



MEDIA RELEASE

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WATER WINDFALL SET TO HIT MAITLAND IN 2015

Maitland residents have thirty million reasons to celebrate this Christmas knowing that the local economy is set to benefit from a record \$30 million infrastructure program courtesy of Hunter Water.

The New Year will herald Hunter Water's largest ever annual infrastructure program in the Maitland electorate, allowing an ambitious \$30 million list of projects to be rolled out across the area.

Member for Maitland Robyn Parker said that the NSW Government's investment in the electorate was recognition that Maitland is the new capital of the Hunter region.

"With an extra 30,000 people expected to call Maitland home over the next 20 years, Hunter Water's unprecedented \$30 million investment is an absolutely vital component in helping the region to reach its full potential as the electorate continues to rapidly expand.

"For every new home that is built, new pipes must be laid. And before Hunter Water invests in the ground, they will first be upgrading treatment plants and pumping stations.

"Hunter Water's investment in Maitland won't just create the infrastructure necessary to support the area – construction of this scope and size will see hundreds of people working in the area that typically would be spending their money elsewhere in the Hunter. Hunter Water is literally laying the foundation for jobs growth in Maitland, giving our local economy a boost at a time when the mining industry continues to slow," said Ms Parker.

Hunter Water's Managing Director Kim Wood said the list of projects in the Maitland pipeline will provide for 7500 new homes, commencing with an upgrade of the Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"Maitland is on the verge of a population boom. Hunter Water recognises that the region can't reach its potential unless we do the ground work now. Developers can't build new homes without pipelines, nor can the new Maitland hospital proceed without the necessary mains and supporting infrastructure.

"The first project to commence in 2015 is an \$18 million upgrade of the Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will enable the Plant to accept hundreds of litres more in wastewater every second.

"It's a particularly important upgrade as the new Maitland Hospital will be linking up to the Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Plant, as will surrounding housing developments at Chisolm and Thornton.

"The Morpeth upgrade will also reduce the frequency of sewage overflows during heavy rain, which will help improve the quality of local waterways," said Mr Wood.

The upgrade will include the construction of a new high lift pumping station and wet weather screening facility, a new odour control facility, and the installation of higher capacity pumps in the existing effluent pumping station.

Other projects that are set to commence in 2015 include the replacement of the Hunter River tunnel which allows water to be transported under the river, upgrades of the Maitland and Lochinvar Wastewater Pumping Stations, and a range of improvements to water mains and sewer mains.

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