

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### BUDGET DELIVERS FOR THE HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST

The 2017-18 NSW Budget will deliver major investments across the Central Coast region to ensure it remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and Central Coast Scot MacDonald said the hard work of the NSW Government to pay off the State's debt and invest in major and local infrastructure is paying off in the Hunter and our regions.

"All our regions, not just the metro areas, are getting their fair share as a result of this Government's strong economic management. This means more infrastructure, more quality services and better educational centres for the future," Mr MacDonald said.

Key highlights from the 2017-18 Budget include:

- **\$450 million** for the New Maitland Hospital to provide an improved, flexible and contemporary health facility integrated with the Hunter Valley network of hospitals.
- **\$206 million** in 2017-18 for Revitalising Newcastle (including Newcastle Light Rail) to improve travel options through the city centre, connect key activity precincts, and connect the Newcastle city centre to the foreshore.
- **\$93.7 million** in 2017-18 to continue construction of the widening of the M1 Pacific Motorway to six lanes between Wyong Road and the Doyalson Link Road (State and Federal funded)
- **\$31 million** in 2017-18 to commence construction of the widening of the M1 Pacific Motorway to six lanes between the Kariong and Somersby interchanges (State and Federal funded)
- **\$253 million** to continue delivery of 512 new intercity train carriages as part of the **\$2.3 billion** project to replace the trains carrying customers between Sydney and the Central Coast, Newcastle, the Blue Mountains and the South Coast
- **\$87.2 million** in 2017-18 to continue the redevelopment of Gosford Hospital at an estimated total cost of \$348 million
- **\$13.1 million** in 2017-18 to continue the stage 2 of the Muswellbrook Hospital Redevelopment at an estimated total cost of **\$20 million**
- **\$9.9 million** in 2017-18 to continue the Manning Hospital Redevelopment Stage 1 at an estimated total cost of \$20 million
- Hunter Rapid Build Prison (at Cessnock) - **\$101.7 million** in 2017-18 of a **\$199.9 million** project to deliver an additional 400 beds at the existing Cessnock Correctional Centre site
- **\$19 million** for the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme to repair damage from the April 2015 storm, annual maintenance, and insuring the scheme against future storm damage

**Quotes attributable to Member for Terrigal Adam Crouch:** “This is a budget that sees unprecedented investment in our children’s futures. Here on the Central Coast, this budget sees funding for the ongoing upgrade to Wamberal Public and will also see an upgrade commenced at Terrigal Public.”

“Not only that, we are also investing \$87m towards the Gosford Hospital Redevelopment as a part of this budget. With such strong investment in our local area, it’s not hard to see why more families are choosing the Central Coast.”

**Quotes attributable to Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnson:** “Once again a Budget that commits to the Hunter region.”

“More than \$200m will be invested to continue to connect the Newcastle City centre to the foreshore – a project that is a real game changer for this great city – and in my own electorate another \$4m towards the ongoing Singleton Hospital Upgrade and also \$13m towards Muswellbrook Hospital Redevelopment.

“I’m proud to be part of a Government that recognises the importance of our regions and its local communities.”

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