project is located across three local government areas with wind turbines proposed between the townships of Coolah and Cassilis, and a transmission line to connect into the national grid south of the site. The project received planning approval for up to 267 turbines in March 2018. There have been significant advancements in wind turbine technology since then, with larger, more efficient turbines now available. From October 2023 the modified project is looking at 185 of the larger turbines.

## H2N

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 Valley/Central Coast Renewable Energy Zones to produce green hydrogen and associated green feedstock. The green 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 Valley to users for domestic supply and export green hydrogen and other hydrogen derivative products that are increasing demand.

## 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 to the existing Sydney to Newcastle pipeline.

## 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. The masterplan 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.

## Trinity Point

The \$388 million Trinity Point waterfront master planned community 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, two restaurants, 180 apartment precinct comprising short stay and residential units, a wide range of resort-style facilities including a pool, gym and wellness centre as well as retail stores, 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. 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.

## The Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project

BlueFloat Energy and Energy Estate's The Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project is located within the declared offshore wind zone, between Newcastle and Nelson Bay. With up to 115 floating wind turbines and three offshore substations, the project will sit approximately 25-45 km off the coast. It is set to generate enough electricity to power 825,000 homes, the equivalent of almost a quarter of all households in NSW. The project will create hundreds of ongoing jobs whilst attracting international investment and growth for the region.

## 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 4500 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 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 designed to balance the grid and support the performance and future uptake of renewable energy. 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 BESS is a 170 MW stand-alone battery to be located adjacent to Ausgrid's Beresfield Substation. The proposed Muswellbrook 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.

## 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. Both rooftops feature interior-designed indoor spaces with luxurious lounges and stylish dining areas. Outside are landscaped lawn terraces with undercover barbecues and seating and dining facilities ONE will even have its own private cinema and private gym.

## Astra Aerolab

Adjacent to Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown, Astra Aerolab is a major defence, aerospace and innovation precinct. The first stage is development ready, with the roads and enabling infrastructure built, all the statutory approvals and a construction contractor panel in place. Astra's strategic regional importance as a world leading defence, aerospace and innovation precinct has been reinforced with the announced expansion of BAE Systems Australia's existing facilities at Astra Aerolab having secured the F-35 maintenance contract, valued at more than \$100 million. In 2023, Astra Aerolab achieved a major milestone with the planning approval for the development applications of the first two building projects. These buildings, designed to accommodate SMEs, startups, and education and training facilities, are set to commence construction in 2024.

## Williamtown Aerospace Centre Precinct 52 (WAC P52)

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, four Defence tenanted building projects have been designed and are now subject to a State Significant Development application with the NSW Government DPE. The WAC SSD application has been supported by the Federal Government's PFAS Independent Review to enable the PFAS impacted areas to be used for Defence industry and facilitate more Defence companies to expand and move to the Williamtown area.

## 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.

## Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy (NOWE)

EDF Renewables Australia, as part of a strategic partnership with Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy (NOWE), is developing an offshore, floating wind farm in waters off the coast of Newcastle. Well situated near the Port of Newcastle and transmission networks, the NOWE project will contribute to the electricity grid supply as local coal-fired power stations retire,

promoting clean energy and a sustainable future for the region. The wind farm is part of the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) as part of the NSW Government Electricity Infrastructure roadmap. The declared area stretches over 1,800 sqkm between Swansea and Port Stephens and could generate up to 5 GW of wind energy, enough to power an estimated 4.2 million homes and power local industries into the future.

## Newcastle Art Gallery Expansion

Newcastle Art Gallery is to be expanded with an additional 1,600 sqm of exhibition space. The \$43.8 million project will also deliver a new café and retail shop, multi-purpose and educational program spaces, a secure international standard loading dock, and will extend the building's footprint east along Darby Street and Queen Street. Recognised as one of the finest public collections in Australia, Newcastle Art Gallery is the custodian of over 7,000 works of art valued at \$126 million. The expansion is scheduled to be completed by late 2024.

## Solar farm and battery storage system

EDF Renewables and Malabar Resources' Edderton Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be constructed on land adjacent to Malabar Resources' Maxwell Underground Mine south of Muswellbrook. The Edderton Solar Farm and BESS follow formal agreements signed in 2020 and 2021 by Malabar Resources and EDF Renewables to support the development of significant solar power and energy storage projects in the region. The Edderton Solar Farm will have a capacity of around 350 MW and will sit on approximately 1000 hectares across three 'islands'



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# Economic Powerhouse

in a designated zone on Malabar's site, with a provision for a large-scale battery storage facility. EDF Renewables and Malabar Resources are currently consulting with the local community as part of the development of a scoping report for the Edderton Solar Farm and BESS, which will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in early 2024 to commence the planning process.

### Newcastle Inner City Bypass

Major construction has started on the fifth section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, from Rankin Park to Jesmond. Once the 3.4 kilometre bypass is complete, commuters will benefit from a reduction of up to 80% on travel times during the morning and afternoon peaks, bypassing 11 sets of traffic lights between Rankin Park and Jesmond. The Bypass has been designed to provide traffic relief to the surrounding road network by removing up to 30,000 vehicles each day from Lookout Road, Croudace Street and Newcastle Road. The \$450 million project is jointly funded on an 80:20 basis by the Australian Government and New South Wales Government, and will support up to 900 jobs during construction. The project is expected to open to traffic in 2025, weather permitting.



Newcastle Offshore Wind Energy (NOWE) declared area

### West Village Development

Newcastle West will be transformed with the West Village development at 711 Hunter Street officially receiving the go-ahead by the Hunter Central Coast Regional Planning Panel. The development, on the former Spotlight site, is a joint venture between Spotlight Property Group and St Hilliers, who in collaboration with Plus Architecture have conceived a sustainable and culturally diverse precinct for the emerging western corner of the Newcastle CBD. The approved project will see the development of the site - currently home to commercial and carpark premises, into a mixed-use precinct with a curated ground plane experience featuring podium levels of retail and commercial tenancies, multi-storey food and beverage opportunities including an open-air bar, and two residential towers home to 257 apartments above.

### Battery recycling facility at Hunter Energy Hub

AGL and battery recycling start-up, Renewable Metals, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a pre-feasibility study into establishing a lithium battery recycling facility at AGL's future Hunter Energy Hub in NSW. The pre-feasibility study will outline key indicative project infrastructure and engineering requirements and identify regulatory approvals and licences necessary for the development, construction, and operation of the project. This potential facility could be the first full scale Renewable Metals recycling facility with a planned capacity of 5,000 tonnes per year initially.

### Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub

The Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub project proposes to deliver a safe, reliable, and commercial-scale hydrogen supply chain in the Newcastle industrial and port precinct. Located on Kooragang Island, Phase 1 of the project aims to decarbonise part of Orica's nearby ammonia manufacturing plant existing natural gas feedstock with hydrogen. Some hydrogen produced will also be made available as a fuel for buses and trucks, displacing the use of diesel. The first phase is modest in size and provides an alternative energy source to help local industry decarbonise. Origin, in collaboration with Orica, is continuing to assess the development of the hub.



West Village Development

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# Infrastructure & Development

## 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 2022) 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 largest port on the east coast of Australia and 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 48.

### 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 13 locations across Australia, and one-stop hub through to more than 65 destinations overseas. For more detailed information see page 51.

### 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. 5.3 million
Newcastle to Brisbane	768km	Driving time approx. 8 hours, air travel time approx. 1 hour	South East Queensland approx. 3.8 million
Newcastle to Melbourne	1,026 km	Driving time approx.10 hours 30 minutes, air travel time approx. 1 hour 30 minutes	Greater Melbourne approx. 5 million

## 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.

Most of the 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.

Major roads include:

- 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. With directly connecting motorways to the south of the M1, drivers can travel from Beresfield in the Hunter to Melbourne without a traffic light.
- 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 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.



Port of Newcastle



Newcastle Airport



# Infrastructure & Development

## PORT OF NEWCASTLE

Port of Newcastle is the largest port on the East Coast of Australia. Throughout 2023, it has continued to strive to diversify for the future.

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 2023, the Federal Government further demonstrated its commitment to clean energy at the Port of Newcastle, with \$100 million in funding for hydrogen enablement announced and the Port progressing the once in a generation project through the establishment of a Clean Energy Precinct on a vacant 220 hectare parcel of Port land.

In the last 12 months Port of Newcastle has targeted new opportunities, expanded its Multipurpose Terminal site at Mayfield to diversify new cargo and progressed a broad range of key projects.

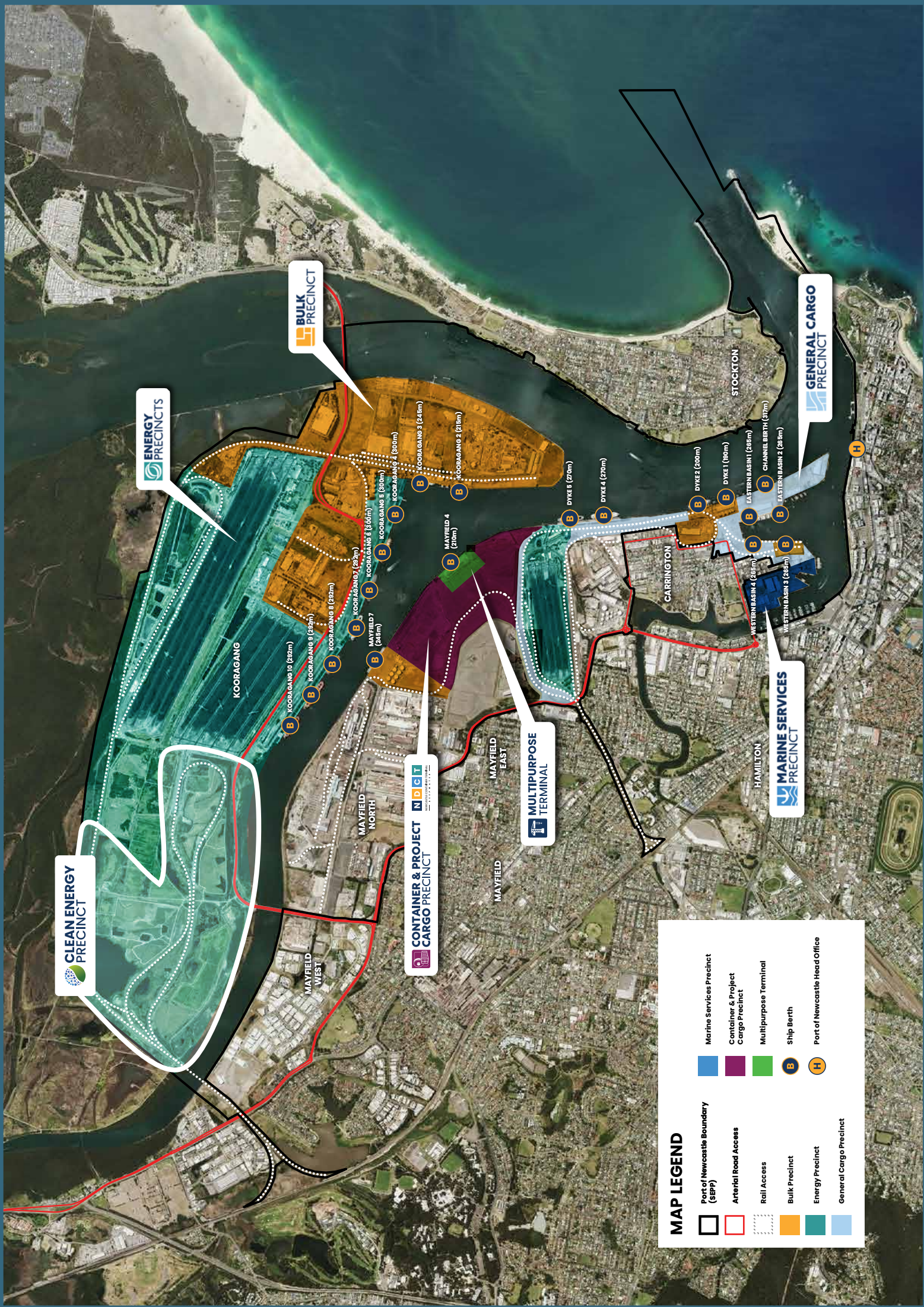
- Among other achievements the Port of Newcastle Port has:
- Continued to grow the use of two Liebherr Mobile Harbour Cranes for container and cargo handling.
  - Invested millions in the upgrade of their container and cargo handling berth, both landside and waterside
  - Commissioned a new ship unloader 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.
  - Progressed planning for its diversification projects including future diversified trade and the Clean Energy Precinct.
  - Embraced renewable energy trade as part of a broader focus on creating a safe, sustainable and environmentally and socially responsible port of the future.

## 2022 EXPORTS

PORT OF NEWCASTLE TRADE STATISTICS		
COMMODITY	MASS (TONNES)	VALUE (\$ MILLION)
Aluminium	89,291	345.3
Coal	136,260,720	61,398.0
Concentrates	390,338	1,553.2
Machinery, project cargo & vehicles	12,119	121.2
Meals & grains	479,562	157.6
Pitch & tar products	81,231	54.4
Steel	37,388	18.3
Wheat	2,707,238	1,627.8
Other Trade	330,923	257.1
TOTALS	140,388,810	65,533.0

## 2022 IMPORTS

PORT OF NEWCASTLE TRADE STATISTICS		
COMMODITY	MASS (TONNES)	VALUE (\$ MILLION)
Alumina	1,087,267	314.7
Cement	296,093	2.1
Fertiliser	481,348	467.1
Fuels	1,848,029	4,052.2
Machinery, project cargo & vehicles	44,608	446.1
Meals & grains	151,375	115.7
Petroleum coke	231,982	80.5
Pitch & tar products	95,396	67.5
Steel	316,301	151.4
Other Trade	230,038	168.4
TOTALS	4,782,437	5,865.6





# Infrastructure & Development

Over the past four years, Port of Newcastle has transformed its business with sustainability at the centre of its diversification commitments. Since its first target-driven Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy, Port of Newcastle has become the first port in Oceania to be EcoPorts certified against the leading global ports sustainability benchmark, achieved Gold Status in the NSW Government's Sustainability Advantage program and secured 100% renewable energy to power its operations. It has also immensely improved its GRESB benchmarking from 40 three years ago to 97 in 2023 maintaining a 5-star rating.

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.



Port of Newcastle



# Infrastructure & Development

## AIRPORTS IN THE HUNTER

### NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

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 13 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 is a significant airfield upgrade, bolstered in 2021 by \$66 million in Federal Government funding and due for completion at the end of 2023. 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. This expansion will increase the current passenger terminal footprint by 50% and will accommodate the expected growth in passengers to our region and the commencement of international flights.

The first critical aspect of this expansion has been the Stage 1 enabling works are complete and involved comprehensive upgrades to existing car parks and utilities, coupled with the construction of a new premium covered car park. Construction on the terminal proper commenced in July 2023, the design features new departures and arrivals lounges, international processing facilities, an aerobridge and an airport lounge.

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 the 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 our region.

Newcastle Airport



### 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 joy flights in various warbird aircraft and helicopters. On the Western



# Infrastructure & Development

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 (the 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.

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.

*MHR private corporate charter flights based out of Lake Macquarie Airport*



# Infrastructure & Development

Three registered flying schools operate from 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 Technical Specification

- 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, skydiving 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 twin engine aircraft available for private charter including their Piaggio Aero Avanti II that offers seating for up to nine passengers. The charter service can fly groups to most destinations within Australia. Helicopter Flight Training sales and maintenance is available through Skyline Aviation Group as is Gyrocopter and Microlight Training sales and maintenance via Airborne Flight Training. Fixed wing maintenance is available through Lake Mac Aircraft Maintenance.

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 hangars with office space and pilot's briefing rooms. The fourth building opposite the main entrance will house a terminal and a two-storey café restaurant. There are also two hangars on the opposite side of the hardstand area, which will house aircraft and accompanying office and service space.

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

## 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.

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.

The airport provides the community with a range of services including emergency services, medical flights, private charters, private aircraft and air mail/courier services.

The facility is also used for defence force training and the Manning River Aero Club.

*Taree Airport*





# 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 has a \$300 million gas storage facility at Tomago which can store up to 30,000 tonnes of LNG to help 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.

### WATER & WASTEWATER

As a State Owned Corporation (SOC), Hunter Water provides drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and some stormwater services to a population of around 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 to the large majority of users, particularly in the lower Hunter. 4G is available in most other areas.

Chichester 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 over the past 8-9 years has seen billions of dollars of 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 period where many new industrial estates were launched, the release of new industrial estates has been quiet in last few years, however, some important releases are close to coming to the market.



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# Infrastructure & Development

## 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.

### MAITLAND LGA

#### Anambah Business Park - Rutherford

Located at Rutherford, to the west of Maitland, the estate has a long frontage to New England Highway. Level land and access to the Hunter make this a popular site for mining support and engineering uses.

#### Racecourse Business Park

Flanking the New England Highway, Rutherford, this estate is well positioned to capitalise on new growth in the western part of Maitland and to access markets in the Upper Hunter. Large lots, including undeveloped sites, present a unique opportunity. The industrial area stretches over 140 hectares, and is home to fabricators, distributors, bulky goods retail and sporting facilities.

#### Thornton Industrial Estate

Thornton offers opportunities for large floor space commercial users, bulky goods and service retail users. It is positioned near rail, road and air transport, making it an ideal location for freight and distribution. Thornton hosts a variety of businesses, including material suppliers, automotive services, construction and freight services.

### 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.

# Infrastructure & Development

#### 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. Hunter Business Park's Stage 1A is under construction, and due for registration in December 2024. It comprises 60 lots totalling 40 hectares with market value circa \$150 million. Development works for this stage include a four-lane upgrade to John Renshaw Drive in front of the business park, plus a signalised intersection access. All lots are serviced cleared and levelled. Pre-lease projects are likely to be the focus of any further land release. Later stages comprise a further 140 lots over 80 hectares. Key user groups are logistics, engineering and building industry related

#### Kooragang Island

Adjacent to Port of Newcastle, this site comprises 1,300 ha with good rail and road transport links. Almost 100 ha 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

Newcastle Business Park is an expansive 35.1 ha site located 7 km north west of the Newcastle CBD, within the Port of Newcastle precinct. The property has multiple buildings on site with 115,797 sqm of gross lettable area incorporating office and high clearance warehouse accommodation and benefitting from active rail spurs. Occupying tenants include the NSW Police, Coal Mine Services, Onesteel Trading and manufacturing and several others.

#### Port of Newcastle Clean Energy Precinct

Port of Newcastle is regenerating a 220 hectare parcel of industrial wasteland into a dedicated Clean Energy Precinct that will position the Hunter as a leading production, storage and export hub for future clean energy products and technologies including hydrogen and green ammonia. Through the Clean Energy Precinct, Port of Newcastle will support all hydrogen, and clean energy projects in the Hunter by providing land, utilities, storage, transport and export infrastructure and services – in turn generating over 5800 jobs, new educational pathways and expanded economic growth. It is estimated it will provide a \$4.2-billion increase to gross regional product of the Hunter. Supported by a \$100-million Commonwealth Government funding commitment which effectively designates the Port as the State's future hydrogen hub, the purpose of the Clean Energy Precinct is to establish a clean energy economy in the Hunter Region and accelerate the demand for the economy. Port of Newcastle will enable the new clean energy economy by forming connections across infrastructure, markets and people.

#### Sentinel's Newcastle Port Logistics Hub

Brisbane-based property investment firm Sentinel Property Group plans to develop a new \$225 million international distribution hub in Newcastle at 51-71 Industrial Drive in Mayfield. The large-scale project to subdivide 14.3 hectares of land gained approval in late 2023 from the City of Newcastle. The project area is situated adjacent to the newly expanded Port of Newcastle container terminal and plans to offer purpose-built turnkey solutions with direct access to sea, rail, road and air transport infrastructure. It is also adjacent to the Sentinel-owned Newcastle Business Park at 51 Industrial Drive, which has multiple buildings on a former BHP site with 115,797 sqm of area incorporating office and high clearance warehouse accommodation, with Onesteel as the major tenant.

### PORT STEPHENS LGA

#### Astra Aerolab

Adjacent to Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown, Astra Aerolab is a major defence, aerospace and innovation precinct. The first stage is development ready, with the roads and enabling



# Infrastructure & Development

infrastructure built, all the statutory approvals and a construction contractor panel in place. In 2023, Astra Aerolab achieved a major milestone with the planning approval for the development applications of the first two building projects. These buildings, designed to accommodate SMEs, startups, and education and training facilities, are set to commence construction in 2024.

## Kinross Industrial Estate

Large lots are available in Kinross Industrial Estate, Heatherbrae with convenient access of Camfield Drive. Camfield Drive is now home to a wide range of users including Australian Plastic Profiles, Andersons Scaffolding, Reece Plumbing, Solo and Jayco Caravans.

## 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.

## Williamtown Aerospace Centre Precinct 52 (WAC P52)

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, four Defence tenanted building projects have been designed and are now subject to a State Significant Development application with the NSW Government DPE.

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



Hedweld

# 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 400,000 sqm of office space.

In recent years the Newcastle CBD has experienced a major renewal phase and continues to attract billions of dollars of both private and government investment. Demand for CBD office space has contributed to strong growth, 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.

Following is information on some of the current commercial developments in Newcastle.

### 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.

### 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 five 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.

## LAKE MACQUARIE

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

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

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.

The Primary is a first class architecturally designed business estate in Bennetts Green. Constructed by one of Newcastle's most awarded architectural builders, this development delivers a new product to the region and complement the areas existing industrial and bulky goods precinct. The Primary is home to 68 architecturally designed commercial style business units to accommodate your business and storage needs. The Primary is a place for business owners, trades, start-ups, hobbyists and entrepreneurs. It boasts a contemporary and modern design, attractive glazed façade and top-of-the-line finishes and amenities including premium kitchen and bathroom fit-outs. Key features of the development also include elevated quality, onsite cafe & and external meeting spaces. Unit are sized between 73 sqm to 428 sqm.

## 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



# Infrastructure & Development

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.

## PORT STEPHENS

Leasing opportunities are now available within Heatherbrae Supa Centre, a brand new retail and bulky goods development located in a premium, high visibility location fronting the bustling Pacific Highway at Heatherbrae.

With an average of 50,000 cars passing this premium location each day, Heatherbrae Supa Centre will provide retailers with sustained exposure to one of Newcastle's busiest arterial roads.

Once complete, Heatherbrae Supa Centre will provide a brand new, high visibility fast food, service station and bulky goods retail space to the ever-expanding Heatherbrae and Raymond Terrace area.

Available tenancies begin from 300 sq, providing options for both smaller and larger tenants to secure a spot in this brand new retail and bulky goods development.

Heatherbrae Supa Centre



# 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 October 2023 reported that the median cost of a residential lot in Newcastle / Lake Macquarie was \$510,000, and the Hunter Valley was \$360,000 compared to \$664,000 in Sydney. The median lot size is also larger locally, Newcastle / Lake Macquarie were 600 sqm and the Hunter Valley 642 sqm compared to 375 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 three 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 1000 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.

### 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

### \$220 million development

Developer Winton has received approval from the Hunter Central Coast Regional Planning Panel for a 1058 lot housing estate on the northern boundary of Lake Macquarie. Located on former Coal & Allied land between Cameron Park and Minmi, the full development also includes an adjoining 858 lot subdivision inside the Newcastle LGA which is expected to receive its approval decision in early 2024. The two applications have a combined project value of \$220 million and represent more than half of a 3300 lot development which gained concept approval from the NSW government 10 years ago.

### 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 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, two restaurants, 180 apartment precinct comprising short stay and residential units, a wide range of resort-style facilities including a pool, gym and wellness centre as well as retail stores, marina lounge and sales centre.

### 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 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.



# Infrastructure & Development

## 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.

### 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.

### Wallis Meadows

Situated at East Maitland in the Hunter Valley, this new Estate offers 37 large quality residential homesites of 800 to 1,397sqm. Elevated sites with commanding views over the Broken Back Ranges giving the sense of tranquillity and open space, yet still providing for all conveniences.

### 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 homebuyers 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.

### The Watermark, Karuah

The Watermark development consists of 102 Lots ranging from 500 - 889 sqm. On the banks of the Karuah River, the well-maintained Longworth Park offers a retreat for relaxation and recreation. The Karuah Boat Ramp is also located nearby, providing easy access to water adventures and ensuring a hassle-free launch of watercraft.

## MUSWELLBROOK LGA

### Northview Estate

The first new Residential Land release in Muswellbrook in 10 years, Northview Estate Stage 5A is A premium residential development, with sweeping views to the picturesque valley, "Bells mountain" and the ranges beyond. With fully serviced Lots ranging from 750 to 1,907 sqm, it is just minutes to Muswellbrook Public School, Woolworths, Big W, Retail Centre, Muswellbrook Hospital and Muswellbrook Station.

## 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. As part of the development where Hunter Street meets Market Street, a new Italian-style plaza will be built.

### 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 offer 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. Commercial spaces will be a prominent feature of Dairy Farmers Towers. It will also feature collaborative workspaces, precinct pools, wine bar and cellar, function rooms, green spaces and gym.

### 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. Both rooftops feature interior-designed indoor spaces with luxurious lounges and stylish dining areas. Outside are

landscaped lawn terraces with undercover barbecues and seating and dining facilities. ONE will also have its own private cinema and private gym.

### West Village Development

The West Village development at 711 Hunter Street, Newcastle West has received the go-ahead from the Hunter Central Coast Regional Planning Panel. The development, on the former Spotlight site, is a joint venture between Spotlight Property Group and St Hilliers, who in collaboration with Plus Architecture have conceived a sustainable and culturally diverse precinct for the emerging western corner of the Newcastle CBD. The approved project will see the development of the site - currently home to commercial and carpark premises, into a mixed-use precinct with a curated ground plane experience featuring podium levels of retail and commercial tenancies, multi-storey food and beverage opportunities including an open-air bar, and two residential towers home to 257 apartments above.

### Other developments

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

Bowline – 97 units  
Element Apartments – 72 apartments  
Crest Apartments Georgetown – 23

## PORT STEPHENS LGA

### The Gardens

This residential community is located at the heart of Medowie, and offers purchasers a convenient stroll to the local shopping centre and community facilities whilst providing a 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.

## UPPER HUNTER LGA

### Kurrajong Fields

Kurrajong is a boutique community in Scone. A brand-new community it offers a premium land offering in a sought after rural centre off the New England Highway. The acreage design ensures open space front of mind. Kurrajong Fields has access to town conveniences whilst mainlining a rural feel. Homesites start at 2000 square metres with offerings also available up to 4000 square metres When complete the 37 homesites will be sold with access to town water, power, sewer and the NBN network.



# An Enviaable 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, a broad range of shopping 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, including the harbour and inner-city urban renewal precincts of Newcastle as well as a range of new residential estates across the Region. 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.

Those moving to the region find that house prices are significantly lower than major capital cities. Home owners selling in the capital cities and moving to the Hunter Region are usually able to significantly improve their cash resources, home environment and lifestyle.

The HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report released in October 2023 reported that the median cost of a residential lot in Newcastle / Lake Macquarie was \$510,000, and the Hunter Valley was \$360,000 compared to \$664,000 in Sydney. The median lot size is also larger locally, Newcastle / Lake Macquarie were 600 sqm and the Hunter Valley 642 sqm compared to 375 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 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Lake Macquarie Private Hospital is undergoing a major redevelopment. Expected to be completed in 2026, the improved hospital will offer 248 private inpatient beds, 14 operating Theatres, three Cardiac Catheter Labs plus Hybrid and Vascular labs, Critical Care, Intensive Care and an enhanced 24 hr Emergency Department, as well as on site Radiology and Oncology services.

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

### Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle provides educational services throughout the Region. The diocese extends from Lake Macquarie to Taree and as far inland as Merriwa and Murrurundi with 57 primary 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

The Hunter is also home to the University of Newcastle, a top 175 global university. 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 attracts 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 15 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 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.

# An Enviaable Lifestyle

### 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, Stockland Glendale and Stockland Green Hills feature major retail outlets including David Jones, Myer, Kmart, Target, Coles and Woolworths, catering to the shopper’s every wish.

These are supplemented by a wide range of other shopping centres and shopping precincts, ensuring nearly all Hunter residents are close to facilities to cater for their shopping needs.

The Hunter’s retail sector continues to attract a large volume of investment, with hundreds of millions of dollars spent in shopping infrastructure, from the large centres right down to smaller local shopping facilities.

### 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 and National Women’s Rugby League competitions, and the Newcastle Jets in the National A-League and the A-League Women competitions – 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 was opened in 2022 and provides state of the art facilities for the local community.

There are a variety of stadiums and sporting fields across the region. The 30,000 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. In March 2023 it was announced that Newcastle Basketball was to build a \$30 million stadium in the precinct.



# An Enviably Lifestyle

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 and is expected to attract 800 male and female competitors in 2024.

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.

Port Stephens Council



# An Enviably Lifestyle

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.

## 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.

Barrington Tops Gloucester



## 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. The Airport is serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, Qantas, Link Airways, Eastern Air Services, FlyPelican and Bonza, flying to 13 direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations. The airfield and terminal are currently being upgraded and expanded to take a new class of international aircraft.

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

Stockton Sand Dunes





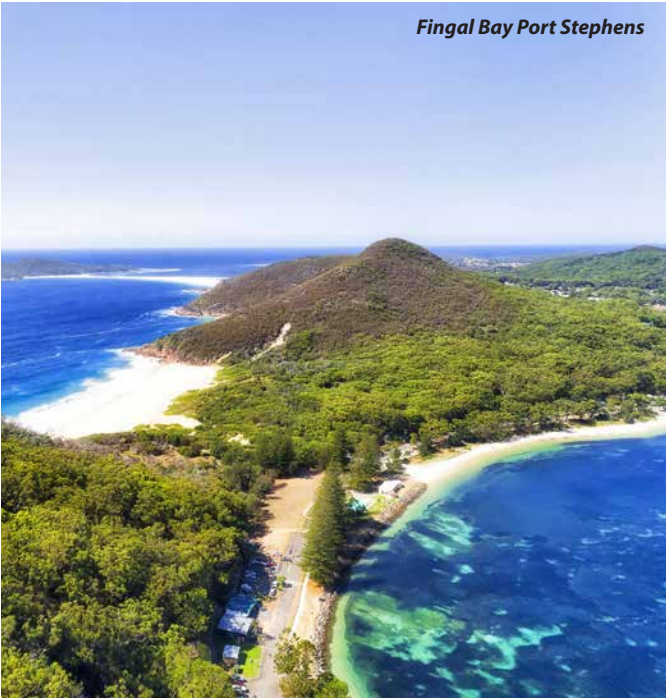
# Local Government Areas

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](http://www.hunterjo.com.au)



# Local Government Areas

## CESSNOCK LGA

**Area:** 1,965 sq km  
**Population:** 65,878 (ABS 2022 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, making Cessnock the 3rd Fastest growing LGA in Regional NSW. 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](mailto:economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)  
**Website:** [www.advancecessnock.com.au](http://www.advancecessnock.com.au)



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An easy two-hour drive from Sydney and just 45 minutes from Coastal Newcastle



# Local Government Areas

## DUNGOG LGA

**Area:** 2,250 sq km  
**Population:** 9,722 (ABS 2022 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 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 and the Paterson River to the west. Both of our rivers are tributaries of the Hunter and contribute over 40% of the flow to the Hunter river.

With some of the most extensive subtropical rainforests in the world, visitors come to explore the 13,000 hectares of state forests and 37,500 hectares 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 wilderness adventure, come and explore 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 vibrant art galleries, speciality shops, and pubs and cafes that reflect the commitment the community has made to preserving Dungog's historical integrity. 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 recent years, the shire has seen an increase in the number of art, craft, bespoke brewing, creative businesses and events, with both a retail and tourism focus, including the internationally acclaimed Dungog Festival and Sculpture On The Farm.

For those living in the Dungog shire, the township boasts a hospital, theatre, library, public pool, recreational and sporting parks, a Services NSW office and excellent educational facilities; including Tocal Agricultural College. And with short drives to Newcastle Airport and the beautiful coastline spanning from Port Stephens to Lake Macquarie just an hour away, it's no wonder the population of the Dungog shire continues to increase each year above the state average.

**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  
**Email:** shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au  
**Website:** www.dungog.nsw.gov.au and www.visitdungog.com.au

# Local Government Areas

## LAKE MACQUARIE LGA

**Area:** 649 sq km  
**Population:** 216,603 (ABS 2022 ERP)  
**Location:** 110 km north of Sydney

With a lower living cost than larger urban areas, Lake Macquarie is an ideal location for growth of existing businesses, economic development, attracting businesses and residents seeking a more affordable yet thriving community. The City's proximity to stunning beaches, the lake and bushland set the foundations for achieving Danita's vision of Lake Macquarie becoming one of the world's top 10 most liveable cities.

The City offers:  
Strong population growth and development opportunities:  
• Population potential to grow to 300,000 by 2036, 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, 13,700 new dwellings are needed by 2036 to keep up with housing demand, industrial land costs less than Sydney, commercial rental is lower than Sydney  
• Significant tracks of desirable land for infill, brown and greenfield development  
Supportive planning, development and investment environment:  
• Customised support from Dantia to encourage and facilitate timely delivery of approvals - 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) Lake Macquarie is preparing for the future with a focus on innovation:

- CELL (Circular Economy Living lab)
  - Coworking space to support innovation
  - 650 sq km IoT infrastructure via LoRaWAN network
  - NBN- Enterprise-grade internet connectivity
- Idyllic lifestyle- abundance of natural and built spaces:
- Australia's largest saltwater lake with 57 boat ramps
  - Four patrolled beaches
  - Over 20 hiking trails
  - 25 picnic and park areas

Dantia is Lake Macquarie's economic development company with a vision to make Lake Macquarie one of the top 10 most liveable cities in the world. As a catalyst to propel growth through brave thinking and decisive action, Dantia works to enhance economic growth to boost income and employment, elevate skills, education and health, and promote wellbeing and a strong sense of place for Lake Macquarie.

**Mayor:** Councillor Kay Fraser  
**CEO, Lake Macquarie Council:** 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:** Tim Browne  
**Phone:** +61 427 908 217  
**Email:** [info@dantia.com.au](mailto:info@dantia.com.au)

*As nature intended*

An area of unparalleled beauty, **Dungog Shire** is the perfect location to live, work and play.

Contact us to find out more about the opportunities that await for new businesses and residents



Dungog Shire Council  
198 Dowling Street  
Dungog NSW 2420  
P: +61 2 4995 7777  
W: [www.dungog.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dungog.nsw.gov.au)







Invest.  
Expand.  
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# Local Government Areas

## MAITLAND LGA

**Area:** 396 sq km  
**Population:** 93,616 (ABS 2022 ERP)  
**Location:** 27 km west of Newcastle, 170 km north of Sydney

Nestled in the heart of the Hunter, Maitland is connected by an extensive road network and regional rail service. A mere 30 minutes from Newcastle, Maitland serves as a gateway to global markets through the accessibility of Newcastle Airport and the Port of Newcastle.

Maitland boasts a young population with the median age of 36 years. It stands as one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities, nurturing a vibrant community of over 93,500 residents (ABS 2023). With this growth comes a thriving economy which generates an annual economic output of \$12.490 billion and a gross regional output of \$6.105 billion (June 2022). Over 5,950 active businesses employ more than 35,000 people, primarily within healthcare and social assistance (19.8%), retail trade (12.5%), construction (11.6%) and education and training (10.4%).

However, Maitland's assets extend beyond its robust workforce and picturesque landscapes. With expansive alluvial flood plains and a meandering Hunter River, the city offers an environment conducive to a happy, healthy and active lifestyle.

Maitland stands out as the fastest growing regional area in NSW, boasting record development applications and \$85 million in

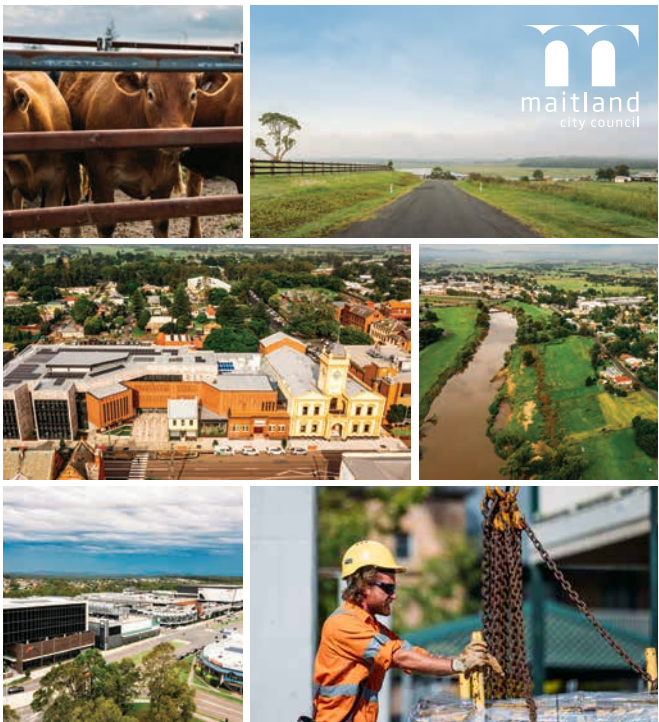
subdivision works, resulting in 880 new greenfield lots. With 4,400 more lots on the horizon, Maitland inspires confidence in its ongoing growth and economic prosperity, offering ample opportunities for business expansion.

Maitland City Council is also investing in the future of the city. The unveiling of the Maitland Administration Centre at 263 High Street in January 2023, followed by the renovated Town Hall in June 2023, has sparked renewed interest in Central Maitland. In the 2023/24 works program, there's also \$19.7 million in major roadworks construction, \$9 million in road rehabilitation and resurfacing, and \$11.4 million and \$29 million in building and recreation works. Major community infrastructure projects in the pipeline include the \$26 million Raymond Terrace Road project to reduce traffic congestion, completion of upgrades to Harold Gregson Park at Maitland Regional Sports Complex, road and intersection upgrades throughout the Thornton Road network, new community centres in Tenambit and Chisholm, planning for new sportsgrounds in Chisholm and Lochinvar, and a new skate park and play space at Roy Jordan Oval in Gillieston Heights.

Central to its growth strategy is the council's emphasis on liveable infrastructure and preserving the natural environment, ensuring an equilibrium between progress and the city's character to create a thriving, sustainable future.

**Mayor:** Councillor Philip Penfold  
**General Manager:** Jeff Smith  
**Address:** 263 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](mailto:business@maitland.nsw.gov.au)  
**Website:** [www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/business](http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/business)



**Live. Work. Play. Invest.  
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We're here to help. Contact Maitland City Council's City and Visitor Economy team.

02 4931 2816 [business@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:business@maitland.nsw.gov.au)

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# Local Government Areas

## MUSWELLBROOK LGA

**Area:** 3,405 sq km  
**Population:** 16,540 (ABS 2022 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 a major centre for coal mining. However, the next few decades will be a period of transition for much of Shire's existing industrial base. Liddell power station was decommissioned in 2023 and Bayswater power station will close in 2035.

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:** Derek Finnigan  
**Address:** Campbell's Corner 60-82 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

**For further information contact**  
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**Email:** [council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au)  
**Website:** [www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](http://www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au)

## MIDCOAST LGA

**Area:** 10,054 sq km  
**Population:** 97,237 (ABS 2022 ERP)  
**Location:** 172 km north of Newcastle

The MidCoast region covers over 10,000 sq km. With stable development, an unbeatable lifestyle and 196 cities, towns or villages to choose from, the MidCoast is open for business.

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

Stretching from Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens in the south, Diamond Head in the north and capturing the Barrington Tops to the west, the MidCoast region is defined by exceptional natural resources; 190 km of coastline, 1,808 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



# Local Government Areas

## NEWCASTLE LGA

**Area:** 187 sq km  
**Population:** 171,528 (ABS 2022 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 continues to invest significantly in local centre upgrades, precinct improvements, infrastructure and place activations. It also provides support programs for local business people and industry networks, to aid the development and growth of Newcastle businesses and to assist the economic transition of the city. Initiatives like Imagine Newcastle and are aimed at attracting skills and talent to the region, and providing data-led insights to assist businesses in their decision-making."

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:**  
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**Email:** [movetonecastle@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:movetonecastle@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
**Website:** [www.movetonecastle.com.au](http://www.movetonecastle.com.au)  
[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)

## Imagine a compact global city on the coast where creativity and innovation thrive.

Imagine Newcastle is a new digital tool from City of Newcastle that will provide people with the confidence to move, study and invest in Newcastle.

**Imagine Newcastle.** **NEWCASTLE**



[movetonecastle.com.au](http://movetonecastle.com.au)

# Local Government Areas

## PORT STEPHENS LGA

**Area:** 858 sq km  
**Population:** 76,672 (ABS 2022 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. The development of Astra Aerolab is well underway, with Stage 1 of subdivision works complete and the Development Approvals in place for the first buildings.

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 and freight.

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:** Tim Crosdale  
**Address:** 116 Adelaide Street, Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

**For further information contact:**  
**Economic Development Specialist:** Deborah Rodden  
**Phone:** +61 2 4988 0536  
**Email:** [deborah.rodde@portstephens.nsw.gov.au](mailto:deborah.rodde@portstephens.nsw.gov.au)  
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# Local Government Areas

## SINGLETON LGA

**Area:** 4,893 sq km  
**Population:** 25,093 (ABS 2022 ERP)  
**Location:** 80 km west of Newcastle, 200 km north-west of Sydney

With a diverse industry base, skilled labour force, established supply chain infrastructure and multi-modal transport networks, Singleton is ideally located for commercial and residential investment. Home to major global and local industries including coal mining and construction, manufacturing, defence, agricultural production, visitor economy and viticulture, Singleton is becoming a natural destination of choice for investment.

Singleton's proximity to Greater Newcastle, and the Lower Hunter make the region easily accessible to one of Australia's biggest international ports and coastal attractions of Newcastle, as well as an easy 2 hours' drive to Sydney. It is also the gateway to north-western New South Wales, connecting the coast to country. Rail and air transport links allow convenient access to major cities on the eastern seaboard and globally. 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 the establishment of the new Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre, as well as 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, commenced 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](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)



# Local Government Areas

## UPPER HUNTER LGA

**Area:** 8,096 sq km  
**Population:** 14,293 (ABS 2022 ERP)  
**Location:** 152 km north-west of Newcastle

The Upper Hunter LGA includes the major centres of Scone, Merriwa, Murrurundi 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**  
**Phone:** +61 2 6540 1100  
**Email:** [council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au)  
**Website:** [www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au](http://www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au)





Business Organisations

Business Organisations

EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

**Australian Industry Group (Ai Group)**  
Manger: David Tiller  
Suite 1 “Nautilus” 265 Wharf Road, Newcastle NSW 2300  
Phone: +61 2 4925 8300  
www.aigroup.com.au

**Business Hunter**  
President: Lauren Eyles  
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: Skye Newling  
PO Box 18, Scone, NSW 2337  
Phone: +61 459 453 967  
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

**Hunter Valley Law Society**  
President: Nada Vujat  
Phone: +61 2 4016 5111  
https://huntervalleylawsociety.com.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

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  
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  
Phone: +61 2 4953 9400  
www.newcastle-mba.com.au

**Property Council of Australia – Hunter Chapter**  
Regional Director for the Hunter: Anita Hugo  
Level 7, 50 Carrington Street Sydney, NSW, 2000  
Phone: +61 2 9033 1900  
www.propertycouncil.com.au

TOURISM INDUSTRY

**Barrington Coast**  
Manager Economic and Destination Development: Tanya Lipus  
4 Lake Street, Forster NSW 2428  
Phone: +61 1800 802 692  
https://barringtoncoast.com.au

**Denman Community Technology Centre and Visitor Information Centre**  
Cnr Ogilvie & Palace Streets, 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 Streets, Dungog NSW 2420  
Phone: +61 2 4992 2212  
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 Kiosks  
Phone: +61 2 4921 0740  
www.visitlakemac.com.au

**Maitland Visitor Information Centre**  
Cnr New England Highway & 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**  
132 Bridges St, Muswellbrook NSW 2333  
Phone: +61 2 6549 3891  
https://muswellbrook.org.au

**Newcastle Tourism Industry Group**  
Chair: Michael Stamboulidis  
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 2 6578 7560  
https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/Experience/Visit/Visitor-Information-Centre

**Tourism Advancing Gloucester**  
27 Denison Street, Gloucester NSW 2422  
Phone: +61 427 589 075  
https://gloucestertourism.com.au/

SUPPORT NETWORKS

**Business Growth Centre**  
Established as a not-for-profit Business Enterprise Centre, Business Incubator and Registered Training Organisation, with a purpose to support and grow small and micro businesses in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area.  
Principal Business Advisor: Alan Mitrovich  
48 Oakdale Road, Gateshead NSW 2290  
Phone: +61 2 4942 3133  
www.businessgrowthcentre.org.au

Committee for the Hunter

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 works with business, government, the community and partners to advance the sustainable economic prosperity of Lake Macquarie City.  
CEO: Tim Browne  
Level 1, 63 Ridley Street, Charlestown NSW 2290  
Phone: +61 2 4905 0088  
www.dantia.com.au

**Hunter Angels**  
An angel investor group that invests in emerging and growing businesses. They hold regular member events and pitch evenings, and the members invest in approximately 10+ companies each year.  
Executive Officer: Adrian Price  
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

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



For over 70 years, we've been the official body of the home building industry, representing and uniting builders across Australia.

Get the support you need, when you need it.

Join HIA today  
Call 02 4014 2000 or visit [hia.com.au](https://hia.com.au)

 you're in good hands



# Business Organisations

**Hunter iF**  
A not-for-profit support organisation to encourage and facilitate investment, jobs and growth as the region undergoes significant change. It does this by providing a one stop shop for innovation through a comprehensive, connected and cohesive package of services, programs and opportunities.  
Executive Officer: Gordon Whitehead  
Office 21, 265 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2302  
P: +61 424 756 233  
www.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  
102/470 King Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302  
Phone: +61 2 4062 7860  
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'.  
Defence Industry Advisor: Tim Owen  
102/470 King Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302  
Phone: +61 2 4062 7860  
www.hunterdefence.org.au

**HunterNet Group Training Company**  
Recognised by the Department of Education & Training (DET) 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  
102/470 King Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302  
Phone: +61 2 4062 7860  
www.hunternet.com.au/hunternet-group-training/

**Hunter Joint Organisation**  
Fosters co-operation and resource sharing between its 12 member councils, encourages investment and advocates for the local government areas it represents.  
Director: Steve Wilson  
4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton NSW 2322  
PO Box 3137, Thornton NSW 2322  
Phone: +61 2 4978 4040  
www.hunterjo.com.au

**Hunter Region Business Hub (THE HUB)**  
The Hunter Region Business Hub is 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.  
CEO: Trevor John  
PO Box 159, Hamilton NSW 2303  
Phone: +61 2 4940 8355  
www.rdahunter.org.au

**The Business Centre (Newcastle Region)**  
The Business Centre offers a range of services dedicated to increasing the growth and sustainability of small to medium business, including Business Advice and Mentoring Programs, Workshops and Training, Business Group Discussions, Serviced & Virtual Offices.  
CEO: Steve Wait  
265 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2300  
Phone: +61 2 4925 7700  
www.businesscentre.com.au

**RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS**  
**CSIRO Newcastle**  
CSIRO are Australia's national science research agency. At CSIRO, they solve the greatest challenges using innovative science and technology.  
Business Development Manager: Chanti Richardson  
10 Murray Dwyer Circuit, Mayfield West NSW 2304  
Phone: +61 2 4960 6000  
https://www.csiro.au/en

**Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)**  
Delivering patient-focused translational research including seed funding start-up studies and supporting larger-scale research projects whilst fostering a flow of information and innovation back and forth between scientists, clinicians and public health professionals.  
Locked Bag 1000, New Lambton, NSW, 2305  
Phone: +61 2 4042 0000  
https://hmri.org.au/

**Institute for Regional Futures**  
The Institute for Regional Futures draws on extensive expertise across the University of Newcastle and partners with governments, industries and communities to drive the development of sustainable strategy, policy and programs. The Institute incorporates the Hunter Research Foundation Centre.  
409 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300  
Phone: +61 2 4055 3300  
https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/centre/regional-futures

**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.  
Newcastle Institute for Energy & Resources (NIER)  
C Block, Ground Floor (Room: NIERC-G30)  
70 Vale Street, Shortland, NSW 2307  
Phone: +61 2 4985 4979  
https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/innovation/knowledge-exchange-and-enterprise

**CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**  
**Business Hunter**  
President: Lauren Eyles  
CEO: Bob Hawes  
165 Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow NSW 2292  
Phone: +61 2 4969 9600  
www.businesshunter.com

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

**Business Port Stephens**  
President: Marylou Stubbs  
Shop 32B Nelson Towers  
71 Victoria Pde Nelson Bay NSW 2315  
Phone: +61 455 844 751  
www.businessportstephens.com

**Business Singleton**  
President: Danny Eather  
PO Box 298, Singleton NSW 2330  
Phone: +61 400 460 412  
www.businesssingleton.com.au

**Central Hunter Business Chamber**  
President: Peree Watson  
12 Clift Street, 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

**Harrington and Surrounds Business and Community Association**  
President: Kym Stanley  
PO Box 1, Harrington NSW 2427  
Phone: +61 3 6556 0031  
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**  
President: Michael Huggett  
PO Box 1242, Warners Bay NSW 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**  
Address : PO Box 187 Old Bar NSW 2430  
Phone: +61 490 449 643  
www.obmp.com.au

**Scone Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.**  
President: Hamish Firth  
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: Wayne Rogers  
PO Box 218, Wallsend NSW 2287  
Phone: +61 2 4950 1878  
www.wallsendtown.com.au

**Wingham Chamber of Commerce**  
President: Kev Ellis  
PO Box 25, Wingham NSW 2429  
www.winghamchamber.com.au

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

# Business Organisations



## 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 the implementation of the Regional Investment Framework to maximise outcomes from investment in People, Places, Service, Industries and the Local Economy.  
• 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:** +61415 169 703  
**Email:** admin@rdahunter.org.au  
**Web:** www.rdahunter.org.au

**AUSINDUSTRY**  
AusIndustry provides a connection between small and medium size business and government. For over 25 years AusIndustry has continued to be a valuable hub, nurturing partnerships and networks, providing information and connections to help navigate local, state and Australian government support to get the best for each business.

AusIndustry operates a network of 30 Regional Managers across the country who are connected to regions, communities and industries and provide a local business connection and enable engagement with government.

Regional Managers provide impartial, trusted guidance tailored to local businesses. Regional Managers will take time to listen and understand business needs and identify government support mechanisms to enable growth opportunities.

**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 - New England Regional Development team provides end-to-end support for businesses wishing to set up or expand their operations in the Hunter and New England 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.  
**Web:** www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw

**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:  
• inking 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

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

**Evoke Projects**  
Evoke Projects is an interior design, construction + project management firm specialising in workplace, education, veterinary and healthcare projects.  
**www.evokeprojects.com.au**



**Out of the Square Media**  
Out of the Square Media is an ideas agency, creating content by working together and following whatever creative impulse is right to solve the problem at hand.  
**www.outofthesquare.com**



**The University of Newcastle**  
A global top 175 university, the University of Newcastle has delivered superior education and world-class research since 1965.  
**www.newcastle.edu.au**



**McNamara Adams**  
www.mcnamaraadams.com.au

**NCP Printing**  
www.ncp.com.au

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

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

**Scorpion International**  
www.scorpioninternational.com

**Singleton Council**  
www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

**TAFE NSW**  
www.tafensw.edu.au

## BRONZE SUPPORTERS

**Business Hunter**  
www.businesshunter.com

**GHD**  
www.ghd.com/en-au

**Hi-Vis Group**  
www.hivis.com

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

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

## SILVER SUPPORTERS

**AGL**  
www.agl.com.au

**Catalyst Project Consulting**  
www.catalystpc.com.au

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

**Dantia**  
www.dantia.com.au

**Dungog Shire Council**  
www.dungog.nsw.gov.au

**Emergent Group**  
www.emergentgroup.com.au

**Glencore**  
www.glencore.com

**HunterNet**  
www.hunternet.com.au





2024

# HUNTER **INVESTMENT** PROSPECTUS