Work Underway On Port Macquarie Base Hospital Car Park Expansion

Work on the first stage of the $11.5 million car park expansion for the Port Macquarie Base Hospital is well underway with $5 million allocated in the NSW Budget 2018-19.

The first stage of the car park project will be the construction of a 113-space staff parking area, accessible via Toorak Court.

The total investment will deliver more than 300 new car parking spaces helping to ease the burden on staff, patients and visitors to the busy regional hospital and is due for completion in 2020.

As the hospital has expanded so too has the need for additional car parking spaces. We have been planning this project for some time and to see work underway is very welcome indeed.

New Police Officers For The Mid North Coast

NSW will be a safer state with the allocation of extra police assigned to local stations and specialist areas to protect communities and fight crime.

The 10 new officers including one specialist child protection register officer and one specialist aged crime prevention officer will be joining the Mid North Coast Police District over the next 12 months to walk the beat and respond to emergencies in the local community.

I’m thrilled that our community will be a safer place with the NSW Government investment significantly boosting our local police numbers. Whilst I am proud to welcome these men and women and wish them every success in their policing careers in our community.

As new Police officers move to our area, I’d like to take this opportunity to recognise Senior Constable Grant Christensen who recently celebrated 40 years with the NSW Police Force – an outstanding achievement and we thank him for his dedicated service.
Foreshore Project Sets Sail

Work is set to start soon on the $4 million commercial wharf in Port Macquarie which will greatly improve local maritime facilities.

This project will be a major boost to Port Macquarie’s maritime and tourism infrastructure while revitalising the former site of the Hastings River Fishermen’s Cooperative.

It includes construction of a new fishermen’s wharf, an unloading jetty, two new large mooring berths, an extension of the boardwalk along Kooloonbung Creek, and the realignment of the existing rock revetment.

This will provide a significant improvement to Port Macquarie’s coastal infrastructure to support boating, fishing, tourism and other commercial activities.

The new public wharf will provide a magic spot for fishing and recreation for local residents and visiting tourists.

The two mooring berths will service large commercial vessels and the new unloading jetty will include vehicle access so commercial fishers can moor and unload their fresh seafood catches directly to local markets, cafés and restaurants.

Construction is expected to be completed in about 10 months.

Maria River Road
To Be Sealed

Maria River Road will be sealed under the NSW Government’s $500 million Fixing Local Roads program. Locals have been calling for this work to be done for many years and I am pleased the work will be completed with the $17 million funding allocated in the 2019-20 State Budget.

The state of the road has deteriorated with many local residents having to get their vehicles repaired regularly following damage caused by the poor condition of the road.

We’ve listened to our constituents about the state of this road, and are pleased to be able to deliver this upgrade in this term of Government to ensure the local community maintains good, all-weather access to towns, jobs, schools and health facilities.

Oxley Vale Lifelong Learning Centre

The Port Macquarie Arts and Craft Centre and the Hastings Men’s Shed will join forces and will soon have a new $3.4 million purpose built precinct to call home.

The new facility has been designed to meet the specific needs of the two groups and allow them to provide more opportunities for the local community.

Both the Port Macquarie Arts and Craft Centre and the Hastings Men’s Shed are popular organisations within our community, which is why we want to see them in the very best facilities so that they can continue to make a positive difference in the Port Macquarie region.

The new Oxley Vale Lifelong Learning Centre facility will provide longevity for the organisations and ensure they don’t just have a space but a home for their activities.

Community-run organisations like men’s sheds and art and craft groups have important wellbeing and health benefits, primarily for senior and retired residents in regional and rural areas.

This new Oxley Vale Lifelong Learning Centre precinct will offer an opportunity for the people of Port Macquarie to access arts, craft, and cultural activities.
Earlier this year I announced that Charles Sturt University campus at Port Macquarie will become the largest international teaching and learning centre in regional NSW with the NSW Government announcing $15 million from the Growing Local Economies Fund to build new laboratories and teaching spaces.

The International Port Macquarie Education Centre will feature science and digital labs, teaching spaces and a business innovation hub.

The centre will also include training facilities for NSW Police, NSW Ambulance and the NSW State Emergency Service, enabling regional NSW first responders to gain professional qualifications without travelling to Sydney.

This expansion will provide even more opportunities for students to study tertiary degrees without needing to move, while international students will have the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful lifestyle.

Giving students the opportunity to study at or close to home means they can continue to live and work in their community, supported by family and friends helping keep their skills in the local workforce following graduation.

Spencers Cutting Road Improvements Completed

Motorists are enjoying smoother and safer journeys on the Oxley Highway three months ahead of schedule with the completion of the NSW Government’s $25 million upgrade at Spencers Cutting.

Works on this section of the Oxley Highway started in June last year and included removing sharp bends by realigning the road and building a new eastbound overtaking lane between Spencers Cutting and Rawdon Island Road.

The project relocated the Rawdon Island Road intersection, extended the westbound overtaking lane, widened the highway to 3.5-metre lanes and two-metre shoulders and installed new safety barriers.

$15 Million Boost For Charles Sturt University 🎓

RMS representatives Vicky Sisson and Pablo Agvilar with Leslie Williams

CSU Artist’s Impression
Massive Funding Boost
For Local Footpaths

Pedestrian safety will dramatically improve thanks to the NSW Government’s $805,000 Active Transport funding grants.

In this year’s State Budget, five local projects were funded which will extend the existing footpath network particularly in the Camden Haven with improvements also earmarked for Port Macquarie.

It is vitally important that local residents are able to walk safely in our community and I am very pleased these grants have been approved for Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to carry out these much needed works.

These grants bring the State Government’s contribution for local footpath improvements to more than $2 million over the past few years.

Approved projects include:

- **$400,000** for the construction of a section of the Schools to Schools shared path between Brotherglen Drive and Sirius Drive in Lakewood including a mid-block pedestrian refuge. The Schools to Schools project will encourage cycle participation by increasing connectivity along this critical corridor, which includes schools and retail centres.

- **$150,000** to construct pedestrian crossings associated with the proposed Schools to Schools path at Ocean Drive at Fairwinds Ave and Ocean Drive at St Albans Way in Lakewood.

- **$100,000** for the construction of pedestrian refuges, kerb extensions and kerb ramps at the intersection of Lake St and Seymour St, Laurieton. The project will improve pedestrian safety and walkability at a key town centre location.

- **$125,000** for improved pedestrian safety in Port Macquarie CBD at the intersection of Horton Street & Hayward Street.

- **$30,000** to construct 17 kerb ramps at 12 locations in Port Macquarie and Wauchope.

Airport Upgrade Takes Off

Stage One of the upgrade of the Port Macquarie Airport is open and is already proving popular with our community.

Airport guests now enjoy an expanded departure lounge that doubles the previous seating capacity, plus a new café, passenger-screening, accessible amenities and dedicated car rentals areas.

The first stage of works has also included the installation of ducted air conditioning throughout the terminal, Wi-Fi connectivity and the installation of improved flight information displays.

First impressions are lasting and to see Stage One of the airport upgrade now open is an excellent outcome for the travelling public.

This continues the Liberals and Nationals commitment to fund vital infrastructure for regional communities by injecting millions of dollars into key projects including in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region.

The NSW Government has provided **$5 million** funding for the upgrade, with the Australian Government contributing **$1.25 million**. The remaining **$3.6 million** has been funded by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Member for Cowper Pat Conaghan with Leslie
Full Funding For Duplication Of Ocean Drive

The State Government has allocated a total of $60 million to duplicate 3.4 kilometres of Ocean Drive between Matthew Flinders Drive and Greenmeadows Drive in Port Macquarie to ease congestion and improve safety on this busy road.

In November 2018, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council committed $5.5 million to the project. The cost of the duplication has increased to approximately $65 million.

Ocean Drive is currently under the responsibility of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council but could soon fall under the jurisdiction of the NSW Government as part of the plan to transfer up to 15,000 kilometres of council owned roads back to the State.

Initial design work was undertaken during 2013 and in September 2015 Port Macquarie-Hastings Council engaged SMEC to continue the concept design and environmental assessments.

The plan to upgrade Ocean Drive includes the duplication from two to four traffic lanes to improve traffic flow, upgrading of six intersections and access points and improved pedestrian access.

Current traffic volumes of up to 2,200 vehicles per hour in the morning peak hour are expected to increase by up to 35 per cent by 2036 due to forecast residential growth to the south.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council will now work with Roads and Maritime Services to develop detailed designs for this duplication.

Local Hero Honoured

Local Marine Rescue volunteer Ray Angel has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to emergency services as a finalist in the 2019 Rotary Clubs and Districts of NSW Emergency Services Community Awards.

Finalists come from many walks of life, representing Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance, NSW State Emergency Services, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Volunteer Rescue Association and Marine Rescue NSW.

Ray exemplifies the community spirit of the State’s emergency services workers and these awards are an opportunity for our local community to reflect on the tireless efforts of our local volunteers.

Ray’s most significant contribution is consistent with the “Service Above Self” Rotary motto. His primary contribution can be attributed to the time he invests in the Unit’s maintenance and material area.

Ray’s service to date includes 730 hours in marine rescue vessels, encompassing 56 call-outs. Each of these has required direct support to search and rescue operations in a range of conditions.
Boat Ramps Upgraded In The Camden Haven and Harrington

Boaters in the Camden Haven now have safer and easier access to local waterways with upgrades to the boat ramps at Laurieton and Dunbogan.

With a total value of more than $1 million, the projects were co-funded by the NSW Government and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

The boat ramp facility upgrade at Bruce Porter Reserve at Laurieton included the installation of a new two lane boat ramp and pontoon, while the upgrade at Dunbogan Reserve boat ramp included the installation of a pontoon as well as river bank protection measures.

Parking and trailer access were also improved as part of the upgrades ensuring that boaters have easier access to the boat ramps and an enjoyable day on the water.

Upgrade work has also been completed to improve boating access to the Manning River at Harrington Reserve. The NSW Government provided $82,387 to the $109,850 project under the Boating Now Program. These works involved extending the boat ramp by almost six metres to provide improved access to the river at mid to low tide.

Information on maritime infrastructure funding and other projects can be found at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/boatingnow](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/boatingnow)

$250 Travel Card For Seniors

A NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will make life a little easier for seniors doing it tough in regional and rural NSW, thanks to a new $250 Regional Seniors Transport Card which will start on the 1st of January next year.

Seniors with a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and aged pensioners living in regional NSW will benefit from the initiative.

The Card can be used for fuel and taxis from participating providers in rural and regional NSW and pre-booked NSW TrainLink train and coach services, helping to make it easier for seniors to access essential services.

The NSW Government also provides concession fares to seniors, including $2.50 capped all-day travel with a Country Pensioner Excursion Ticket on NSW Trainlink Services and Regional Excursion Daily on privately-operated local buses.
New Fish Cleaning Tables

Local fishers are reaping the benefits of the Recreational Fishing Trusts with new fish cleaning tables for Crowdy Head, North Haven and Lake Cathie.

$20,000 is being spent to install much needed fish cleaning tables at the Crowdy Head Boat Harbour. Up until now local fishers have been forced to access the cleaning facilities at Harrington.

At North Haven, a new six person fish cleaning table with shelter and solar lighting has recently been installed, replacing the previous fish cleaning table that was around 30 years old and in poor condition.

A new fish cleaning table at Aqua Reserve at Lake Cathie has now been installed which has replaced the aged table at the same location. The new table is now fitted with a running water supply and includes a new concrete slab ensuring that it is wheelchair accessible adjacent to the new fishing platform.

Apply Now for Community Grants

Local organisations still have time to apply for this year’s Stronger Country Communities Fund to deliver much needed infrastructure and programs that benefit local youth.

The Liberals & Nationals Government have allocated an additional $100 million for the program with at least $50 million for projects aimed at young people (12-24 years) with the remaining funding for other local infrastructure, street beautification and community programs and events.

Applications close on the 27th September. For more details please go to the link below or contact my electorate office.


The popular Community Building Partnership Grants (CBP) program opens on the 2nd September with $330,000 allocated for projects in the Port Macquarie electorate. I urge not-for-profit groups to apply for the funds they need to deliver projects with social, environmental and recreational benefits.

Local sports clubs, charities, men’s sheds and Scouts or Girl Guides are just some of the groups that benefit from this program. Last year the Westport Tennis Club was successful with their application to resurface some of their tennis courts.

This grants program makes a real difference to our local communities. Since 2011, we have invested $2.5 million in CBP projects across the Port Macquarie electorate.

Applications will open on Monday 2nd September and close at 5pm on Friday 27th September. Applicants must read the program guidelines to ensure their club or organisation and proposed project are eligible.

For more information about the NSW Government’s 2019 Community Building Partnership Program, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/cbp

Members of the Westport Tennis Club
The communities of Hannam Vale and Waitui are celebrating with the news their local potholed road will finally be sealed following a NSW Government funding commitment of $3 million to Mid Coast Council.

I have been advocating for a number of years to get the road fixed and to finally be able to give this local community some very positive news is wonderful.

I’ve driven on this road many times and fully appreciate the frustrations shared by residents about the dusty, corrugated and potholed road surface.

There is only so much that Mid Coast Council can do to keep grading the road so the only avenue left is to seal the road for the approximate three kilometres between the villages of Hannam Vale and Waitui.

I am very pleased that the sealing will be carried out in this term of Government and I will continue to work closely with Mid Coast Council to see this project completed.

Waitui and Hannam Vale residents celebrate!

Local charities continue to benefit from the Return and Earn scheme in the Port Macquarie electorate.

Money can be donated to local charities whenever people take their containers to any of the four local Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) in our area with recipient charities changing every three months.

If people choose to donate their 10 cents per container instead of collecting the money, they can support very worthwhile local organisations.

RVMs are located at Settlement City, Hibbard Sports Club, Innes Lake Shopping Centre and at the Lake Cathie Shopping Centre.

Over the counter services are also available at the Hope Shop in Milton Circuit, Port Macquarie and now a new service has recently started at Willing and Able, 20 Jambali Rd, Port Macquarie.

Return and Earn is the largest litter reduction initiative to be introduced in NSW and now there are more reasons for people to be involved.

Most drink containers between 150ml and three litres are eligible for the 10c refund. Containers should be intact (not crushed or broken) and have a readable barcode to be eligible.

For more information, including a full list of eligible drink containers or how to become a local charity partner visit: www.returnandearn.org.au