

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BUDGET BOOST FOR HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST**

The NSW Budget 2018 delivers major investment in a wide range of areas for the Hunter, Newcastle and Central Coast.

Some key highlights include:

- Major upgrades at Belmont High School and Rutherford Public School to meet increasing enrolment demand;
- **\$110 million** to continue construction of the Newcastle Light Rail (part of the Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Program);
- **\$105.3 million** in 2018-19 of a \$211.8 million investment to deliver an additional 330 maximum-security beds at the existing Cessnock Correctional Centre;
- **\$84 million** for upgrades to the New England Highway to improve safety and freight productivity (some projects include Commonwealth Government contributions) (Crosses Northern NSW Region)
- **\$55 million** towards planning and works on roads in the Hunter region to support regional economic activity and growth (some projects include Commonwealth Government contributions);
- **\$31.3 million** in 2018-19 to continue procurement of the Regional Rail Fleet Program to replace the aging XPT, XPLOER and Endeavour trains and create a better, safer, more comfortable and reliable service for customers travelling long distances (Crosses Western NSW Region, Southern NSW Region and Northern NSW Region);
- Continuing works on the **\$348.0 million** redevelopment of Gosford Hospital with **\$24.2 million** allocated in 2018-19 and **\$7.3 million** to continue the **\$35.5 million** Gosford Hospital car park;
- Continuing works on the **\$200.0 million** redevelopment of Wyong Hospital with **\$23.5 million** allocated in 2018-19;

- Expansion of the Manning Hospital redevelopment with **\$9.1 million** allocated in 2018-19 and a revised total cost of **\$40 million**;
- Commencing the **\$10.2 million** Wyong Hospital car park with **\$6.5 million** allocated in 2018-19;
- Continued investment in the construction of the \$470.0 million Maitland Hospital with **\$23.5 million** allocated in 2018-19
- Funding for TAFE Connected Learning Centres at Scone and Singleton;
- Commitments from the Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund including **\$2.9 million** towards the proposed Boardwalk Terrigal Beach to the Haven;
- Resources for Regions – commitments for the Denman Revitalisation Project and the Upper Hunter Regional Mine Affected Roads Program, and;
- Planning for future new works at John Hunter Hospital.

**Quotes attributable to Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen:** “The Hunter Region again benefits from the strong financial management of the Liberal and National Government. With more money flowing into upgrading hospitals and roads across the Hunter, including planning money for John Hunter Hospital, this Government recognises the importance of our region”.

**Quotes attributable to Member for Central Coast Adam Crouch:** This year’s budget confirms that our local hospitals, both Gosford and Wyong, are important community resources that will remain in public hands.

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