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\$6.7 MILLION BUSINESS CASE FUNDING FOR HUNTER PARK

More than \$6 million to progress planning for a major urban renewal of Newcastle's Hunter Park, which will feature 2,600 homes and more than 30 hectares of upgraded public space, will be included in the 2021-2022 NSW Budget.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the \$6.7 million investment would lay the groundwork for developing a revitalised precinct - with sporting and entertainment facilities, public spaces and new homes - that would deliver ongoing benefits to the Hunter region's economy.

"The Hunter Park project has the potential to further cement Newcastle's place as the gateway city to northern NSW, drawing visitors from across the country to significant sporting and entertainment events," Mr Perrottet said.

"The project also has the potential create over 8,000 direct and indirect jobs during a possible 12-year construction phase."

The funding will be used to develop a final business case, which will include comprehensive engagement with stakeholders, community and the private market over the next two years.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the project had the potential to accommodate up to 6,000 residents.

"The vision for the precinct is to transform 63 hectares of government-owned land and facilities into a world-class destination that will attract visitors from across the country and provide new housing for residents in the Hunter region," Mr Stokes said.

"The revitalisation of Hunter Park has the potential to deliver more than 30 hectares of upgraded public spaces, leisure, aquatic and entertainment facilities plus cycling and walking tracks to encourage active transport."

Minister for Sport Natalie Ward said the funding will explore how world-class sports facilities can underpin major urban renewal outcomes.

"The Hunter has produced some of the biggest stars in Australian sport from Ray Baartz to Belinda Clark and Andrew Johns," Mrs Ward said.

"This investment is a pathway to see how we can continue to leave a strong and vibrant legacy in Newcastle with quality sports and entertainment facilities, while offering so much more for the people of the Hunter Region and beyond."

For more information on Hunter Park precinct, visit:
<https://www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au/hunter-park>



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