



# Media Release

13 September 2012

## **Hunter Water floats idea for free festival ferry**

Hunter Water will be adding a free solar powered ferry ride to the events at the 2012 Living Smart Festival this Saturday.

Hunter Water has sponsored the Festival through the Corporation's Community Funding Program with a \$3000 grant which will fund the green-powered passenger ferry, *SolarSailor*, on Saturday 15 September.

The *SolarSailor* will be offering free Aboriginal cultural cruises around Lake Macquarie, departing from Speers Point Park.

As the name would suggest, the *SolarSailor* is powered by solar panels and sails, using the sun and wind to power the vessel with its unique energy and water efficient design.

Hunter Water Executive Officer Stephen Phillips said the Community Funding Program supports community initiatives that promote sustainability and improves the environment.

"Hunter Water is proud to support the Living Smart Festival, it is a fantastic event that shares Hunter Water's values of environmental sustainability and energy and water efficiency programs."

"Hunter Water hopes that visitors get the chance to ride the state of the art solar and wind powered cruiser, the *SolarSailor*, which is one of only a few of it's kind internationally," he said.

The *SolarSailor's* cruise, as part of the Living Smart Festival, will involve a talk on Aboriginal culture, focussing on how Aboriginal people sustainably used the Lake and its surrounding lands.

Hunter Water will also hold a stall at the Living Smart Festival to promote springtime water efficient gardening.

-END-

**Media Contact: Nicole Guyder 0427 547 498**