

Infrastructure will be a centrepiece in the nation's COVID-19 economic rebuild. The Hunter stands ready to do the heavy lifting with projects that create local jobs while stimulating the national economy at the scale and speed this crisis calls for.

Economic powerhouses, the Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport and the University of Newcastle have major projects advanced in planning that will generate 20,000 new jobs and billions in economic benefits. They are shovel-ready and government support would leverage significant partner funding.

The Hunter Joint Organisation of councils have curated a complementary program of smaller capital works that can

be rolled out quickly, providing opportunities for local jobs, contracts and content while improving liveability for all.

These projects are ready to deliver the construction jobs and stimulus we need right now. They will also work to diversify the Hunter economy into the future, helping us become more resilient and self-sufficient.

Families and businesses have said these projects are the ones that make a difference, giving them the confidence to live, invest and grow right here in the Hunter. Work with us to build a substantial investment and jobs pipeline in Australia's largest regional economy and accelerate the nation's recovery from COVID-19.

“It is really important that we have support now to maintain the workforce we have but also provide stimulus for job creation.”

Geordie Toohy, Resident, Newcastle Herald, 29/8/20

NEWS READY TO REBUILD

The great Hunter dream for families

By MATTHEW KELLY

FOR Scott and Olivia Wyborn, the growth of the Hunter Region over coming decades is closely tied to the aspirations they hold for their family.

Like thousands of young families, the Speers Point couple want their children, Alexander, 6, and Hugo, 4, to be able to study, work and establish themselves in the region.

“We want them to have the same opportunities that we were afforded in our city,” says Mr Wyborn. “It’s really important that our kids have the opportunity to go through their schooling and on to a great career in their own town and not be limited for choice.”

Ms Wyborn, a communications specialist, said: “We want them to have the same opportunities that we were afforded in our city.”

As a result of that, the Hunter’s infrastructure projects being developed to come on stream are seen as a can-do attitude, a legacy from a devastating situation and a sound investment in the region’s future.

“We are a resilient community with a can-do attitude,” says the University of Newcastle’s STEM Centre. “We are a resilient community with a can-do attitude,” says the University of Newcastle’s STEM Centre. “We are a resilient community with a can-do attitude,” says the University of Newcastle’s STEM Centre.

piece of infrastructure. It doesn’t make sense for your family to be going through the state’s biggest city with Newcastle post expanding its freight offering, we create opportunity for growth for regional businesses in the Hunter and in the state,” Mr Wyborn said.

Committee for the Hunter chief executive Mike Thompson said infrastructure was a proven stimulus measure provided it was invested in projects that delivered productive jobs and measurable benefits to communities.

Regional stakeholders and the community are behind these projects because we know they will fuel local jobs at the scale required, providing an immediate injection into the regional economy,” she said.

Building a pipeline of 20,000 jobs is a win-win for everyone. That means jobs for construction and opportunities for local contractors, and high-value jobs for decades to come as projects become operational. It will improve access to local economies across the region’s 10 local government areas.



Georgia Baik and Geordie Toohy with daughter Gigi six months. Picture: Jasnah Carroll



Scott and Olivia Wyborn with their two sons Alexander, 6, Hugo, 4. Picture: Jasnah Carroll

“The airport expansion will be a fantastic boost for trade and tourism for the region. It will connect our kids directly with the rest of the world,” Mr Toohy, a builder, said.

“I would like to see Newcastle carry on to become one of the world’s most livable cities with sustainable growth and careful planning to manage congestion and affordability that places other major cities in Australia. I think we can diversify our industry and continue to compete in the national and world economies. This will provide more opportunities for Newcastle and the Hunter to be competitive on a global scale.”

“It is really important that we have support now to maintain the workforce we have but also provide stimulus for job creation to help us through the next few years of economic downturn.”

Likeville Clarence’s Yoni Camp and Stacey Ramage believe decisions made today will be critical to the future of their daughters Olive, 3, and Mabel, 2 weeks.

“We want them to have the same opportunities that they would be afforded in bigger cities.”

Having opportunities for the girls right here also means we don’t have to put money away now in case we need to support them living in another city in 20 years’ time,” Ms Ramage said.

Ms Ramage, a logistics manager, said the development of a combined terminal at the Port of Newcastle is a significant opportunity to diversify existing infrastructure.

“Newcastle and the Hunter rely heavily on mining. A combined terminal will help diversify our economy and bring employment right into the heart of the region. This will have a domino effect across the Hunter and the state,” he said. “Expansion of the airport is a no-brainer. Not only can we get out to the world more easily, it brings jobs right here also means we don’t have to put money away now in case we need to support them living in another city in 20 years’ time.”

READY TO Rebuild:

- Project value \$110 million, including \$65 million for the Cooks E runway upgrade and \$45 million for terminal expansion
- Construction jobs from early 2021, generating 4410 new full-time jobs on completion in 2022
- \$13.7 billion in economic benefits to regional Australia including \$8.2 billion in extra income from visitor economy, and \$5.5 billion in additional jobs over the next 20 years of runway, University of Newcastle STEM building
- \$207 million project value, the largest capital works investment for the university
- The 1220m² facility will accommodate 2200 staff, students, researchers and industry partners. It will improve access for regional and Indigenous students and businesses to STEM disciplines and workforce
- Up to 2100 new jobs during construction
- Newcastle contains terminal
- Private investment of more than \$1.3 billion
- Construction alone will generate more than 15,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$2.3 billion of economic contribution for Australia
- In the Lower Hunter, construction will generate 5500 direct and indirect jobs as well as \$1.3 billion of economic contribution
- Local government \$400 million combined projects value, benefits to sectors impacted by COVID-19

OPINION

RICHARD ANICICH

Hunter ready to rebuild nation's economy

THE October federal budget will set out the path to rebuild the economy from the impacts of COVID-19.

The pandemic has wiped out four years of employment growth in the Hunter job creation, in our region and across Australia, in an emergency.

In response, the Hunter has launched an ambitious plan ahead of the budget call-up on the Australian government to partner with the state and the economy through investment in infrastructure.

The level of focus and investment in the Hunter does not reflect our size, strategic significance or economic longevity, and the Hunter’s special status with the government. This means a great opportunity cost for the region.

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READY TO ROLL: The Committee for the Hunter has identified five major projects for consideration by the government.

“The level of focus and investment in the Hunter does not reflect our size, strategic significance or economic contribution.”

The plan of the University of Newcastle’s STEM Regional Transformation Hub will attract STEM disciplines in regional NSW, making job-ready graduates with skills, employability and support to create and commercialise innovations. The Hub will improve access for regional students and businesses to STEM disciplines and workforce. The financial impact of COVID-19 means that without support this plan is at risk of delay and being scaled back.

“If we work together and coordinate investment between governments, across council boundaries and the private sector the benefits of individual projects will be further amplified, that is what creates a substantial investment pipeline driving business confidence to invest, expand and create new jobs.”

The Hunter has the capacity and scale to support them living in another city in 20 years’ time.”

“It’s really important that our kids have the opportunity to go through their schooling, university and on to a great career in their own town and not be limited for choice.”

Olivia Wyborn, Resident of Speers Point, Newcastle Herald, 29/8/20



“These projects... deliver benefits at scale, creating over 20,000 jobs and billions in economic benefits [for the region and the national economy].”

Richard Anicich AM, Newcastle Herald, 15/8/20



FULL FREIGHT: An artist's impression of a cargo container ship entering the Port of Newcastle.

Port's diversification push

FROM P1 The terminal, which would attract \$1.8 billion of private investment, is among three projects that the Committee for the Hunter has identified as top infrastructure priorities for the region.

HoustonKemp's analysis shows the design and construction of the terminal would create 3200 jobs and \$1.3 billion to the Lower Hunter alone.

The figures do not include the broader economic benefits created through increased supply chain efficiency and making internationally-trading businesses in NSW more competitive in global markets.

Port of Newcastle CEO Craig Carmody said, while it was difficult to quantify all the ways the Port could benefit the local and regional economy, the analysis highlighted the importance of Australia's largest east coast port to the nation's economic prosperity.

"HoustonKemp has applied its complex economic methodology to quantify the scale of the port's contribution in our region and the nation," Mr Carmody said.

"For every dollar generated by port activity in Newcastle, there is a total contribution of \$2.62 to Australia's GDP."

Mr Carmody said the Port had a critical role to play in providing accessible, efficient and cost-effective supply chains that underpinned local jobs, businesses and the region's prosperity. "This is especially critical as we do our best to help the economy recover from the effects of COVID-19," he said.

"To say there's no time like the present is now more compelling than it has ever been," he said.

"With record high unemployment as we do our best to help the economy recover from the effects of COVID-19, imagine the employment opportunities that kind of cash spend could unlock both at the port and in the ripple effect through the region."

Port argues diversification is the key to boosting performance

BY MATTHEW KELLY

THE Port of Newcastle contributes almost \$1 billion to the Hunter annually, a new economic analysis shows.

The analysis, conducted by HoustonKemp Economicists, found the port's direct and flow-on contribution to Australia's gross domestic product was almost \$1 billion.

The analysis also shows that the port's economic contribution in recent years has grown through port trade has gone up. The Port of Newcastle is seeking to have state government penalties on container movements at the port lifted in order to boost its economic output.

"While we are doing the same thing, we are not going to see a material increase in the port's economic contribution to the economy," a Port of Newcastle spokesman said. "That is why we are pursuing diversification as a priority underpinning economic success for future generations. The current economic contribution may be capped, but the future potential is unlimited."

The HoustonKemp analysis, using 2018/19 financial year data, also found that about 5700 jobs across the Lower Hunter, \$475 million worth of household income and gross regional product worth almost \$1 billion.

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It is estimated the proposed Newcastle Multi-Purpose Deepwater Terminal would generate more than 15,000 direct and indirect jobs and contribute \$2.5 billion to the national economy.

CONTINUED: P2

Category	Value	Category	Value
Direct	15,000	Indirect	15,000
Direct	19,000	Indirect	19,000
Direct	23,500	Indirect	23,500

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CONTINUED: P2

“There are so many companies in the Hunter that would benefit from it. This is a great opportunity. Hopefully this time we won't allow people to come up with excuses about why it can't be done, we need to focus on why it should be done.”

Leigh Bryant, Scorpion International Freight Services, Newcastle Herald 19/8/20

“Port projects started today will be critical in the decades ahead, ensuring we can diversify the economy and remain internationally competitive and prosperous.”

Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Herald 20/8/20

Dr Sleep said the STEMM hub will be a critical regional resource that will provide young people with skills they need for jobs that would emerge in coming decades.

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The STEMM hub is a joint venture between the University of Newcastle and the Hunter Region. It will provide a one-stop shop for students and professionals in the STEMM fields.

The hub will offer a range of services, including career advice, industry placements, and professional development. It will also offer a range of courses and programs in the STEMM fields.

The hub is expected to be completed in 2022. It will be a major asset for the Hunter region and will help to attract and retain talent in the STEMM fields.



VISION: An art impression of the University of Newcastle's Hunter STEMM building.

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As the largest growth centre in NSW outside Sydney, the Hunter is well-equipped to take the lead in supporting the state's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hunter region has a strong and diverse economy, with a high concentration of skilled workers and a strong infrastructure base. It is well-positioned to attract investment and create jobs in the post-COVID-19 era.

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THE HUNTER HAS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING PARTICIPATION RATES FOR STEM IN THE STATE. PICTURE: MAX BEAM/NEWS

Full throttle for Hunter gateway

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CONCRETE POTENTIAL: The Hunter's success hinges has the potential to boost a south-east Asian market. PICTURE: PETER WELLS

READY TO REBUILD NEWS

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“Upgrading Newcastle Airport's runway to Code EII would mean being able to fly non-stop to markets that are critical to the Hunter's future.”

Olivier Lamb, Management Consultant, Newcastle Herald 19/8/20

