



22 December 2016

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
~ *by email* ~

Dear Treasurer

Subject: Budget Submission – Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange

The Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange is identified by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and the Mayors of the Hunter as a priority infrastructure project for the Hunter region. This project supports development of the second largest employment zone in the Hunter, at Glendale.

I am writing to request that funding for the next stage of this important regional project be included in the 2017 Federal Budget. Please find enclosed our Budget Submission.

The current stage, which was jointly funded by local, State and Federal governments is nearing completion. The next stage, the Pennant Street Bridge over the Northern Railway, is valued at \$32 million and is 'shovel ready' for commencement in 2017. We seek funding from the NSW and Federal governments of \$13 million each towards this stage of the project.

We firmly believe that this project has significance not just for our local communities in alleviating traffic delays and congestions - but in enabling the important employment growth envisaged in the Hunter Regional Plan of around 2,700 jobs and 3,800 new dwellings.

"Quality Lifestyle"

Office of the General Manager - Lake Macquarie City Council

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We have developed the economic appraisal of this project in consultation with Transport for NSW and the NSW Roads and Maritime Services. I would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the broader significance of this project.

Should you require further information, please contact me on 4921 0220.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Brian Bell
General Manager
[encl]

cc: Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, Cabinet Secretary and Senator for NSW
Joel Fizgibbon MP, Member for Hunter
Pat Controy MP, Member for Charlton
Sharon Claydon MP, Member for Newcastle
Senator Brian Burston, Senator for NSW



2017 Budget Submission
Lower Hunter Regional Centre
Pennant Street Bridge
December 2016

Part of the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange project

Introduction

The Lower Hunter Regional Centre is the Hunter Region's second largest employment zone, currently employing 11,000 people with businesses servicing local, regional and national markets. It is strategically located at the gateway to the Hunter on both the Sydney rail and road corridors.

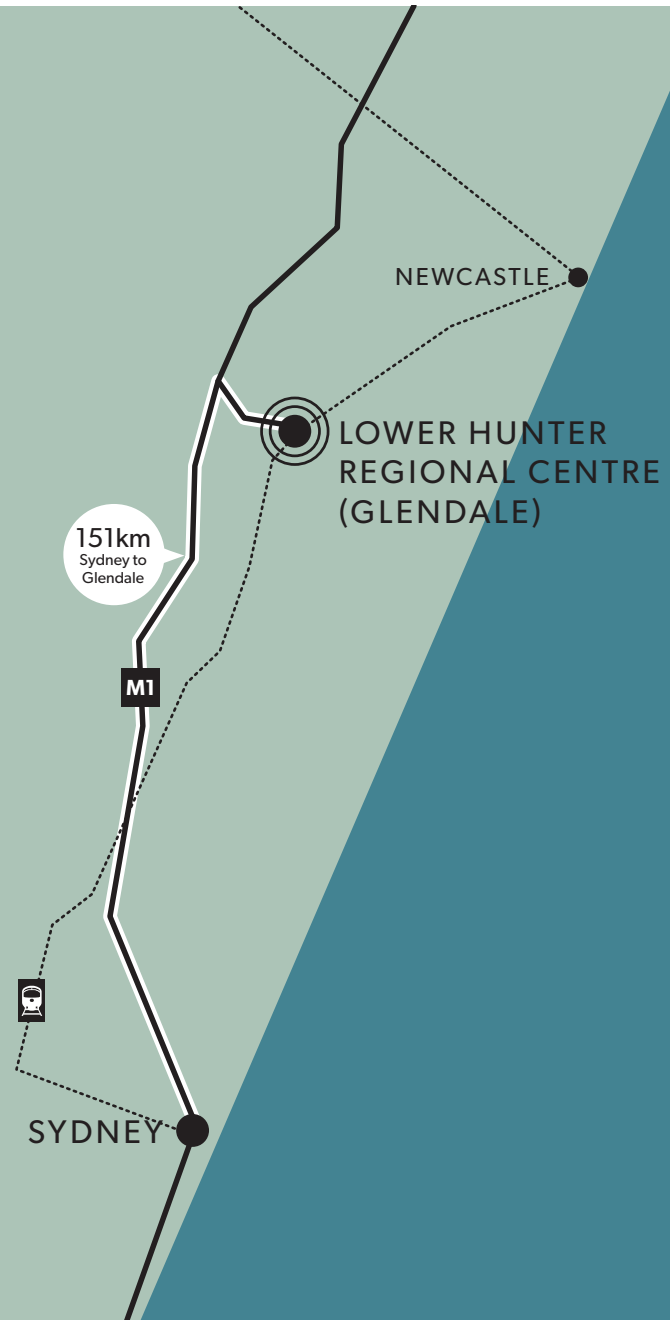
The Lower Hunter Regional Centre is at the epicenter of the employment and residential growth precincts in the Lower Hunter and is identified in the NSW Government's adopted Hunter Regional Plan as a key strategic centre.

The employment zone is divided by the Northern Railway meaning road access is heavily congested with significant impact upon economic growth, job creation and lifestyles in the area.

The proposed Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange will improve road connectivity, with a bridge over the rail line and a public transport interchange. The Australian, New South Wales and Lake Macquarie governments have jointly funded the first part of the priority infrastructure project, which is nearing completion.

The Hunter Regional Plan 2036 identifies the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange as a priority infrastructure project for the region.

The Pennant Street Bridge is the next stage of the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange project, which will form the essential linkage between the zones and alleviate the growing congestion and travel times across this part of the Lower Hunter.



Budget submission

With the support of Hunter regional councils, business chambers, and major employers, Lake Macquarie City Council is seeking joint State-Federal funding of \$26 million towards the \$32 million required to complete the Pennant Street Bridge infrastructure stage of the project.

This funding will enable the Pennant Street Bridge over the Northern Railway line together with approach roads to be finished. Detailed design and costing has already been completed.

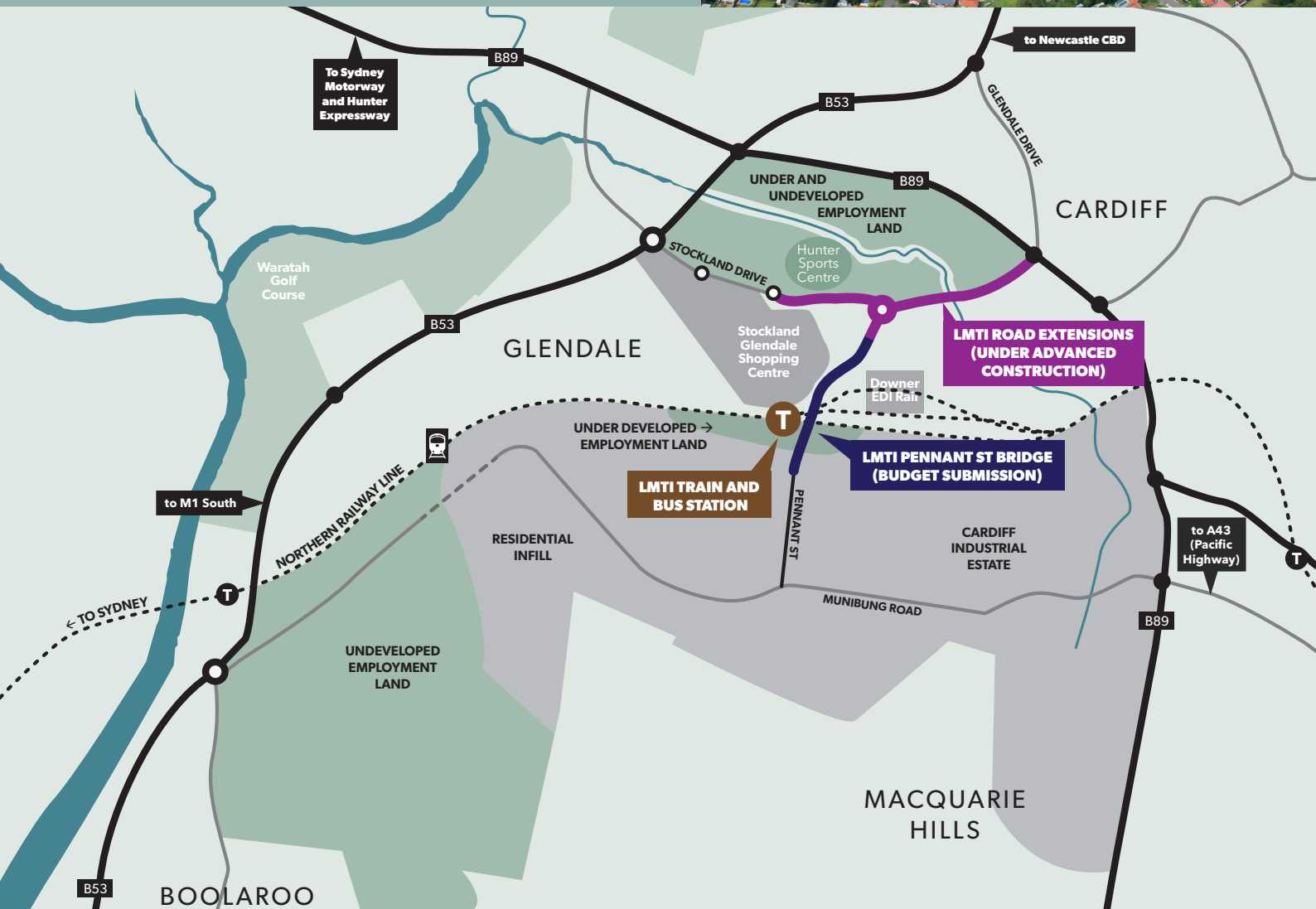
Funding in this calendar year will enable all roads infrastructure to be complete in 2018 and alleviate travel delays and congestion associated with the employment centre.

Regional significance

The NSW Government’s Hunter Regional Plan 2036 identifies the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange as a high-priority infrastructure project because of its potential to unlock growth and improve the connectivity and viability of major centres throughout the Hunter Region.

The Lower Hunter Regional Centre has the capacity for a further 300,000 square metres of retail and office space, as well as the 2,740 new dwellings needed to cater for the projected growth in population for this area alone together with an anticipated 3,823 jobs identified in the Hunter Regional Plan.

The Pennant Street Bridge when complete will enable further growth, development and employment in the region, and improve road and transportation access. The bridge has been designed to accommodate the public transport interchange.



Summary

- The Lower Hunter Regional Centre is the main identified employment growth centre for the Lower Hunter – at the junction of road and rail links from Sydney
- Development in the area is currently constrained by the railway line dividing the second largest and growing employment zone in the Hunter Region
- The next stage of the project – a bridge over the railway line - is essential for growth and job creation; it is the “missing link” that will spur residential and business development in the area
- The Pennant Street Bridge has an expected benefit cost ratio of 3.8 and a net present value benefit of \$98.6 million.
- Funding for the Pennant Street Bridge should be a priority to ensure we “open up” the region to further investment
- Delaying means the region could miss out on as many as 3,823 new jobs
- The Lower Hunter Regional Centre will become the economic engine room of the Hunter
- Council seeks \$13 million each from the Australian and New South Wales Governments towards the \$32 million project cost

The Pennant Street Bridge

- will be used by over 16,000 vehicles daily including 1,500 heavy vehicles
- will cut travel times between Glendale and Cardiff, saving business and residents time and money
- will be good for the environment, with shorter travel times reducing local air pollution and congestion costs

Contact us

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Artist's impression of the Pennant Street Bridge