

Media Release

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For immediate release

\$15M PROJECT TO IMPROVE LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY TO NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE

Construction has started on a \$15 million upgrade of the major main supplying water to residents in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

Diona Ltd is replacing a three kilometre section of one of two trunk mains that supply water to Newcastle.

General manager of infrastructure delivery Chris Turnbull said that upgrade will ensure Hunter Water can continue to meet demands for water in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie into the future.

“The replacement of the Tomago to Newcastle trunk main is part of Hunter Water’s record \$1 billion investment in water and wastewater infrastructure to improve services to Hunter people,” Mr Turnbull said.

“The new 1.35 metre diameter water main will be 30% larger than the current main allowing for future growth in water needs,” he said.

Work started earlier this month and the new main is expected to be operational by March 2010. The project will support 46 jobs.

Mr Turnbull said that the project was a complex one as the main runs along Ramsar Road through Ash Island and a section of the Kooragang Wetlands. A detailed Environmental Management Plan, approved by NSW Department of Planning, is in place.

“Hunter Water is working with the Kooragang Wetlands Rehabilitation Project Team and other groups using the island to ensure this vital infrastructure project is completed with minimal impact on the environment and those who work on and visit the island.”

He said to protect the safety of people visiting the Island, Ramsar Road will be closed to vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists for the duration of the project.

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