

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA HUNTER HIGHLIGHTS



RDA HUNTER IS THE KEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION IN THE HUNTER REGION; SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

LED BY A COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, WE PROVIDE INDEPENDENT ADVICE TO ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND OUR STAKEHOLDERS ON PRIORITIES FOR THE HUNTER'S FUTURE.

OUR AGENDA IS STRATEGIC AND FUTURE FOCUSED. IT AIMS TO ADVANCE INNOVATION, ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND UPDATE INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE THE REGION'S ONGOING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS.



"SINCE 2009 RDA HUNTER HAS BEEN POSITIONING THE HUNTER NATIONALLY AND IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY...

THROUGH LEADERSHIP ON ISSUES KEY TO THE HUNTER'S FUTURE AS WELL AS INFORMED AND INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR THE HUNTER'S LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY.

THE EVIDENCE FOR THIS IS OUR 65 REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS AND ATTRACTION OF OVER \$340 MILLION IN INVESTMENT FOR THE REGION."

**DR GAYE HART AM, CHAIR RDA HUNTER
CEDA REGIONAL COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES EVENT
AUGUST 2014**



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – INFRASTRUCTURE; SKILLS; INVESTMENT

- Funding for economic infrastructure projects
- Growing the region's skills base through the ME Program
- Supporting Hunter innovation
- Raising the Hunter's profile globally
- Attracting investment to grow the Hunter's economy
- Ensuring the Hunter is connected by high speed broadband

Details of each of these and other projects are available at www.rdahunter.org.au

INVESTMENT FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

RDA Hunter engaged Deloitte Access Economics in 2013 to research and write Prospects and Challenges for the Hunter Region. Forward estimates predict growth by 2036 of almost 75%, or a boost of nearly \$28 billion to the Hunter's economy.

The annual Hunter Investment Prospectus published by RDA Hunter presents the region's advantages to national and international markets in support of the government strategies to attract investment, facilitate exports, create jobs and grow the NSW economy.

Smart Happens Here is a campaign that demonstrates Hunter's competitive advantages and shows the benefits of making smart investments in the region. This RDA Hunter initiative takes geography out of the equation and raises our profile internationally.

SKILLED WORKFORCE: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY SCHOOL PATHWAYS (ME) PROGRAM

RDA Hunter's ME Program encourages young people to complete science, mathematics, physics and engineering subjects to better prepare them for a highly skilled future workforce. In 5 years, 7,500 senior students in 25 Hunter high schools have been engaged with 32 defence and manufacturing companies.

- ME Program students 3% above state average for selecting HSC Physics
- 8% above state average ME Program students select HSC Engineering Studies
- 11% above state average ME Program students in Metals and Engineering Certificate II

RDA Hunter's award winning ME Program delivers the smart schools for the Hunter's future.

INFRASTRUCTURE TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

"The Hunter will be home to 1 million people. Investment growth in critical infrastructure – water, energy, communications and transport – is required for the region to achieve sustainable economic growth and environmental resilience that improves the quality of life for current and future generations." Gaye Hart AM, Chair RDA Hunter

The Hunter Economic Infrastructure Plan was developed in 2013 by RDA Hunter and Infrastructure NSW to identify road and water priorities that will sustain and grow the region's economy.

The Plan has Commonwealth, State and Local government support for priority solutions to the region's infrastructure needs, including:

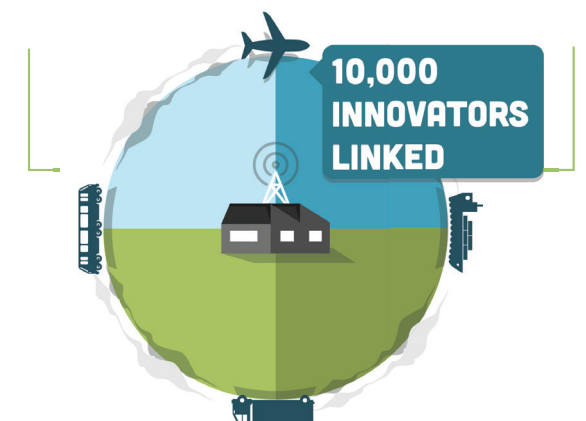
- Duplication of Tourle Street Bridge
- Bypass Scone rail level crossing
- Upgrade New England Highway from Belford to Golden Highway
- Widening Singleton Gowrie Gates
- Upgrade the Golden Highway
- New England Highway upgrade from Aberdeen

INNOVATION TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS AND CREATE NEW JOBS

Hunter creative industries is a growing economic sector, with about 5,000 people employed in media production, performing arts, advertising and internet services.

The Hunter Innovation Forum has connected more than 10,000 Hunter innovators, entrepreneurs and industry leaders in the past 5 years.

The Hunter Innovation Scorecard, a first for regional Australia, measures the introduction of new products, services and processes as well as the success of connecting businesses with research institutes, education providers and other collaborations across the region.



SMART HAPPENS HERE.

AN INITIATIVE OF



SMART
HAPPENS
HERE.

Level 3, 251 Wharf Road, Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: +61 2 4908 7300

Email: admin@rdahunter.org.au

Web: www.rdahunter.org.au

www.smarthappenshere.com.au

© Regional Development Australia Hunter, 2014



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative