

Media Release

Tuesday 21 June 2022

BUDGET DELIVERS FOR NORTHERN NSW

North-West New South Wales will benefit from significant investments across a range of services in the 2022-23 NSW Budget.

Highlights from the Budget for New England and North West include:

EDUCATION

- \$20.8 million to continue construction of the new Wee Waa High School, providing a modern and safe environment for students and staff
- \$1.4 million to complete the TAFE NSW Shared Services Centre in Tamworth, a modern and fit-for-purpose vocational training centre that will also provide 60 new jobs

HEALTH

- \$14.6 million in additional funding towards the Banksia Unit at Tamworth Hospital

Continued delivery of the:

- \$80.0 million Moree Hospital redevelopment
- \$53.0 million Gunnedah Hospital redevelopment
- \$50.0 million Glen Innes Hospital redevelopment (including \$30.0 million of additional funding)

REGIONAL NSW

- \$193.9 million for the Moree Special Activation Precinct
- \$5 million for the Chickpea Breeding Program in Tamworth

Grants to boost local economies, including:

- \$5 million to upgrade the Armidale and Guyra livestock selling centres
- \$3.9 million to upgrade the recreation and commercial infrastructure at Dumaresq Dam
- \$866,964 to revitalise Walcha State Park and surrounding precinct

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- \$19.8 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

- \$100.3 million to continue delivery of heavy vehicle pavement upgrades on the Newell Highway (state and federally funded)
- \$68.4 million for the planning and construction of overtaking lanes along the full length of the Newell Highway (state and federally funded), including in the North-West

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- \$79.9 million in funding from the Commonwealth for the Northern Basin Toolkit for programs to support the Murray Darling Basin, including, projects to support healthy rivers, aquatic life and fish-friendly screening
- \$37.8 million for the Dungowan Dam project, including construction of the pipeline between the Dam and Tamworth
- \$11.8 million to deliver new and upgraded quality homes for First Nations people through the Aboriginal Housing Office

Key highlights from the Budget for North Coast include:

EDUCATION

New funding:

- \$3.2 million in 2022-23 to expand the TAFE campus at Kingscliff
- \$2.9 million in 2022-23 for the Coffs Harbour TAFE Optimisation.
- \$2.5 million in 2022-23 for the Northern Rivers Education, Training and Research Hub
- \$886,000 in 2022-23 to relocate the Lennox Head Public School

Continued funding:

- \$70.1 million in 2022-23 to deliver major upgrades at Kingscliff Public School, Tweed Heads South Public School, Kingscliff High School, Bangalow Public School, Hastings Secondary College, Teven –Tintenbar Public School and Bexhill Public School
- \$40.2 million in 2022-23 to deliver the new Murwillumbah Education Campus
- \$10.1 million in 2022-23 to deliver skills facilities at Tweed River High School for the VET Pilot Program, in conjunction with ongoing major upgrades

HEALTH

New funding:

- \$4.2 million for the Medical Equipment upgrade across Mid North Coast Local Health District
- \$2.5 million for the Kempsey Heritage Building refurbishment
- \$2.0 million for planning for the Ballina Hospital redevelopment
- \$1.7 million for the Imaging Service upgrade across Mid North Coast Local Health District

Continued delivery of the:

- \$723.3 million Tweed Hospital and Integrated Ambulatory Services and car park
- \$312.8 million redevelopment for the Lismore Hospital redevelopment (Stages 3A, B, and C)
- \$263.8 million redevelopment for the Grafton Base Hospital
- \$194.0 million Coffs Harbour Hospital expansion
- \$21.5 million Port Macquarie Hospital Helipad Relocation and car park

REGIONAL NSW

Grants to boost local economies, including:

- \$11.1 million to support the expansion of the Treelands Drive Community Hub and improve the accessibility of services to the community
- \$10.0 million to upgrade and install new infrastructure in Casino to develop a 13 ha industrial park to facilitate the growth and expansion of local industry
- \$4.9 million to upgrade the Astronomy Science Centre in Port Macquarie

TRANSPORT

- \$1.4 billion over four years to continue construction of the Coffs Harbour Bypass, which will improve safety and reduce travel time, as well as removing through traffic from local roads (state and federally funded)
- \$39.3 million to deliver road improvements along Waterfall Way from the Pacific Highway at Raleigh to Armidale
- \$2.0 million, as part of the \$20 million commitment, to fast track the Oxley Highway/Pacific Highway Interchange at Port Macquarie, as part of the Oxley Highway Future Growth Program

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- \$52.7 million for the construction of new regional police stations to maximise productivity and meet the current and future needs of the NSW Police Force and community at Port Macquarie and Byron Bay
- \$3.5 million to fit out premises for the Firearms Registry

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- \$14.6 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

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- \$168.0 million to deliver new social and police housing, as well as repair and replace existing homes damaged during the floods
- \$70.0 million to repair and replace flood-damaged housing for First Nations people across the mid and north coast regions of New South Wales

- \$56.4 million for the Dorrigo Escarpment Walk and Arc Rainforest visitor experience
- \$32.9 million to enhance biosecurity for Lord Howe Island to protect the ecological values of this World Heritage listed site
- Continued delivery of the \$54.7 million new office hub in Coffs Harbour, to accommodate 430 workers from across government agencies, improving cross-agency collaboration and service delivery across the North Coast

Quotes

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

“The NSW Government is rolling out record upgrades to local services and community amenities, as well as more funding for emergency management and flood recovery to support families and build an even brighter future for Northern NSW.

“COVID has made many realise the unique lifestyle and business opportunities on offer on in the Northern part of the State, which is why the NSW Government is continuing to deliver the infrastructure and services to provide an even better quality of life for locals and assist in the long road to recovery in flood affected areas.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall:

“I couldn’t be more thrilled to see major funding for critical future-focussed projects, like Malpas Dam wall raising and local hospital redevelopments.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson:

“The Liberals and Nationals in Government continue to invest in the people of our region. The 2021-22 budget identifies and addresses the needs of our community and keeps the ball rolling on our major projects, ensuring that we deliver better infrastructure and better services now and into the future.”

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for the North Coast and Member for Oxley Melinda Pavey:

“The Budget continues to deliver a range of game changing infrastructure projects and community programs that will deliver more jobs and investment across the Mid North Coast and North Coast.”

“I welcome \$315 million to continue to support our timber industry, \$883 million to attract healthcare workers to the regions and more than \$1 billion in funding from the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments is being provided to support flood affected communities in the long road to recovery.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Tweed Geoff Provest:

“Thanks to the NSW Liberals and Nationals in government, the 2022-23 NSW Budget provides both capital and program enhancements in Tweed. I particularly welcome the major upgrade to

Kingscliff TAFE, a new ambulance station, the ongoing works at the new Tweed Valley Hospital and major works at local schools. The commitment to providing more nurses, doctors and allied health workers, and the expanded child care and early education programs is also of great benefit to Tweed residents.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Coffs Harbour Gurmesh Singh:

“The 2022-23 budget sees a lot of investment in the Coffs Harbour electorate by the Liberal-Nationals Government. Continuation of major projects like the Coffs Harbour Bypass are matched with cost of living support for families. We are working hard to make the Coffs Coast an even better place to live and the 2022-23 budget delivers on this commitment.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis:

“The NSW Government's 2022-23 Budget proves that the North Coast, including the Clarence and Richmond Valleys I represent continue to benefit from the Nationals strong voice in State Government.”

“Huge completed infrastructure like the Pacific Highway upgrade and the new Grafton Bridge are being followed with more major investments headlined by the \$263 million redevelopment for the Grafton Base Hospital.

“Given the string of natural disasters we have endured in the region, the Liberal and Nationals record investment in emergency services infrastructure, personnel and equipment could not come at a better time.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams:

“The redevelopment of both campuses of the Hastings Secondary College, the relocation of the helipad at Port Macquarie Base Hospital and additional carparking, as well as a new Police Station for Port Macquarie are all welcome inclusions in today’s State Budget.”

“I am also looking forward to work starting on the \$4.9 million upgrade to the Astronomy Science Centre in Port Macquarie as well as the delivery of ongoing biosecurity to protect the ecological values of Lord Howe Island both of which equate to investment for tourism and the local economy.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead:

“This budget demonstrates a commitment by the NSW Government to continue investing in health services in the Myall Lakes. \$20 million will be spent on the delivery of a public hospital in Forster which will ensure people living in and around the Great Lakes will have their health care needs met closer to home. This is in addition to the continued upgrades at Manning Base Hospital as the \$100 million Stage Two redevelopment is underway. High quality health care facilities are essential in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our community now and into the future. We are continuing to work hard to make the Myall Lakes an even better place to live and the 2022-23 budget delivers on these commitments.”

MEDIA Alex Bernhardt | Deputy Premier | 0448 203 742