



CRAIG BAUMANN MP

MEMBER FOR PORT STEPHENS

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 3rd May 2013

More time for comment on Lower Hunter discussion paper

Port Stephens MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Planning Craig Baumann today announced the public will have more time to comment on the Lower Hunter discussion paper.

“This is a big step in the future of the Lower Hunter and it is important that communities have enough time to have their say,” said Mr Baumann.

“All the Lower Hunter MPs including Robyn Parker, Tim Owen, Andrew Cornwell and Garry Edwards made it clear to the Minister for Planning that our communities need more time. Minister Hazzard has agreed, extending today’s deadline for another four weeks until May 31, 2013 to give all Lower Hunter residents a chance to have an input,” he said.

Up to 130,000 extra residents are expected to call the Lower Hunter home in the next 20 years and means about 75,000 new homes are needed.

Six Lower Hunter community consultation events are planned at the following centres:

- May 13 Cessnock – Performing Arts Centre, 6-8pm
- May 14 Charlestown – The Place, 6.30-8.30pm
- May 15 Newcastle – City Hall, 6.30-8.30pm
- May 16 Maitland – Town Hall, 6.30-8.30pm
- May 17 Speers Point - Lake Macquarie Council Chambers, 10.30am-12.30pm
- May 20 Raymond Terrace – Senior Citizens Club, 1.30-3.30pm

The discussion paper seeks feedback on important issues including how to renew town centres, build on job opportunities at assets such as the Port of Newcastle, University of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport and prioritise infrastructure improvements while also protecting the region’s natural environment.

Feedback on the discussion paper will help create a draft regional strategy, which will also be exhibited.

The discussion paper is now on public exhibition until **31 May 2013** and can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/lowerhunter

Submissions can be lodged via:

- Online discussion forums – www.planning.nsw.gov.au/lowerhunter
- Email – lowerhunter@planning.nsw.gov.au
- Post – Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Newcastle Office, PO Box 1226, Newcastle NSW 2300

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