MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND ESTABLISHED

NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell today announced that the Community Cabinet meeting in Newcastle had approved the establishment of the Hunter Infrastructure Fund.

$350 million will be allocated to the Fund over four years - delivering a key election commitment the NSW Liberals & Nationals made to the people of the Hunter.

The Government also announced that Maitland Mayor Peter Blackmore will chair the Fund.

“This Fund recognises that the Hunter region is responsible for delivering a significant proportion of the state’s economic output and export income,” Mr O’Farrell said.

“Peter Blackmore is well placed as Mayor of one of the fastest-growing local government areas in NSW to chair this independent board and oversee the Hunter Infrastructure Fund.

“Other local community and business leaders will be selected to the board after a process of public expressions of interest.

“The board will provide advice to the NSW Government on potential projects to be funded and will develop a 20-year infrastructure plan to guide the long-term infrastructure priorities in the region and allocations from the Fund.

“This plan will also examine infrastructure projects that will support the renewal of the Newcastle CBD.

“The Hunter has and will continue to experience strong population and economic growth – particularly due to mining projects – and we want to make sure this growth is matched by essential infrastructure.

“Today’s announcement is another example of my Government getting on with the job of delivering the services and infrastructure that the people of NSW expect and deserve,” Mr O’Farrell said.

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