

Tuesday 17 June 2014

AN EXTRA \$100 MILLION FOR HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE

NSW Treasurer Andrew Constance and Minister for Planning Pru Goward have announced an additional \$100 million will be reserved for the Hunter Infrastructure Investment Fund in the 2014-15 NSW Budget.

The money will be reserved for the Hunter region from the NSW Government's major infrastructure fund 'Restart NSW', and will be allocated to projects which pass an appropriate economic assessment by Infrastructure NSW.

The 2014-15 Budget also allocates spending from the Hunter Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) worth **\$185.2 million** including:

- **\$34 million** (\$62.5 million in total) for grants to Local Government in the Hunter region for road improvements. These include upgrades to Lemon Tree Passage Road, Pennant Street Bridge at Glendale, MR 301 Dungog to Raymond Terrace, Cardiff Main Street and Hunter Wine Region Roads
- **\$38.5 million** (\$89.8 million in total) for upgrades to Nelson Bay Road between Anna Bay and Bobs Farm and New England Highway through Maitland
- **\$400,000** (\$40 million in total for various health infrastructure projects) for the Stage One refurbishment of John Hunter Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- **\$25 million** towards the relocation of the Newcastle University
- **\$31.7 million** (\$47.2 million in total) for grants to Local Government for various infrastructure improvements
- **\$5 million** (\$10 million in total) for the Newcastle light rail scoping study
- **\$500,000** (\$2.6 million in total) for administration costs
- **\$50 million** reserved for the Newcastle urban renewal initiatives

"I'm delighted the NSW Liberals & Nationals election commitment is helping improve the lives of people right across the Hunter," Mr Constance said.

"This year's Budget is the biggest yet in terms of allocations from the HIIF, meaning even more vital local projects like the long-overdue upgrade of Hunter Sports High School will become a reality.

"Our initial investment of \$350 million is now almost fully allocated, and the successful transaction of the Newcastle Port means an additional \$340 million will be allocated to HIIF in the next four years to fast track the Newcastle CBD renewal and deliver light rail infrastructure and services.

"That brings the NSW Government's commitments through the HIIF to a total of \$790 million towards economic growth and enhanced liveability in the Hunter," said Planning Minister Pru Goward.