

PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL

# 2019 Federal Election Advocacy Priorities



**PORT STEPHENS**  
COUNCIL

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# 1 Expansion of Newcastle Airport

Runway upgrade to accommodate larger aircraft, terminal expansion and development of the Hunter Defence Aerospace Zone to drive both airport and commercial opportunities.

**\$6.2 billion**

IN ECONOMIC BENEFITS OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

(\$) \$150 million for runway upgrades

(?) Newcastle Airport is a global transport gateway to New South Wales and is currently experiencing a period of unprecedented growth and expansion. On the back of this growth, business opportunities continue to emerge in the surrounding precinct.

As a co-owner of the Airport, Council is advocating for the development of the airport to unlock international and freight markets for the Hunter region. This investment will likely expedite industrial development of the surrounding PFAS affected lands, driving significant social outcomes and economic benefits estimated at \$6.2 billion and 1600+ new jobs over the next 20 years.



# 2 Responding to PFAS

Seek a coordinated response to residents in the Williamstown 'PFAS Management Area' on contamination, remediation and compensation issues.

(?) Many Port Stephens residents are currently facing serious, ongoing challenges as a result of the historical use of firefighting foam containing PFAS (per and poly fluoroalkyl substances) at the Williamstown Royal Australian Air Force base.

Council advocates for a dedicated and resourced Commonwealth Coordination Authority and regulatory authority. This body would play a leadership and coordination role for Defence related contamination, addressing issues of compensation, access to financial support, health impacts and remediation works.

**Support our local community**

COMPENSATION, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, HEALTH IMPACTS AND REMEDIATION WORKS





## 3 Major Roads

1. M1 Pacific Motorway extension to connect Sydney, the Hunter and NSW north coast.
2. Cabbage Tree Rd upgrade to dual lane carriageway

- ③ 3. \$100+ million for next stage  
4. \$100 million

- ① 1. Situated at the intersection of the Pacific and New England highways and a critical link in the national road network, the long awaited M1 extension will address sustained traffic growth attributed to the expansion of Newcastle Airport and complete one of the nation's most important Motorways.
2. Earmarked for future expansion, the Williamtown/Tomago industrial area requires strategic road upgrades to ensure continued growth. An M1 extension will further necessitate this significant arterial upgrade on Cabbage Tree Road.

### Connecting the nation

CREATE CRITICAL LINKS IN THE ROAD NETWORK



## 4 Connecting our community

Ensuring high speed digital connectivity throughout Port Stephens and addressing telecommunications 'black spots' throughout the local government area, particularly around the Williamtown aerospace precinct.

- ① As key tourist destination and regional growth hub, Port Stephens requires support to fix known issues of connectivity which impact business growth, tourism and innovation. Government investment is required to drive partnerships, telecommunications and IT providers to build necessary infrastructure across Port Stephens to address key gaps.

### Close digital gaps

WHICH IMPACT BUSINESS GROWTH, TOURISM AND INNOVATION





## 5 Innovation Hub

Seek a commitment to facilitate partnership discussions with tertiary institutions to create a regional innovation hub (University of Newcastle) in the local government area.

- ① \$3 million seed funding to initiate partnerships and develop necessary digital infrastructure
- ② Port Stephens currently suffers from the 'brain drain' of young aspirational people moving out of the area to pursue career and study options further afield. There is scope to complement the natural economic strengths of Port Stephens, including aviation (Williamtown), manufacturing (Tomago) and marine/tourism/hospitality (Tomaree) with government support and game-changing digital infrastructure that will significantly change the lives of people in our region.

### Preventing regional brain drain

CRITICAL LINKS IN THE ROAD NETWORK



## 6 Future proofing Local Government

Indexing Federal Assistance Grants to future-proof funding for local government.

- ① 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue
- ② Working together with State and Federal Governments, Local Government plays an important role in addressing infrastructure gaps and facilitating investment to drive sustained economic growth of our regions.

### Driving long-term growth

ADDRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS AND FACILITATING INVESTMENT

Whilst the 2018/19 Federal Budget continued funding levels of key programs, it does not provide facility to expand the role of Local Government through additional grant funding. Without the financial backing to build on existing programs, the role of Local Government will continue to be diminished and eroded over time, leaving many infrastructure gaps throughout the community.





## Develop the road infrastructure required for the growing Hunter Region

THROUGH ERECTING VITAL LINKS THAT WILL UNLOCK SIGNIFICANT LOCAL POTENTIAL



## Coordinated approach to PFAS response

INCLUDING MANAGEMENT OF REMEDIATION, COMPENSATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT



## Maximise the economic contribution

OF REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING NEWCASTLE AIRPORT AND SURROUNDING DEVELOPABLE LAND

POLICY COMMITMENTS COUNCIL IS SEEKING FROM THE GOVERNMENT



## Message from the Mayor

Port Stephens local government area is part of NSW's largest regional centre and home to centres of major strategic importance, including Tomago industrial area, Newcastle Airport and Aerospace precinct, and an iconic tourism industry.

It enjoys natural advantages, including proximity to Sydney and Greater Newcastle, a magnificent Marine Park seeking heritage listing and the greatest coastal sand dune ecosystem in the Southern hemisphere.

To deliver on its full potential, however, the region requires significant investment – both public and private. My Council calls on the Federal Government and candidates for the seat of Paterson to partner with us to help drive the major initiatives that will shape the future of the region for decades to come.

We need connected communities, major infrastructure and investment in tourism, transport and digital solutions. We need representatives that understand our strategic importance and growth potential and are prepared to invest in that future.

We will be working closely with our community in our efforts to deliver on these projects and are asking our state representatives to join us on that partnership.

*Ryan*

**Ryan Palmer**

Mayor of Port Stephens

