

Media Release

Double cruise ship day for Newcastle and the Hunter

In a double act for Newcastle and the Hunter, cruise ships *Celebrity Solstice* and *Viking Orion* will arrive into the Port of Newcastle on Saturday 21st March, 2020.

Celebrity Solstice, with a capacity of 2850 passengers and 1250 crew, will arrive from Sydney at 8am and is set to sail for Cairns at 5pm.

Viking Orion, with a capacity of 930 passengers and 550 crew, will arrive from Sydney at 7am and is set to sail for Brisbane at 6pm.

The visits form part of the 2019/2020 cruise ship season to our region and make up 2 of the fifteen ships to stopover in Newcastle.

“We expect a number of the almost 4000 passengers from the two ships to explore Newcastle, the Hunter Valley vineyards, Port Stephens, Maitland, Morpeth, Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast either on a shore excursion or independent travel”, explained Cruise Coordinator Sarah Foster from Cruise Newcastle.

Cruise shuttles will depart to/from Market Street Lawn or The Station.

Visitors and crew, many from overseas including North America, Canada, Europe and New Zealand, will also have the chance to immerse themselves in several local events being held that day including the Homegrown Market at The Station, The Organic Food Markets on Hunter Street and the Newcastle Beer Fest at Camp Shortland.

Last season the cruise industry was valued at \$9.8 million in direct expenditure to Newcastle and surrounds. “We are delighted to report this season has seen an increase in cruise passenger arrivals of around 18% on last year”, said Ms Foster.

Ms Foster encouraged Novocastrians to enjoy their own backyard by welcoming or bidding farewell to the cruise ships. “It is always great to see so many people lining the shores and the breakwall to welcome ships into our Port and to bid farewell in the evening,” she said.

The final visit of the 2019/2020 cruise ship season will be on Saturday 4th April when the *Golden Princess* sails into Newcastle with an expected 2600 passengers and 1100 crew on board, coinciding with The Olive Tree Market at Civic Park, The Organic Food Markets on Hunter Street and the Sound Station Music and Arts Festival at The Station.

Please direct media inquiries to Sarah Foster, Cruise Coordinator, Cruise Newcastle M: +61 400 120 643 or email SFoster@portauthoritynsw.com.au
Images are available for immediate use, please email request to Sarah Foster above.
See page following for more information.

Cruise Newcastle is a Hunter based collaboration which has recently been formed to maximise the opportunity for the region of the growing cruise industry in New South Wales. This place-based collaboration is made up of:

- Port of Newcastle,
- Destination Sydney Surrounds North (DSSN),
- Regional NSW, within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,
- Port Authority of New South Wales,
- City of Newcastle, and
- Hunter Joint Organisation.

The collaboration partners want to improve the experience of scheduled cruise visits to the Port of Newcastle and, ultimately, increase the number of future cruise visits.

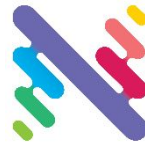


Regional
NSW



Destination
Sydney Surrounds North

Hunter
Joint Organisation



City of
Newcastle

