

Media Release

Tuesday 21 June 2022

BUDGET DELIVERS FOR CENTRAL COAST AND HUNTER

Central Coast and Hunter will benefit from significant investments across a range of services in the 2022-23 NSW Budget.

Highlights from the Budget for Central Coast include:

EDUCATION

- \$18.2 million to co-contribute to a University of Newcastle campus in the Gosford CBD
- \$2 million to provide new and upgraded facilities to deliver Animal Studies courses at Wyong TAFE

HEALTH

- Continued delivery of the \$200 million Wyong Hospital Redevelopment
- New funding of \$6.4 million to expand Wyong Hospital's Cancer Day Unit

REGIONAL NSW

Grants to boost local economies, including:

- \$2.6 million to construct a visitor centre at Mangrove Creek Dam
- \$816,000 to improve access to Compartment 197 in McPherson State Forest on Mangrove Mountain, an environmentally and culturally significant location
- \$300,000 to establish a mountain bike park at Glenworth Valley

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- \$3.0 million for the Mission Critical Emergency Services Messaging Program, a centralised mission-critical emergency services paging network, including upgrade and consolidation of existing agency networks into one whole-of-government paging network

TRANSPORT

- \$274.5 million over four years to continue detailed planning and commence early works of the Fast Rail Network, to deliver fast, frequent and reliable connections between Sydney, the Central Coast and Newcastle, in collaboration with the Commonwealth

- \$26.0 million to the widening of Pacific Highway to four lanes between Parsons Road and Ourimbah Street at Lisarow
- \$25.0 million for the construction of the fast-tracked intersection at Tumbi Road (state and federally funded)
- \$1.0 million to continue planning for the upgrade on the Pacific Highway through the Wyong Town Centre (state and federally funded)

Key highlights from the Budget for the Hunter include:

EDUCATION

- \$9.7 million in 2022-23 for major upgrades for Muswellbrook South Public School
- \$5.6 million and \$5.0 million respectively in 2022-23 to continue major upgrades and refurbishments at Hunter River High School and Irrawang High School, delivering upgraded core facilities and dedicated learning support spaces
- \$1.8 million in 2022-23 to complete the expansion of TAFE NSW training facilities in Scone
- \$1.7 million in 2022-23 to redevelop Gillieston Public School

HEALTH

New funding for the:

- \$22 million Maitland Integrated Community and Community Mental Health Services
- \$20 million Forster-Tuncurry Health Facility
- \$13 million Residential Eating Disorders Treatment Centre

Continued delivery of the:

- \$835 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct
- \$500 million New Maitland Hospital and car park
- \$111.5 million Cessnock Hospital redevelopment
- \$100 million Manning Hospital redevelopment (Stage 2)
- \$45 million Muswellbrook Hospital redevelopment (Stage 3)

TRANSPORT

- \$1.4 billion over four years to continue planning the Pacific Motorway (M1) extension to Raymond Terrace (state and federally funded) and commence early works construction on the widening of Hexham Straight
- \$265.8 million over four years to continue planning, design and commence pre-construction of the Muswellbrook Bypass (state and federally funded)
- \$156.3 million over four years to improve safety and travel times on Nelson Bay Road, including commencing work on a 1 km section of the existing road from Salt Ash to Bobs Farm

- \$36.6 million to continue construction of the New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway
- \$19.8 million to continue planning and commence pre-construction of the Singleton Bypass to deliver safer, more efficient journeys for thousands of motorists every day (state and federally funded)
- \$9.7 million to continue construction on flood immunity works on the Golden Highway at Mudies Creek (state and federally funded)

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- \$21.5 million in additional funding over eight years to maintain the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme to help minimise flood risk across the Newcastle and Hunter regions
- \$6.6 million to deliver new and upgraded quality homes for First Nations people through the Aboriginal Housing Office

REGIONAL NSW

- \$25 million dedicated to the Special Activation Precinct Pre-Delivery Works in Williamtown

Grants to boost local economies, including:

- \$5 million to establish a prototyping and manufacturing facility for hydrogen energy storage
- \$2.5 million for the World Championship Air Race to be held at Lake Macquarie in November 2022
- \$785,000 to establish the Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council community centre

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- \$12 million for a new Singleton Police Station to accommodate increasing police numbers in the Hunter Valley Police District and provide modern policing facilities

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- \$12.5 million for the Mission Critical Emergency Services Messaging Program, a centralised mission critical emergency services paging network including upgrade and consolidation of existing agency networks into one whole-of-government paging network

Quotes

Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole:

“The NSW Government is rolling out record investment in local services and community facilities, to support families and build an even brighter future for the Central Coast and Hunter.”

“COVID has made many realise the unique lifestyle and business opportunities on offer in the regions which is why the NSW Government is continuing to delivering the infrastructure and services to provide an even better quality of life for locals.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell:

“The 2022-23 NSW Budget reinforces that the NSW Nationals are finalising the commitments made last year to the people of the Upper Hunter Electorate.

“We are working to improve the connection between the New England Highway and Golden Highway, providing the much needed upgrade of Muswellbrook South Public School as well as the expansion of training facilities provided by TAFE NSW, Scone.

“After a year when floods have impacted the Upper Hunter, be assured that I will be advocating for my electorate to secure its share of the additional funding to be made available to maintain the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme.”

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Taylor Martin:

“One of the great benefits of living in the Hunter is its proximity to major cities, industries and tourism destinations and these major transport improvements and studies will help to make the journey faster and safer.”

“Thanks to the NSW Liberals and Nationals, the 2022-23 NSW Budget provides substantial funding for our region. We’ve got \$1.4 billion to continue planning the Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace and commence early works construction on the widening of Hexham Straight and \$13 million to establish a Residential Eating Disorders Treatment Centre. This is great news for our community.”

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast Adam Crouch:

“One of the great benefits of living on the Coast is its proximity to major cities, industry centres and tourism destinations and these major transport improvements and studies will help to make the journey safer and faster.”

“In addition, we are investing \$38 million to complete a new school at Porters Creek, and \$200 million for the Wyong Hospital Redevelopment to cater for the needs of local families.”