



# Hunter Water Corporation Media Release

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## REMOTE CONTROLLED DRILL BORES UNDER NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS

Hunter Water has just completed boring an 80 metre tunnel below one of the busiest intersections in Newcastle using a remote controlled drill without any interruption the thousands of drivers using the road.

The project to drill across the Newcastle Inner City Bypass was part of the \$4.2 million upgrade by Hunter Water to the sewer system between Windale and Gateshead.

The tunnel for the pipe is only possible due to an underground boring technique known as 'horizontal directional drilling', which unlike traditional pipe-laying methods that require trenches, prevents traffic and safety issues by not disturbing the ground surface.

Hunter Water's Chief Operating Officer Darren Cleary said the tunnel was only possible because of the state of the art machinery.

"The technology means Hunter Water could bore under six of the busiest traffic lanes in Newcastle without having any effect on the traffic passing overhead.

"In fact drivers wouldn't have had any idea of the incredible engineering feat taking place immediately underneath them as they drove along the Newcastle Inner City Bypass.

"Only a few years ago a project of this size would have required multiple road closures, dozens of traffic controllers and huge inconvenience for tens of thousands of drivers. Today the entire drilling process was done by remote control which greatly increases safety, accuracy and speed," he said.

Member for Charlestown Andrew Cornwell said the upgrade adds to the more than \$24 million the NSW Government has invested in the Charlestown electorate during the past two years improving water and sewerage infrastructure.

"Charlestown is now the shopping hub of Newcastle with Charlestown Square and Kotara Westfield, as well as being the key interchange for the majority of our public transport.

"The population of Charlestown recently passed 60,000 people and is set to further increase with a number of developments currently underway. It's great to see Hunter Water recognising the importance of the area and the benefit of ensuring key infrastructure has the capacity to handle the significant population growth now underway."

Construction on the \$4.2 million project is set to continue until April next year.