



MEDIA RELEASE – SIGNING OF MOU FOR GREATER NEWCASTLE METROPOLITAN PLAN

DISTRIBUTION DATE: THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2020 (11:30am)

Local & State Governments Collaborate for the Hunter

The five councils of Greater Newcastle and the NSW Planning and Public Spaces Minister have today come together for a virtual signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, cementing a shared commitment to collaboratively drive the delivery of the *Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036*.

The plan, initially launched in 2018, sets out strategies and actions to drive sustainable growth across the Greater Newcastle area, comprising Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City, Maitland City, Newcastle City and Port Stephens.

NSW Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes said the MoU signifies a shared desire to get things moving in a region with huge potential.

“For the first time Greater Newcastle has an integrated land use and transport plan, providing strategic direction that will deliver better investment, better planning and better outcomes for these growing communities,” Mr Stokes said.

With Greater Newcastle already recognised as Australia’s seventh largest city, the signing of the MoU demonstrates a renewed commitment, from both levels of Government, to work collaboratively on the plan’s vision for a liveable, sustainable and globally competitive region.

“Greater Newcastle is already becoming a global city, and through collaboration we can focus on liveability and innovation that support our growing population and diverse community across the region,” Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, and Chairperson of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee noted. “We’ve already seen great collaboration through our Steering Committee between our five councils, and it’s fantastic to see State Government re-affirming their commitment to the Plan through this Memorandum of Understanding.”

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan also helps to achieve the vision set out in the *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* – for the Hunter to be a leading regional economy in Australia.

“The *Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan* has been a strategic focus for the Hunter Joint Organisation, as well as for my own council,” Bob Pynsent, Mayor of Cessnock and Chair of the



Hunter Joint Organisation said. "The whole Hunter region benefits from meaningful collaboration between local and state governments, and signing this Memorandum of Understanding marks the commitment that we have to our growing population of diverse communities."

The Plan focuses on outcomes for the future of Greater Newcastle of a skilled workforce, increased housing, enhanced liveability, and improved connection across the five council areas.

Additional Quotes for use:

Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor of Port Stephens: "Port Stephens Council is incredibly excited about collaborating further with the NSW Government to realise the actions in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan. Investigation is already underway for the Special Activation Precinct at Williamstown which will support our growing aerospace and defence industries around this global gateway."

Cr Kay Fraser, Mayor of Lake Macquarie: "The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding is significant as it cements our strategic direction regionally and reaffirms the importance of our collaboration with the NSW Government. For Lake Macquarie City it is an acknowledgement of our significant role as a gateway to Greater Newcastle and the potential for North West Lake Macquarie as a key area to provide urban renewal, employment and economic growth in the region in coming decades."

Cr Loretta Baker, Mayor of Maitland City: "I'm pleased to be here today on behalf of the Maitland community to sign this MOU alongside my fellow mayors from the councils involved, along with a commitment from the NSW Government. This is a positive next step to ensure the long term successful delivery of the Plan."

Contact details

Please direct media inquiries to Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter Joint Organisation.

M: +61 413 891 320 or email louisab@hunterjo.com.au

Images are available for immediate use, please email request to Louisa Bulley