



Labor

LABOR'S PLAN *for the* revitalisation of Newcastle

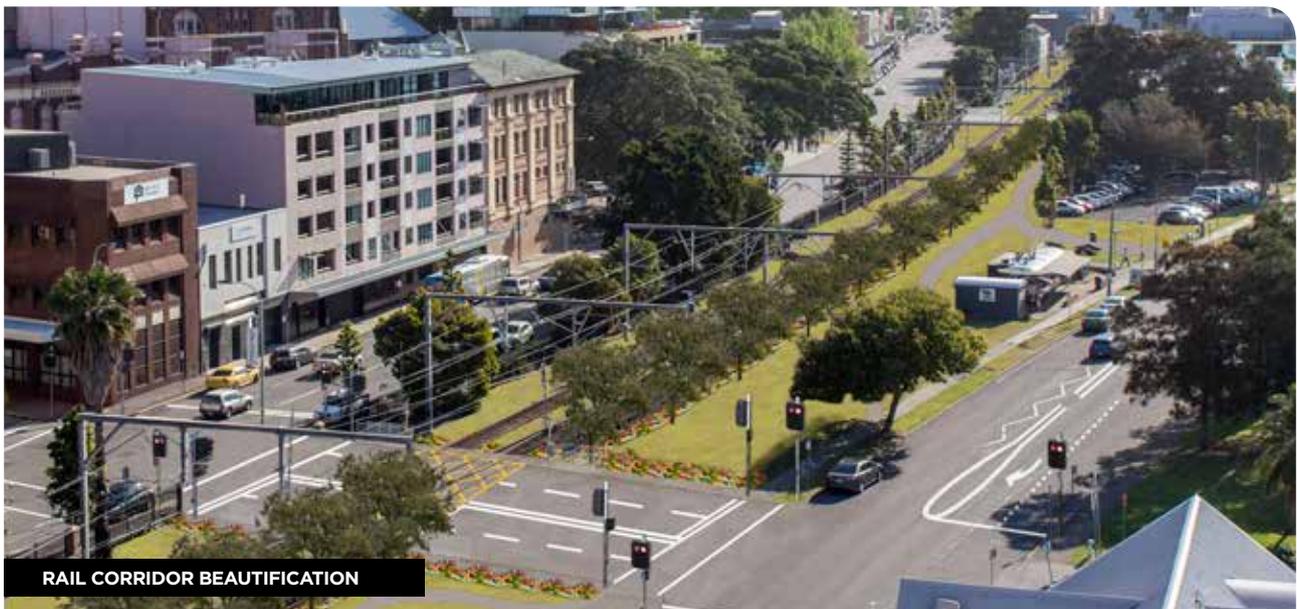
Labor's plan for the revitalisation of Newcastle

Labor is determined to lead the revitalisation of Newcastle and deliver progress for the entire region. Labor will:

- 1 Guarantee that Newcastle gets its fair share by dedicating \$750 million from the sale of our port and investing the funds into revitalising the Newcastle CBD and constructing road and rail projects across the Hunter.
- 2 Create thousands of jobs and promote Newcastle as an international destination of choice by building a world-class convention centre in the heart of Newcastle.
- 3 Improve traffic flow and cut travel times for motorists by investing in major local road projects including the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, the Tourle Street Bridge duplication, the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange and fixing the Adamstown level crossing.
- 4 Commit to saving the Newcastle Rail Line, and revitalise the rail corridor with a program of beautification works.
- 5 Revitalise Hunter Street and Hunter Street Mall to restore the area as the city's prime activity zone and provide dedicated cycle lanes to encourage more people to leave the car at home and promote healthy living in the city.
- 6 Improve the west end of Newcastle CBD by connecting Hunter Street to Labor's new world-class Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre with an iconic and architecturally designed SkyBridge.
- 7 Create a dynamic hub for cultural expression and civic life in Newcastle by partnering with Newcastle City Council to complete the \$21 million Newcastle Art Gallery Redevelopment.
- 8 Encourage more people to use public transport by keeping the Newcastle rail line in operation, upgrading bus stops, extending the Free Bus Zone hours and providing easy-access upgrades to Newcastle, Wickham, Hamilton and Broadmeadow stations.
- 9 Reduce traffic congestion and cut waiting times for motorists at level crossings by investing in rail upgrades and conduct a feasibility study into the Stewart Avenue level crossing bypass.
- 10 Address the city's car parking by requiring the private sector to provide car parking solutions as part of bids for the new convention centre project.

Labor's CBD Revitalisation Plan

Newcastle CBD is changing. The law courts and the University of Newcastle's proposed campus development will result in thousands of more people commuting to the city centre daily. Labor's plan will improve access to and within the CBD by investing in public transport initiatives and fixing road congestion in the city centre.



HUNTER STREET AND RAIL CORRIDOR REVITALISATION

Under Labor's revitalisation plan, Hunter Street will be promoted as the city centre's main street. We will encourage greater business activity through a range of beautification projects including increased landscaping, widening and upgrading footpaths, dedicated cycle lanes, bus stop enhancements and new signage.

Dedicated cycle lanes in Hunter Street will encourage more people to leave the car at home and promote healthy living in the city. Funds will also be allocated to provide improved themed paving and lighting from Newcastle station to the beach.

The revitalisation will expand activity zones that will provide greater business activity, making the CBD more attractive for local residents and visitors.

Labor's plan will ensure the Newcastle CBD is an attractive destination for entrepreneurs to open businesses, for tourists to visit and for local residents to enjoy. It will create a mix of new employment opportunities, boost local employment and deliver a mix of services for the community.

Labor will also address the city's car parking by requiring the private sector to provide car parking solutions as part of bids for the new convention centre project.

The revitalisation plan will also include a rail corridor beautification program. These works will include new and improved architect-designed fencing, landscaping, gardening and new pathways to better integrate into the CBD and enhance the look of the corridor.

FIX ROAD CONGESTION IN NEWCASTLE CBD

To revitalise the Newcastle CBD, the congestion issues caused by the Stewart Avenue level crossing must be addressed. Without action, the situation is only going to get worse as the population grows and developments around Wickham continue to progress.

IF ELECTED TO GOVERNMENT IN MARCH 2015, LABOR WILL:

- ▶ Build in a new stabling facility at Hamilton to allow local level crossings to be open to vehicles more often.
- ▶ Upgrade rail signalling on the Newcastle Rail Line to ensure rail crossings operate efficiently, resulting in less waiting time for motorists.
- ▶ Conduct a feasibility study into the Stewart Avenue level crossing bypass project.

Stewart Avenue currently accommodates traffic heading north and south as well as local traffic into the CBD. Train movements, especially at peak travel times, create traffic congestion and unacceptably long waiting times for motorists around the intersections close to the level crossing.

If elected to Government in March 2015, Labor is committed to addressing this major traffic issue. Labor will immediately begin work to construct and operate a new train stabling yard to the north of Hamilton Station. The stabling yard would allow trains to be stabled overnight and provide a facility for trains to be cleaned, decanted and prepared before re-entering service.

The stabling yard and decant facility would reduce train movements on the Newcastle Rail Line, especially during peak hours, which will allow local level crossings to be open to vehicles more often.

Labor will upgrade rail signalling on the Newcastle Rail Line to ensure rail crossings operate efficiently. This will mean level crossing gates close later and open earlier to allow for train movements. This will result in improved traffic flow, reduced waiting time, and less traffic congestion for motorists.

In addition, Labor will conduct a feasibility study into the Stewart Avenue level crossing bypass project. The study would take a serious look at the option of creating an alternative route for north/south through-traffic along a newly

constructed road and overbridge connecting the Cowper Street roundabout with the Hunter Street/Selma Street intersection. This is the old Bullock Island rail corridor, which has been identified as a possible transport corridor in the Newcastle City Centre Plan.

KEEP THE NEWCASTLE RAIL LINE

The Baird Government has decided to rip up the Newcastle Rail Line and has moved to cut the rail line at Wickham from Boxing Day 2014.

Labor's position is clear. We are opposed to the ripping up of the rail line through Newcastle – and have called on the Liberal Government to not touch the rail line until after the people of Newcastle have their say on its future in March 2015.

If Labor is elected in March 2015, we pledge to continue full service on the Newcastle rail line. We will also use the \$340 million allocated by the Liberals to dismantle the line to build new infrastructure for the city.

Around the world, nations are spending billions of dollars building rail infrastructure into their growing cities. In contrast, the Liberal Government is handing a first-rate city a second-rate public transport system.

Serious questions have emerged about the probity of the Government's planning processes in the Hunter – matters that are now the subject of a Parliamentary Inquiry.

The local community can have no confidence that the Liberal Government's decision to tear up the rail line is being done in the best interests of the people of Newcastle.





IMPROVED ACCESS POINTS CONNECTING THE NEWCASTLE CBD AND THE HARBOUR FORESHORE

Labor will act on options to open up the rail corridor to stop it acting as a barrier to the various activities and land uses from the harbour foreshore to the Newcastle city centre.

NEW VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT:

- ▶ Steel Street;
- ▶ Worth Place; and
- ▶ Wolfe Street.

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS:

- ▶ Near the Hunter Street TAFE campus;
- ▶ Opposite Darby Street; and
- ▶ Opposite Brown Street.

While there are many pedestrian crossing points along the rail corridor between Wickham and Newcastle Stations that connect Hunter and Scott Street with the harbour, many of these are uneven, attract long waiting times or are inaccessible for people with disabilities, families with young children and older people.

Additional vehicle and pedestrian connections are required across the rail corridor to improve accessibility for pedestrians and road users. The additional crossings are essential to improve the traffic flow of Newcastle CBD and to better connect pedestrians to the centres of economic activity and further encourage revitalisation.

The new crossings will also alleviate pressure on the Stewart Avenue crossing, reducing congestion and waiting times for motorists. The crossings will also allow for the removal of some of the unsightly pedestrian bridges that cross the rail line, further enhancing the appearance of the rail corridor.

EASY-ACCESS UPGRADES

Labor will provide a better experience for public transport users in Newcastle CBD by delivering upgrades to local stations to make them more accessible, modern, and secure.

UNDER LABOR'S REVITALISATION PLAN, WE WILL DELIVER FULL EASY-ACCESS UPGRADES ON:

- ▶ The concourse at the western end of Newcastle Station;
- ▶ Wickham Station;
- ▶ Hamilton Station; and
- ▶ Broadmeadow Station.

This will ensure every rail station in Newcastle CBD is accessible to people with disabilities, older people and parents with prams. It will provide modern buildings and facilities to meet the needs of a growing population while preserving the stations' unique heritage.

The upgrade to Wickham Station will be linked to the convention centre and SkyBridge project. Stations will be improved markedly with safety upgrades including extra lighting, help points, fences, new painting, fencing, roof replacements and enhanced security measures.

FREE BUS SERVICE

Labor will encourage more people to visit the CBD by making all bus services within the Fare Free Bus Zone free.

State Transit buses are currently free within the inner city zone between 7.30am and 6.00pm seven days a week. Labor will extend this service to all hours of operation.

This will allow beachgoers, Thursday night shoppers and people entering the city on Friday and Saturday nights to take advantage of the free bus service, without the difficulties associated with driving and parking, and reducing local congestion issues.



DOCKLANDS BRIDGE, MELBOURNE



BP BRIDGE, CHICAGO



HELIX BRIDGE, SINGAPORE

WORLD-CLASS CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE AND THE NEW ICONIC SKYBRIDGE

Labor will deliver a world-class convention & exhibition centre in the heart of Newcastle – creating thousands of jobs and boosting the Hunter economy.

The project is an exciting opportunity for Newcastle and the Hunter region to create jobs and tap into the \$7 billion the convention industry generates for NSW each year.

The project is estimated to create 3000 jobs during construction and 1700 ongoing jobs upon completion – and could potentially create \$100 million in economic benefit for the Hunter each year.

A Labor Government would construct an iconic and architect-designed SkyBridge to link the new convention and exhibition centre to the Newcastle CBD.

The new SkyBridge will allow direct and easy access between the two precincts – and will be an iconic landmark for Newcastle for years to come.

UNDER LABOR'S PLAN FOR A WORLD-CLASS CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE FOR NEWCASTLE, LABOR WILL:

- ▶ Immediately direct Hunter Development Corporation (HDC) and Infrastructure NSW to start work on the project, establishing a steering committee with representatives from Newcastle City Council;
- ▶ Establish an international design competition for the new iconic SkyBridge project that will connect the new convention centre to the Newcastle CBD;
- ▶ Allocate \$5 million for initial planning and forecasting work; and
- ▶ Work with the private sector to identify other opportunities that would complement the convention centre, including on-site accommodation and parking solutions.

This project will not only create jobs during and after construction but also allow our state's second-largest city to take a slice of NSW's \$7 billion convention industry.

In Government, Labor will immediately get to work on the planning and construction of this transformative piece of infrastructure for Newcastle. The convention centre will be open for business and hosting events by 2020.

NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT

Labor will create a dynamic hub for cultural expression and civic life in Newcastle by partnering with Newcastle City Council to complete the Newcastle Art Gallery Redevelopment.

The Newcastle Art Gallery is the major gallery in the Hunter region, with more than 70,000 visitors a year. Not only does it have one of the most comprehensive collections of Australian art of any regional art gallery, but also it is frequently chosen as the only regional gallery to host national and travelling exhibitions.

The gallery's collection is currently valued at more than \$60 million and is consequently the City of Newcastle's most valuable asset.

It is a wonderful resource and space for the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. However, given that the current exhibition space, storage and administration facilities were built in 1977 when the permanent collection was considerably smaller, the gallery needs to be expanded in order to accommodate more exhibition space and to present a more diverse range of exhibitions.

Additionally, the gallery needs more space to boost community participation and to run

income-generating activities, such as a café, retail operations and functions. The growing population of Newcastle, including a higher-than-average number of young people, means the redeveloped gallery will be able to grow to meet community demand.

Labor will fund the “Newcastle Region Art Gallery Redevelopment Project”, the centrepiece of the City of Newcastle’s Master Plan.

THE REDEVELOPMENT INCLUDES:

- ▶ Additional 1090m² gallery space and a 115m² terrace overlooking Civic Park;
- ▶ Multi-purpose function space, education space and sculpture terrace;
- ▶ Café and external terrace, gallery shop;
- ▶ Upgraded plant and infrastructure and replacement of existing roof.

The arts enrich our community. They inspire people, engage people of all ages and promote the exchange of ideas. For children, the arts encourage creativity, open up other worlds and enhance learning. Investment in the arts also encourages tourism and creates jobs, which benefits the local community.

The redevelopment of the gallery will boost tourism to Newcastle which will create positive flow-on effects for local businesses. The cultural benefits as well as the consequential positive economic and overall community impact make this a critical investment.



CURRENT NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY

Road Projects

Labor will provide traffic solutions that benefit the Hunter region as a whole and is committed to delivering the infrastructure the Hunter needs to reach its full potential. Labor's roads package will support the local economy – ease congestion, cut travel times, boost productivity and improve safety.

LABOR WILL FIX THE ADAMSTOWN LEVEL CROSSING

One of the area's most highly used roads currently has a level crossing to provide passage for freight and passenger trains. The Adamstown level crossing causes significant problems, including long traffic queues, safety risks, noise problems and pedestrian accessibility issues.

Transport for NSW advises that the Adamstown rail level crossing is currently used by approximately 11,000 vehicles per day and is disrupted by around 90 passenger trains and 80 freight trains per day.

A report released by the NSW Government found that the level crossing was closed to road traffic 14 times during the morning peak, and 12 times in the afternoon peak. Waiting times of up to 10 minutes are common. The massive disruption to traffic will continue to worsen with population growth and the predicted growth in rail freight.

If elected to Government in March 2015, Labor will immediately reserve funds from the Newcastle Port Sale to remove this level crossing.

Labor will conduct an options study to determine the best way to solve the problem (an underpass or an overpass) and then move to get construction underway as soon as possible.

The project will improve traffic flow, reduce travel times and reduce accidents. It will improve productivity by allowing faster access through the area by both road and rail traffic.

NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS – RANKIN PARK LINK

The Newcastle Inner City Bypass has been planned and constructed in five major sections. Sections completed to date are the West Charlestown Bypass (Bennetts Green to Kotara Heights), Kotara Heights to Rankin Park and Jesmond to Shortland, and the Shortland to Sandgate section. The final remaining link is the Rankin Park to Jesmond section.

Labor will match the NSW Government's funding commitment to build the final section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. Construction is scheduled to begin on the \$280 million project in 2017.

The 3.4 kilometre Rankin Park to Jesmond section will greatly improve north-south traffic flow in the inner suburbs of Newcastle and better connect key areas including Bennetts Green, Charlestown, John Hunter Hospital, Jesmond, Newcastle University's Callahan Campus and the Pacific Highway.

The Rankin Park to Jesmond section in particular will provide traffic relief for the surrounding road network. It will improve productivity by reducing travel times and costs for commercial motorists. It will greatly improve access to John Hunter Hospital.



TOURLE STREET BRIDGE – DUPLICATION OF TOURLE STREET BRIDGE AND APPROACHES

The Tourle Street/Cormorant Road corridor is the main access connecting the southern and northern sides of the port. Kooragang Island is a major industrial and employment centre and is also home of the world's largest coal export port and a number of manufacturing industries.

The road provides the primary access from Newcastle to the RAAF Base Williamstown and Newcastle Airport. According to Transport for NSW, approximately 33,000 vehicles use the road each day, including 3,000 heavy vehicles.

During peak times, the Tourle Street/Cormorant Road corridor suffers from congestion which is expected to get worse with population growth and the future expansion of the Port. The Tourle Street Bridge is a significant bottleneck causing serious disruption to commuters travelling to and from Newcastle.

A future Labor Government commits to duplicating the Tourle Street Bridge and its approaches. This will improve traffic flow, reduce delays, improve travel times and reduce traffic on nearby local roads. In turn, the investment will increase productivity for freight transport travelling to the port, industrial areas and Newcastle Airport

Construction for the project will begin in 2016, and is scheduled to be completed by 2018.

LAKE MACQUARIE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE AT GLENDALE

A Labor Government will commit \$39 million to complete the entire Stage 1 of the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange at Glendale – which will see the construction of all road links attached to the project completed.

Labor's \$39 million funding pledge means the planning and construction of the Pennant Street Bridge will be finished within the first term of a Labor Government – creating a direct road link between Glendale and Cardiff.

Labor will also commit to provide funding for planning works for Stage 2 of the project which includes the construction of a railway station and transport interchange at Glendale.

The Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange at Glendale is anticipated to improve traffic flow along Stockland Drive, Glendale and Main Road, Cardiff, provide heavy vehicles with better access to the F3 and the Port, a direct link to the Cardiff Industrial Estate, and improved safety and travel times.

THE BENEFITS OF THE LAKE MACQUARIE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE ALSO INCLUDE:

- ▶ 16,000 vehicles, of which 1500 will be heavy vehicles, will use the link between Glendale and Cardiff each day.
- ▶ Create 549 direct jobs and 1260 indirect jobs.
- ▶ Stimulate \$300 million worth of economic activity in the region.
- ▶ 6000 people will drive, walk or cycle to Glendale railway station per day by 2031.
- ▶ Infrastructure supporting the additional 7000 – 8000 jobs anticipated in the region by 2031.

Funding Our Commitments

A Labor Government will return \$750 million or exactly one-half the net Newcastle Port privatisation proceeds – to the people of the Hunter.



The funding – which represents one of the greatest single investments in the region's history – will be reserved by Labor towards infrastructure projects in the Hunter and the revitalisation of Newcastle.

Labor's commitment is a significant increase to the money previously promised by the Liberal Government. \$460 million will be reserved for the Newcastle revitalisation project, with the remaining funds to be allocated to infrastructure projects across the Hunter.

Crucially, Labor – unlike the Liberals – will not waste \$340 million on ripping up the Newcastle Rail Line. Instead, this money will be invested straight into transformative projects.

Community Consultation

If elected to Government in March 2015, Labor will begin implementing the plan in close consultation with the local community and a range of stakeholders including Newcastle City Council, the Federal Government and the private sector. Only by working together will we deliver a vibrant Newcastle CBD that is the envy of cities around the world.

