

Hunter Development Corporation

AGENDA: OPEN BOARD MEETING – 7 August 2009

HDC BOARD ROOM – Level 5, PricewaterhouseCoopers Building, 26 Honeysuckle Drive

OPEN BOARD

Item		page
1	Building Better Cities report to Commonwealth	1.1
2	BHP steelworks closure anniversary event	2.1

OPEN BOARD

7 August 2009

Key report tabled at HDC Board Meeting

A report that strengthens the case for the continued renewal of the Newcastle City Centre was tabled at the Hunter Development Corporation board meeting today.

The report, **Building Better Cities/Newcastle - a Case Study in Renewal**, was compiled as part of a review of the Commonwealth/State Building Better Cities program which provided the initial funding and impetus for the Honeysuckle urban renewal project.

HDC Chairman Paul Broad said the report provided evidence of the benefits of urban renewal programs for kickstarting positive change in communities struggling to cope with structural change.

“This report strengthens Newcastle’s case to secure funding for future infrastructure projects such as the catalyst projects identified in the Newcastle City Centre Renewal Report,” Mr Broad said.

“It shows that the Honeysuckle project has generated economic, social and environmental outcomes that have been sustained more than ten years after the initial round of funding was completed.

“It also outlines the ways in which the Building Better Cities program delivered benefits to Newcastle that would otherwise never have eventuated.

“It is proof that targeted Government funding can be the catalyst for much greater amounts of private sector investment. And it is private investment that really generates growth and renewal.”

Mr Broad said the report also noted there were “strategic issues that were not addressed” which had continued to hold the city back such as the lack of connectivity between the harbour and the city centre.

HDC General Manager Craig Norman said that for all the success of the Honeysuckle project there was still much to be done to bring Newcastle back to full regional city functionality.

“That is why the HDC Newcastle City Centre Renewal Report is so important. It’s the next logical step forward because it tackles the outstanding issues and proposes catalyst projects with a supportive integrated transport system.

“HDC has built upon the city’s previous planning efforts to ensure the best possible framework is in place.

“This Building Better Cities case study shows that Newcastle is a good place to invest and that partnerships between all tiers of government can deliver real outcomes in Newcastle,” Mr Norman said.

Some of the benefits outlined in the Honeysuckle case study include:

- An overall economic impact of over \$1.335 billion
- The generation of over \$500 million in direct private sector investment
- The generation of 4,844 full time jobs
- The construction of office accommodation for over 2,500 employees
- The construction of homes for 2,000 people
- The relocation of port activities from Throsby to the Basin contributing to the productivity of the port and enabling the development of a cruise ship industry
- The relocation and expansion of the fisherman’s cooperative
- Growth in the inner city housing market and surrounding suburbs
- The provision of essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, power, telecommunications and drainage
- The remediation of contaminated lands and waterways
- The provision of 170 public housing units
- The provision of 11 hectares of quality public open space
- The restoration of important heritage buildings and their adaptive re-use
- The provision of public waterfront access
- Investment in public art and placemaking initiatives such as the LIVESITES program of free public events

The full report is available at www.hunterdevelopmentcorporation.com.au

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HDC to support BHP steelworks closure anniversary event

The Hunter Development Corporation has resolved to support plans for the tenth anniversary of the closure of the BHP steelworks at Mayfield.

The anniversary will be marked on 11am, 30 September 2009. The BHP steelworks ceased on 29 September 1999.

The Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association has been making preparations for the event and is in discussions with HDC about arrangements for the event and the long term management of the monument called The Muster Point.

The Muster Point is an artwork made from steel by artist Julie Squires to commemorate the closure of the steelworks, its importance to the region and the memory of the people who worked there. It will be focal point of the anniversary event.

HDC General Manager Craig Norman said as landowner of the Mayfield site on behalf of the NSW Government, HDC would help the Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association to facilitate the anniversary.

Mr Norman said HDC it was important that the Muster Point was appropriately conserved as plans for future industrial use of the Mayfield site are progressed.

“We recognise the significance of the history of the site to the community and the importance of preserving the Muster Point monument,” Mr Norman said.

“We also recognise the need to make the Muster Point available to the community on an ongoing basis and we’ve had discussions with the Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association to that effect.”