

# NSW

BUDGET 2017-18



## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

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NSW Budget 2017-18 publications include:  
Budget Speech  
Budget Overview  
Regional Overview  
Western Sydney Overview  
Budget Paper No. 1 - Budget Statement  
Budget Paper No. 2 - Infrastructure Statement  
Budget Paper No. 3 - Budget Estimates  
Budget Paper No. 4 - Appropriation Bills

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**Front cover images from left to right:**

Coffs Harbour blueberry farm  
NSW Department of Education - Batemans Bay Public School  
NSW Health - Parkes Hospital  
Omega Bridge, Gerringong

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## Treasurer's message

Regional NSW is the beating heart of our state. With our finances in excellent shape, the NSW Budget 2017-18 will turbocharge our regions like never before.

This Budget delivers major new investment initiatives, supporting new and improved infrastructure and services that will make regional NSW an even better place to live, work and play.

Our new **\$1.0 billion Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund** - reserved from the Government's infrastructure investment fund, Restart NSW - will unlock economic growth, revitalise regional town centres, improve connectivity through better communications and infrastructure, and improve tourism access and amenities for growing numbers of visitors.

We have committed **\$200 million** over three years for our **Strong Country Communities Fund**, improving community facilities like swimming pools, health centres and community centres.

And a further **\$100 million** commitment over four years for our **Regional Cultural Fund** will enrich the lives of regional residents, investing in new arts and cultural facilities, upgrading existing galleries, theatres, libraries, museums, halls and other cultural spaces, and supporting projects that take exhibitions on tour.

Our regions will also reap the benefits of the Government's continued record levels of investment in infrastructure, which is delivering better roads, transport infrastructure, schools, hospitals and health centres across the state. This means safer roads and better access to world class education and health services.

All of this will deliver more jobs, more opportunities for businesses to grow, and create ever more vibrant regional communities, supporting a regional population expected to reach 3.4 million by 2031.

The NSW Government's strong track record of financial management has laid the foundations for success right across New South Wales. In this Budget we are building for the future, and the future of regional NSW has never been brighter.

**Dominic Perrottet**  
NSW Treasurer



# Supporting our regions

This Government recognises the valuable contribution of our regions and is committed to supporting their growth and prosperity by investing in services and infrastructure across New South Wales.

The Government is on track to meet the Restart NSW priority infrastructure target of allocating 30 per cent of infrastructure spending to our regions over time. This includes the Government's pledge to invest **\$6.0 billion** of the **\$20 billion** Rebuilding NSW plan in regional and rural infrastructure projects, ensuring that residents across New South Wales share in the proceeds of the State's poles and wires transactions.

By 30 June 2017, around **\$9.1 billion** will be committed or reserved for projects and programs in regional NSW, including the Rebuilding NSW plan. This is comprised of **\$3.8 billion** committed from Restart NSW and **\$5.3 billion** reserved for a future commitment. Significant new regional reservations include **\$1.0 billion** reserved for the **Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund** to unlock economic growth and deliver quality services in regional NSW.

These investments will provide a significant boost to local communities in terms of employment, health, education and lifestyle.

At the same time, this budget invests in upgraded and new roads as well as railways and bridges to connect regions with cities and one another, making for faster movement of goods and improving access for visitors.

Some of the Government's new and existing key regional investments are highlighted in this document.

## Boosting education

- » **\$46.0 million** over four years to boost wireless access and internet capacity in around 900 regional schools under the **Connecting Country Schools** program
- » continued funding for the **Rural and Remote Early Childhood Teaching Scholarship** programs to help early childhood educators upgrade their qualifications.

## Quality, accessible services

- » **\$59.6 million** in 2017-18 of the **\$300.0 million** reserved for Regional Multipurpose Services Facilities, which offer medical and allied health services
- » eight additional positions for palliative care specialists in rural and regional locations and 300 scholarships for palliative care training in regional and rural Local Health Districts
- » **\$214.6 million** over four years including **\$177.7 million** over two years to enhance critical communication services used by frontline health, emergency and law enforcement officers to better protect our citizens
- » **\$20.1 million** to transform 24 motor registries in regional and rural communities into Service NSW centres.

Regional NSW is home to around **40 per cent of NSW citizens** and spans diverse economies and industries including health care, retail trade and agriculture. It is home to resilient and adaptive communities, as well as historical and culturally significant landmarks. Regional NSW offers breathtaking natural beauty and attractive places in which to live, work and raise a family.



# Supporting our regions

## Building and connecting growing economies

The Government is continuing to progress the following Rebuilding NSW regional transport programs:

- » **\$2.0 billion** for the Regional Road Freight Corridors program to upgrade key regional highways, ensuring regional producers, who feed our State and beyond, can save time and money when transporting their goods (of which **\$648.5 million** has been committed from Restart NSW)
- » **\$1.0 billion** for the Regional Growth Roads program to build new infrastructure in regional growth areas, targeting roads in the Lower Hunter, Central Coast and south of Wollongong in the Illawarra (of which **\$408.8 million** has been committed from Restart NSW)
- » **\$500.0 million** for the Fixing Country Roads program to improve local and regional roads managed by local governments (of which **\$54.2 million** has been committed from Restart NSW)
- » **\$400.0 million** for the Fixing Country Rail program to improve regional rail networks (of which **\$11.0 million** has been committed)
- » **\$200.0 million** for the Bridges for the Bush program to replace and upgrade bridges in regional NSW (of which **\$38.6 million** has been committed from Restart NSW).

Other significant announcements which build and connect regional economies include:

- » **\$208.0 million** in 2017-18 for major road upgrades in regional NSW
- » **\$322.0 million** over four years for the upgrade and maintenance of Country Rail assets, including the replacement of timber sleepers, resurfacing track and replacement of bridges and culverts
- » **\$439.2 million** over four years for Restart NSW grants to regional local communities for essential roads, water and community service projects

- » **\$25.0 million** in 2017-18 to begin planning and commencing procurement of the Regional Rail Fleet program to replace the ageing XPT diesel fleet
- » funding for a new complying development code to fast-track development approvals.

## Enriching lives

- » **\$200.0 million** over three years toward a **Stronger Country Communities Fund** to support public facilities such as swimming pools, health centres and community halls
- » **\$100.0 million** over four years for a **Regional Cultural Fund** to support cultural and artistic activities in regional and rural communities.

## Ensuring a safe and secure water supply

- » Rebuilding NSW includes **\$1.0 billion** for the Safe and Secure Water program to address water challenges faced by communities in regional NSW. This includes investing in infrastructure to secure water supplies, providing improved wastewater and sewerage services, and upgrading dams
- » **\$107.1 million** committed from Restart NSW since the 2016-17 Budget for the Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog program to improve water quality and sewerage in regional communities
- » the procurement process is underway to deliver the 270-kilometre pipeline from the Murray River to Broken Hill to secure a permanent and reliable water supply for Broken Hill.

## Expanding production and improving sustainability

- » **\$177.0 million** for Local Land Services to work with farmers, landholders, and rural and regional communities to improve primary production and better manage our natural resources. This includes **\$20.0 million** in 2017-18 to implement and deliver the New South Wales Government’s Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms
- » as part of the Sustaining the Basin program supported by the Commonwealth Government, New South Wales will spend **\$78.0 million** in 2017-18 to deliver the Basin Pipes, Irrigated Farm Modernisation and Healthy Floodplains projects
- » **\$75.0 million** for the continuation of concessional loans under the Farm Innovation Fund to assist farmers to prepare their business for future drought
- » **\$65.0 million** investment over 10 years for an historic research and development partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation to extend research into winter crop development, infrastructure capacity development and skill development
- » **\$64.0 million** over 10 years on the national project to eradicate Red Imported Fire Ants
- » **\$15.0 million** over four years for the AgSkills strategy to support the New South Wales agriculture sector to attract and retain workers
- » **\$6.0 million** over four years for the Young Farmer Program, to help young farmers improve long-term financial resilience and build capacity and capability.



Cattle muster, Belltrees Estate



# Supporting our regions

## Protecting the environment

In addition to sustainability measures, the regions are a significant beneficiary of Government investment to protect and maintain our natural environment. Some of these measures include:

- » **\$44.0 million** in 2017-18, with a total of **\$240.0 million** over five years, invested in facilitating strategic biodiversity conservation on private land
- » **\$41.0 million** in 2017-18 to help local councils prepare and implement coastal and floodplain management plans and undertake works
- » **\$35.0 million** in 2017-18 to manage pest animals and weed populations to reduce their impacts on biodiversity, cultural heritage and other values within the state’s national park system and on park neighbours
- » **\$40.0 million** in 2017-18 to manage fire risk in national parks and reserves, including **\$3.3 million** (**\$6.6 million** over two years) to replace two helicopters with a newer fleet to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire response services
- » **\$9.4 million** in 2017-18 to ensure ongoing availability of large air tankers to enhance the state’s bush emergency fire-fighting capability during the fire season
- » **\$24.0 million** in 2017-18 (part of **\$100.0 million** over five years) to protect threatened species through the Saving our Species program.

## Attracting more tourists

Investing in our environment also helps our regional economies by growing tourism and supporting sustainable jobs.

The Government is assisting regional NSW with:

- » continued support for events such as the Australian round of the World Rally Championships in Coffs Harbour, Ironman Australia in Port Macquarie, the Deni Ute Muster in Deniliquin and a world-class motorsport racing track at Mount Panorama in Bathurst
- » a **\$43.0 million** regional commitment over four years from 2016-17 for the creation of six new Destination Networks, tourism marketing, and a Regional Conferencing Unit aimed at attracting more visitor dollars to our regions
- » a **\$24.4 million** Restart NSW commitment to the Visitor Experience program at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, from within the **\$300.0 million Regional Growth: Environment and Tourism Fund**. This is part of the **\$20 billion** Rebuilding NSW plan
- » various investments in National Parks and Wildlife initiatives to improve facilities, amenities and the overall visitor experience.





## The economics of regional NSW\*

- » Employment in regional NSW has grown by 4.9 per cent since April 2015, the strongest regional employment growth of all states.
- » New South Wales regions have experienced a significant uplift in employment growth over the last two years. This reflects the ability of the regions to adapt to a growing demand for services.
- » Over the last two years the move towards a service-based economy has been particularly pronounced, with almost all of the regional employment gains driven by the services sector.
- » Regional NSW now has the highest share of service-based employment compared to regions in other states. This share has increased from 51 per cent in 2008 to its current level of 57 per cent. This growth has been across all service sectors, including social services, personal services and business services.
- » In particular social services to households, such as public administration, education and health, have grown at an annual average rate of 3.4 per cent over the last decade and accounted for more than two thirds of regional employment growth. Health and social assistance is among one of the largest sectors in regional NSW.
- » The overseas and domestic visitor boom has benefited the whole state. In 2016 rural and regional NSW welcomed nearly 60 million visitors, a rise of more than 7 per cent. Regional tourism accommodation added a total of **\$1.0 billion** to the economy in 2015/16.
- » Regional employment in food and accommodation services grew 4.1 per cent in the year to February 2017, well above the decade average of 1.7 per cent.

*\*Based on ABS data for state comparisons.*



# Central Coast

International Football School, Kariong



**Local Government Authorities:**  
Central Coast

**Population (2016):**  
335,000

**Key industries:**  
Construction, retail trade, health care and social assistance

With an area of 1,824 square kilometres, the Central Coast is home to beachside communities, vibrant suburbs and rural villages. Its proximity to Sydney and Newcastle gives it a unique competitive advantage.

The Government is investing in better services for the region and promoting economic growth, including by bringing additional public service jobs to the area, which will have flow-on benefits for businesses and the community.

## Key highlights include:

- » continuing work on the **\$348.0 million** redevelopment of Gosford Hospital with \$87.2 million allocated in 2017-18
- » **\$200.0 million** for Wyong Hospital Redevelopment with **\$10.0 million** allocated in 2017-18
- » **\$188.3 million** in 2017-18 for Central Coast roads. This includes:
  - completing the upgrades at the Wyong Road intersections with the Pacific Highway and Tumbi Road
  - commencing construction of the M1 Pacific Motorway widening between the Kariong interchange and the Somersby interchange
  - continuing construction on the M1 between the Tuggerah and Doyalson interchanges and on the Pacific Highway widening between Lisarow and Ourimbah
  - **\$1.5 million** in 2017-18 for the Empire Bay Drive, The Scenic Road and Cochrone Street intersection upgrade (planning)
- » continuing works on the Wamberal Public School upgrade
- » **\$2.0 million** over two years from 2017-18 for the Kariong Fire Station renovation and extension
- » investing an estimated total of **\$2.0 million** in 2017-18 towards repairing the Coastal Wall at The Entrance
- » continuing with the relocation of 300 staff from the Office of State Revenue to Gosford by 2019.



# Central West and Orana

Orange Hillside Orchard



## Local Government Authorities:

Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Bogan, Cabonne, Coonamble, Cowra, Dubbo Regional, Forbes, Gilgandra, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Warren, Warrumbungle and Weddin

## Population (2016):

288,000

## Key industries:

Agriculture/forestry/fishing, retail trade, health care and social assistance

The Central West and Orana region of NSW lies at the heart of our state. It is the second-largest region in the state, covering an area of 125,666 square kilometres. The region features diverse landscapes including part of the iconic Great Dividing Range.

Investment in Taronga Western Plains Zoo will promote economic growth in the region, while the new Youth on Track Program will help divert young people from the criminal justice system. Continuing works on a new Connected Learning Centre in Coonabarabran will allow more people in more places to access TAFE through a state-of-the-art digital learning hub.

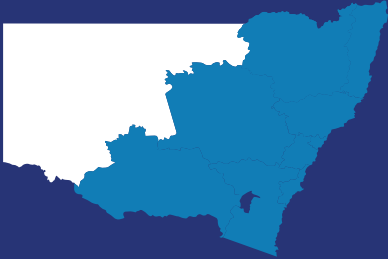
## Key highlights include:

- » continuing to deliver on the **\$188.1 million** project to build a rapid-build prison in Wellington
- » **\$110.7 million** for an additional 250 beds at the Bathurst Correctional Facility
- » investment in Trangie as part of the **\$65.0 million** research and development partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation to extend research into winter crop development, infrastructure capacity development and skill development
- » **\$43.5 million** in 2017-18 to continue the investments in Dubbo Hospital with an estimated total cost of **\$241.3 million**
- » roads and infrastructure programs including the following investments for 2017-18:
  - **\$9.9 million** for upgrades on the Newell Highway at Trewilga
  - **\$9.5 million** to complete the Guanna Hill realignment on the Mitchell Highway
  - **\$5.0 million** towards planning for the Newell Highway, Parkes bypass in Parkes
- » **\$8.0 million** in 2017-18 towards building a new hospital at Mudgee with an estimated total cost of **\$70.2 million**
- » **\$7.5 million** in 2017-18 on the Visitor Experience program at Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- » a new Dubbo Networked Specialist School and the Coolah Central School upgrade
- » the Resolve mental health social impact investment, including a support centre in Orange
- » works commenced in 2016 on a new fire and rescue station in Parkes with an estimated cost of **\$1.0 million**
- » **\$753,000** in 2017-18 for the Youth on Track program in Dubbo, Orange and Cowra.



# Far West

Fort Bourke Lookout



## Local Government Authorities:

Balranald, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett and Wentworth

## Population (2016):

46,000

## Key industries:

Agriculture/forestry/fishing, retail trade, health care and social assistance

The Far West region of New South Wales borders South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. It is made up of small communities separated by long distances. The investments made in this Budget will help the region address the unique challenges posed by its location and sparse population.

This includes significant investments in water security and health services. The procurement process is underway to deliver the 270-kilometre pipeline from the Murray River to Broken Hill to secure a permanent and reliable water supply for the town.

## Key highlights include:

- » improved water security measures such as:
  - a significant investment to deliver the 270-kilometre Broken Hill pipeline. This is being undertaken by Water NSW with the pipeline expected to be operational by late 2018
  - **\$9.9 million** to improve water treatment in Cobar
  - **\$5.0 million** for stage two of the Cobar to Nyngan twin pipelines
  - **\$5.5 million** for a new water treatment plant and reticulation network at White Cliffs
  - **\$2.0 million** for sewerage works at Wentworth
  - **\$946,000** to secure water supply at Cumborah
- » other infrastructure projects including:
  - **\$3.9 million** for the Broken Hill Integrated Health Facility
  - **\$800,000** for the seal extension project at Wilga Downs Road
  - **\$742,700** for the Lightning Ridge Airport upgrade to boost tourism to the region.



# Hunter

Newcastle Light Rail



## Local Government Authorities:

Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Mid Coast, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton and Upper Hunter

## Population (2016):

732,000

## Key industries:

Construction, retail trade, health care and social assistance

The Hunter region ranges from vineyards and cellar doors to defence and associated manufacturing operations. The region covers 32,500 square kilometres north of Sydney and the Central Coast. It includes Newcastle, the second largest city in New South Wales after Sydney. More than 700,000 people call the Hunter region home, making it the largest regional population in the state.

The Government is investing in a comprehensive suite of initiatives that will deliver better hospitals, schools, roads and internet connectivity. These investments will bring jobs and economic growth to the region.

## Key highlights include:

- » roads and infrastructure investments of:
  - **\$206.1 million** in 2017-18 for Newcastle Light Rail
  - **\$29.0 million** for the New England Highway, Scone bypass and **\$23.4 million** towards Cormorant Road, Industrial Drive to Stockton Bridge (state and federally funded) in 2017-18
  - **\$12.0 million** in 2017-18 to widen the rail underpass for the New England Highway, Gowrie Gates
  - **\$5.0 million** in 2017-18 for the upgrade of the New England Highway, Belford to Golden Highway upgrade planning.
- » delivering quality services:
  - continuing works on Rutherford Public and Belmont High Schools
  - **\$5.0 million** in 2017-18 towards building a new hospital at Maitland with an estimated total cost of **\$450.0 million**
  - continuing work on the Muswellbrook Hospital redevelopment with **\$13.1 million** in 2017-18
  - continuing works on new fire stations at Maryland and Murrurundi, with an estimated cost of **\$3.6 million** and **\$920,000** respectively
  - commencing work on the previously approved **\$10.0 million** new police station in Taree.
- » promoting jobs and growth:
  - with additional prison capacity at Cessnock Correctional Centre with an investment of **\$587.0 million** for over 1,000 prison beds
  - **\$75.0 million** in total Restart NSW funding for the **Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund**
  - continuing works on the relocation of V8 Supercar Championship Grand Finale to Newcastle
- » **\$43.0 million** to remediate Newcastle BHP sites
- » **\$7.0 million** to undertake urgent repair works across seven sites within the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme.



Nowra East Public School

# Illawarra – Shoalhaven



**Local Government Authorities:**  
Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven and Wollongong

**Population (2016):**  
405,000

**Key industries:**  
Retail trade, education and training, health care and social assistance

Illawarra-Shoalhaven’s coastline is home to a population of more than 400,000, and the combined urban area of Wollongong and Shellharbour represents one of the 10 largest urban areas in Australia. Illawarra-Shoalhaven includes Port Kembla, the nation’s largest export grain terminal and one of the state’s largest ports.

The Government will invest in better roads, health care and emergency services as well as promoting economic growth by investing in tourism infrastructure, including repairs to the WIN stadium in Wollongong and an upgrade to Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in Budderoo National Park. Additional beds at Nowra South Coast Correctional Centre will also bring more jobs to the region.

### Key highlights include:

- » **\$789.9 million** over four years to upgrade the Princes Highway, including **\$35.5 million** in 2017-18 for the completion of the Princes Highway bypass of Berry, **\$20.0 million** for the new Burrill Lake bridge, **\$23.5 million** in 2017-18 for the continuation of realignment works at Dignams Creek and **\$4.2 million** towards the federally funded project to replace bridges in Nowra
- » **\$164.0 million** with **\$86.8 million** in 2017-18 for an additional 360 beds at the Nowra South Coast Correctional Centre
- » **\$21.0 million** in 2017-18 to continue the Bulli Hospital Aged Care Centre of Excellence
- » **\$4.4 million** in 2017-18 for a hospital car park at Shoalhaven Hospital with an estimated total cost of **\$9.8 million**
- » continuing works on the Wollongong Fire Station refurbishment and the Bay and Basin Police Station, with estimated total costs of **\$4.9 million** and **\$5.0 million** respectively
- » **\$5.0 million** in 2017-18 to commence redevelopment of Shellharbour Hospital with an estimated total cost of **\$250.6 million**
- » **\$5.4 million** in 2017-18 to repair the Northern Grandstand at WIN stadium in Wollongong, to ensure public safety and the continued use of the stand for events
- » **\$4.7 million** over three years to reinvigorate the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in Budderoo National Park, transforming the Centre into a first-class visitor destination
- » an investment in the Wattamolla Visitor Precinct project that aims to cater for a growing number of visitors while protecting and conserving the Royal National Park site’s natural beauty. The project includes **\$3.9 million** for a Great Southern Nature Walk.



# New England and North West

*Guyra Costa Tomato exchange Guyra*



## Local Government Authorities:

Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield, Uralla and Walcha

## Population (2016):

188,000

## Key industries:

Accommodation and food services, education and training, health care and social assistance

The New England and North West region lies on the border of Queensland, covering an area of 97,506 square kilometres. Landscapes in the region range from volcanic rainforest tablelands and cliffs in the east to the highly productive floodplains in the west.

The NSW Government is investing in schools, hospitals, police and fire stations to deliver better services in the region. The Government is improving accessibility to TAFE NSW with Connected Learning Centres that will help to skill the workforce in the region.

## Key highlights include:

- » continuing major work on the upgrade of the Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
- » Tamworth will receive funding under the **\$65.0 million** research and development partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation to extend research into winter crop development, infrastructure capacity development and skill development
- » continuing works on Connected Learning Centres in Glen Innes, Quirindi and Tenterfield and the refurbishment of trade facilities at the TAFE NSW Gunnedah Campus
- » continuing the **\$60.0 million** redevelopment of Armidale Hospital, with **\$29.5 million** allocated in 2017-18
- » **\$30.0 million** towards redevelopment of the Inverell Hospital including **\$5.0 million** in 2017-18
- » roads and infrastructure initiatives include:
  - **\$17.0 million** in federal and state funding in 2017-18 for the Bolivia Hill upgrade on the New England Highway
  - **\$3.0 million** in federal funding for the Tenterfield heavy vehicle bypass
- » continuing works on the Gunnedah Police Station for a total project cost of **\$5.5 million**
- » **\$4.8 million** over three years for a new fire station at West Tamworth
- » **\$4.25 million** contribution to the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence in Tamworth, to help grow regional sport from grassroots through to elite level.



# North Coast

Coffs Harbour jetty breakwall



**Local Government Authorities:**

Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Nambucca, Port Macquarie Hastings, Tweed and Richmond Valley

**Population (2016):**

515,000

**Key industries:**

Construction, retail trade, health care and social assistance

The North Coast is a long string of seaside communities with a heavy focus on tourism and is the most biologically diverse region in New South Wales.

In this Budget the Government is delivering better education and health services for the region, including a new vocational education centre at Coffs Harbour. We are delivering significant investment in roads to increase productivity in the region through smoother, safer connections.

## Key highlights include:

- » roads and infrastructure initiatives in 2017-18 including:
  - **\$1.2 billion** for the Pacific Highway upgrade from Woolgoolga to Ballina (state and federally funded)
  - Pacific Highway upgrades including **\$266.0 million** between Oxley Highway and Kundabung, and Warrell Creek and Nambucca Heads
  - **\$84.0 million** to continue the construction of the additional bridge over the Clarence River bridge at Grafton
  - **\$24.0 million** for the Bruxner Highway, replacement bridge over Clarence River at Tabulam
  - **\$6.8 million** for the Sportsmans Creek replacement bridge
  - **\$5.0 million** for the Coffs Harbour bypass planning (state and federally funded)
- » **\$94.5 million** in 2017-18 of a **\$177.5 million** investment for an additional 400 prison beds at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in Kempsey, in addition to the new 1,700 bed Grafton Correctional Centre
- » **\$23.0 million** has been committed in 2017-18 to build a new hospital in Macksville. This is in addition to the **\$50.0 million** previously allocated to Macksville Hospital
- » **\$10.6 million** in 2017-18 to continue the Port Macquarie Hospital mental health expansion
- » **\$5.0 million** in 2017-18 to commence the Coffs Harbour Hospital expansion with an estimated total cost of **\$156.0 million**
- » **\$4.3 million** over four years to fund a Lord Howe Island minor works program to support the island's tourism industry, comply with public safety requirements and provide essential public services
- » continuing works on the NSW Shark Management Strategy including **\$3.6 million** for the shark meshing trial and SMART (Shark Management Alert in Real Time) drumlines deployed on the North Coast
- » **\$2.5 million** in 2017-18 towards commencing the building of a new hospital in the Tweed region (with an estimated total cost of **\$534.1 million**) including the Integrated Ambulatory Services
- » continuing works on the new fire station at South West Rocks with an estimated cost of **\$1.5 million**.





# Riverina – Murray

*Culcairn main street*



## Local Government Authorities:

Albury, Berrigan, Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Edward River, Federation, Greater Hume, Griffith, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys, Temora and Wagga Wagga

**Population (2016):**  
274,000

## Key industries:

Agriculture/fishery/forestry, construction, retail trade

Covering 114,374 kilometres, the Riverina-Murray is located in the south of New South Wales. The Murray River runs along the southern edge of the region and forms the border with Victoria.

The Government is extending its investment in improving and expanding the region's hospitals while also continuing works on police and fire stations. We are also supporting important water security initiatives in the region.

## Key highlights include:

- » roads and infrastructure initiatives including:
  - **\$22.8 million** in 2017-18 to upgrade Gocup Road
  - **\$7.0 million** in 2017-18 as the New South Wales contribution towards the Cobb Highway new bridge at Echuca-Moama
  - **\$7.0 million** in 2017-18 to upgrade the Newell Highway at Grong Grong including completion of realignment works
- » improved quality services such as:
  - continuing works on Deniliquin Police Station with an estimated total cost of **\$18.4 million**
  - **\$6.1 million** in 2017-18 to continue the Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital redevelopment. A further **\$4.0 million** has been committed in 2017-18 to commence stage three of the redevelopment
  - funding of **\$2.0 million** in 2017-18 to commence the expansion of the Albury Base Hospital Emergency Department with an estimated total cost of **\$30.0 million**
  - continuing works on two new Fire and Rescue stations at Henty and Batlow with estimated costs of **\$920,000** for each station
  - funding provided for planning of potential future upgrade of Tumut Hospital
- » agriculture and water investments:
  - Wagga Wagga will receive funding under the **\$65.0 million** research and development partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation to extend research into winter crop development, infrastructure capacity development and skill development
  - as part of the Sustaining the Basin program supported by the Commonwealth Government, New South Wales will spend **\$13.0 million** in 2017-18 for the Nimmie Caira System Enhanced Environmental Water Delivery Project in Coleambally
  - **\$3.9 million** for the Bethunga Dam Stabilisation program, including **\$1.2 million** in 2017-18 when the program is scheduled to be completed.



The Lott Foodstore, Cooma

# South East and Tablelands



## Local Government Authorities:

Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan Palerang, Snowy Monaro Regional, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee and Yass Valley

## Population (2016):

272,000

## Key industries:

Construction, public administration and safety, health care and social assistance

South East and Tablelands has a rich and diverse geography, with extensive coastline to the east, the Snowy Mountains in the west and its heartland east of the Great Dividing Range. The region borders Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

The Government is delivering better services through investment in schools, hospitals, fire and police stations. This is on top of significant funding for new roads and the new Eden Wharf Extension Project which will help promote tourism in the area.

## Key highlights include:

- » continuing works on the new Queanbeyan Regional Distance Education Hub
- » improvements to road networks in the region, including:
  - **\$24.4 million** in 2017-18 for Ellerton Drive extension, Queanbeyan
  - **\$9.5 million** in 2017-18 for Barton Highway improvements (state and federally funded)
  - **\$5.0 million** in 2017-18 for the Kings Highway, Clyde River Bridge replacement
  - **\$3.5 million** in 2017-18 for the Kings Highway, River Forest Road realignment
  - **\$2.5 million** in 2017-18 for heavy duty pavement on the Hume Highway (state and federally funded)
  - **\$2.1 million** in 2017-18 for initial sealing of the Main Road 54 from Goulburn to Bathurst
- » investments to support development of local workforce and industries, including **\$26.2 million** in 2017-18 and a project total of **\$42.0 million** for the Eden Wharf Extension project to cater for cruise ships docking at Eden
- » continuing works on the Southern Highlands Police Station and works on the Queanbeyan Police Station to commence in 2017, with estimated costs of **\$14.9 million** and **\$17.0 million** respectively
- » hospital investments for 2017-18 in the region of:
  - **\$10.2 million** for the redevelopment of Goulburn Hospital with an estimated total cost of **\$120.0 million**
  - **\$5.0 million** to continue major works on Bowral Hospital with an estimated total cost of **\$50.0 million**
  - **\$1.5 million** for Cooma Hospital redevelopment with an estimated total cost of **\$10.0 million**
- » continuing works on the new fire station at Eden with an estimated cost of **\$1.0 million**.



