MEDIA RELEASE

14 December 2012

NEW JOBS AND HOMES FOR NEWCASTLE

The NSW Government’s revitalisation of Newcastle will create a new commercial hub providing thousands of jobs, homes and services for the region.

“This unprecedented level of urban renewal will unlock Newcastle’s enormous potential, making it a more diverse and attractive centre for locals and visitors,” Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said.

The NSW Government’s new vision for Newcastle includes:

• Upgrades of Hunter Street Mall and Wheeler Place which will improve the vibrancy of surrounding areas
• Eight new crossings which will re-connect Newcastle with its waterfront
• East End being bolstered as a retail, entertainment, leisure and residential precinct
• Civic being strengthened in its role as the city’s main civic, educational and cultural hub with the rejuvenation of Wheeler Place, and
• West End emerging as the city’s future commercial hub with upgrades around Birdwood Park and Cottage Creek.

“Trains will continue to service the city of Newcastle but will no longer divide it, with a new transport interchange at Wickham ensuring that visitors from Maitland, Lake Macquarie and the Upper Hunter can get a bus from the Wickham interchange allowing them to be dropped at the door of Newcastle’s vibrant precincts, facilities and beaches.

“A regular frequent direct bus service will travel between Wickham and Newcastle as well as other destinations.

“The NSW Government will continue to consult with the community about improved frequency and destinations around Newcastle as the revitalisation proceeds.

“As the state’s second biggest city and Australia’s seventh largest, Newcastle has a bright future. Under the proposal unveiled today, Newcastle’s CBD will accommodate up to 12,600 additional residents in 6,000 new homes by 2036,” Mr Hazzard said.

“The renewal of Newcastle will generate up to 10,000 new jobs and the NSW Government will commit an initial $120 million towards the renewal and will seek a further $100 million of infrastructure funding support from the Federal Government,” Mr Hazzard said.

MEDIA: Adam Raskall 0409 565 083
“The NSW Government’s new UrbanGrowth NSW will also pour millions into the redevelopment through its partnership with GPT.

Newcastle MP Tim Owen said, “This is what local residents have been fighting for in Newcastle and shows the Hunter is now well and truly on the map. The strategy will bring a new energy and focus to deliver the 21st Century city we all deserve.”

Charlestown MP Andrew Cornwell said, “I want my constituents to have the chance to catch world class public transport to a vibrant city rather than third world public transport through a neglected city.”

Swansea MP Garry Edwards said, “The former Labor government talked about renewing Newcastle. This is a clear indication that the O'Farrell Government has gone beyond the talk to deliver on its promises.”

Port Stephens MP Craig Baumann said, “This will initiate the biggest rejuvenation of Newcastle since BHP left and Honeysuckle brought a new energy to Newcastle. The residents of Port Stephens will again have a great destination for entertainment, professional services and shopping.”

Minister for the Hunter Michael Gallacher said, “This is great for the people of the Hunter. We have shown as a Government that we are willing to make the hard decisions to revitalise the Hunter”.

The community has until 17 March 2013 to comment on the strategy, which can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/revitalisenewcastle