



12 February 2021

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Frydenberg

Subject: Pre-Budget Submission - Lake Macquarie City Council

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a pre-budget submission for the 2021-2022 Federal Budget. Attached is a copy of Council's 2020-2022 Advocacy Priorities showcasing our City's attributes, what we're advocating for, and how we're going about it.

Home to more than 205,000 people covering the Federal electorates of Hunter, Shortland and Newcastle, Lake Macquarie is one of NSW largest regional City's experiencing rapid and complex changes. Located 90 minutes from Sydney and the largest City in the Hunter¹, we are seeing:

- a 28 per cent decline in manufacturing and 20 per cent decline in mining²
- an increase in workers relocating from metropolitan cities
- significant private-sector investment in construction and development, which is increasing the strain on existing infrastructure and services
- a lack of spending on catalytic infrastructure in our broader region as part of the nation's post-COVID recovery plans, and
- compared with Lidell and Bayswater in the Upper Hunter, minimal engagement over the future closures of the Vales Point and Eraring power stations on Lake Macquarie (Vales Point will close in just seven years, six years before Bayswater).

Lake Macquarie City Council is a capable partner and collaborator with objectives for regional prosperity beyond our own boundaries. Below are just some of the opportunities and projects that the 2021-2022 Budget could support.

¹ By population

² Between 2013 and 2018

Our Ref: F2019/00235/10 Your Ref:

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Project name	Summary	Cost and outcome
North West Catalyst Area transport improvements	The location of Costco Wholesale's first warehouse in regional Australia, Lake Macquarie's North West Catalyst Area needs funding to improve major roads and intersections to improve access to this key site.	A four year \$10m rolling program would upgrade already failing roads and intersections associated with the Catalyst Area
Hunter Region Sports Centre Expansion and National Trampoline Centre of Excellence	A shovel-ready DA approved project that will elevate the facility to be used as an international facility for athletics as well as Australia's first and only Trampoline Centre of Excellence.	Council is contributing \$7.3m to the project and is seeking a further \$27.4m to see the catalytic investment proceed
Yirritabah Cultural Centre	The first of its kind, the Yirritabah Cultural Centre could become NSW's flagship Indigenous Cultural Centre educating generations to come about our Aboriginal heritage.	Working with the Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council, we are seeking \$4.48m for this project.
High Street Urban Renewal program	A program to uplift economic centres across the City to improve the streetscape; enhancing pedestrian accessibility, improving active travel and public transport infrastructure, and improving urban greening.	\$15m could deliver high street upgrades to the ageing, but growing, economic centres of Boolaroo and Morisset.
Lower Hunter Freight Rail Bypass	A Freight Rail Bypass separating rail freight (including coal) from passenger rail between Fassifern and Newcastle	Transport for NSW is leading this project and exhibition of the proposed bypass corridor is expected in early 2021
National Agency for Resources and Energy Transition	A Federal agency, with appropriate decision-making authority, charged with tackling the transition of jobs affected by the decline in mining and manufacturing communities across regional and rural Australia.	Council staff suggest the establishment of the National Faster Rail Agency could be used as a model for the transition agency

We would be happy to meet with you, your staff or any Government representative to discuss the potential for Federal investment in Lake Macquarie City. Should you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me on (02) 4921 0220.

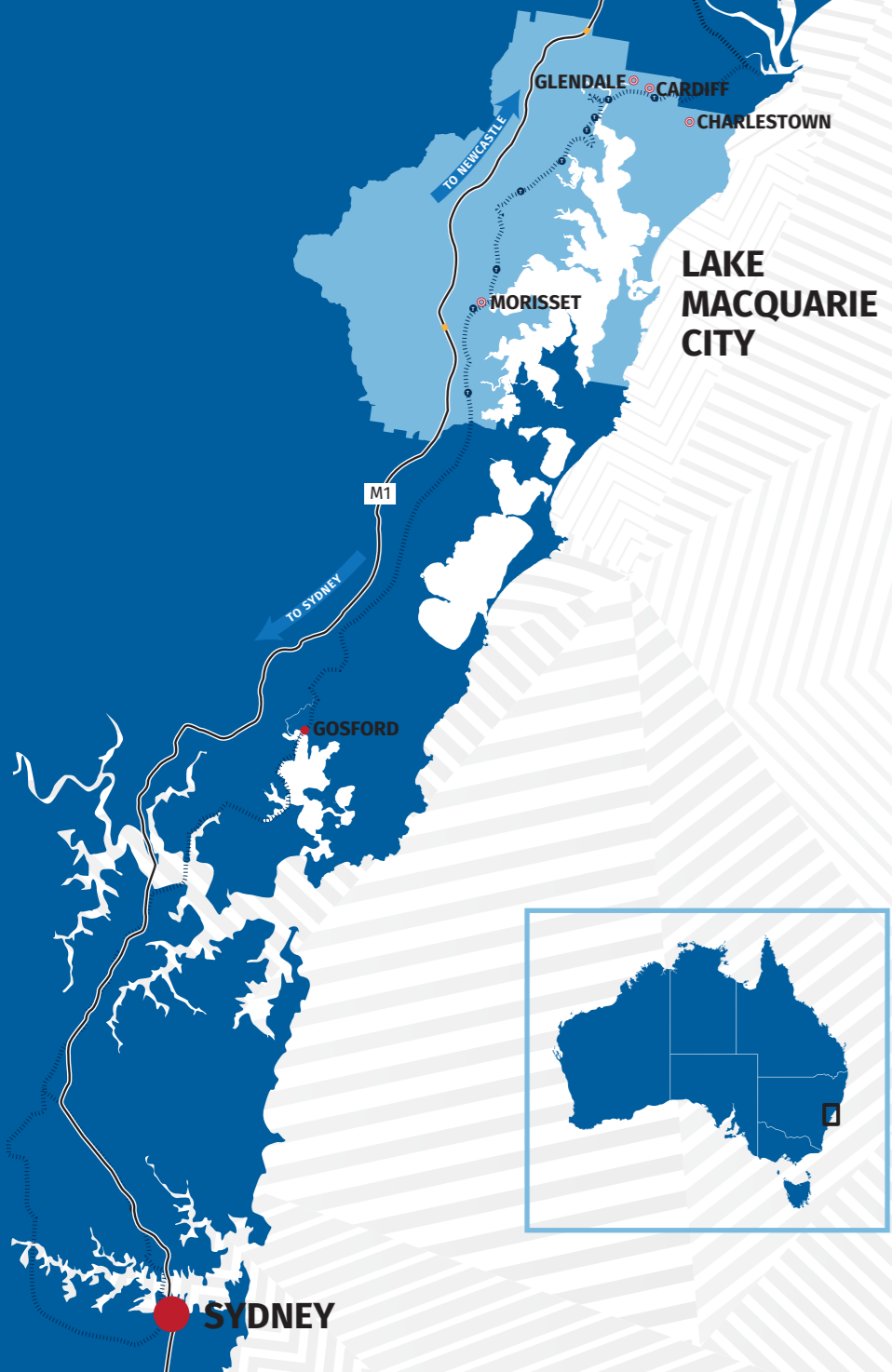
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morven Cameron', written in a cursive style.

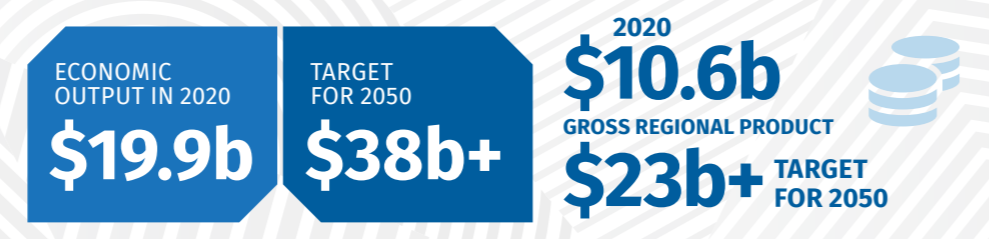
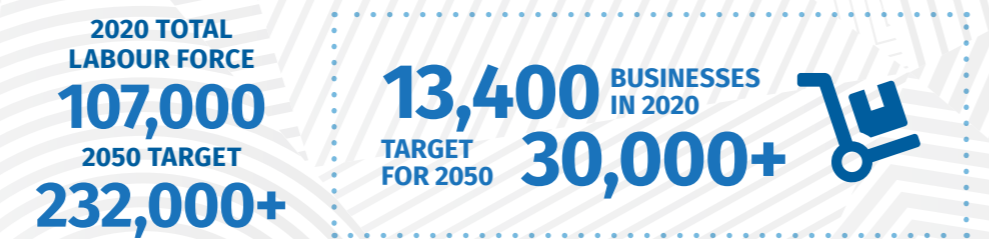
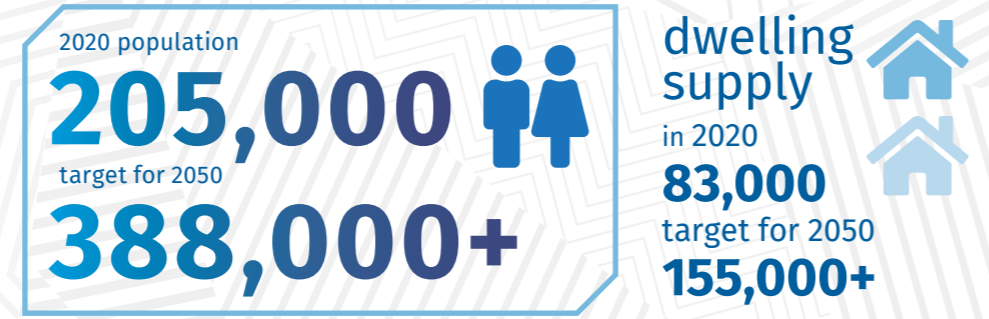
Morven Cameron
Chief Executive Officer



**ADVOCACY
PRIORITIES
2020-2022**



CITY SNAPSHOT



COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

LOCATION

- 90 minutes to Sydney CBD
- Mid-point on eastern seaboard with access via major road, rail and air connections to Melbourne and Brisbane markets
- A critical part of the Committee of Sydney's Sandstone Megaregion

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Road and rail access to international gateway ports in Botany and Newcastle
- Three (3x) strategic economic centres: Glendale-Cardiff, Morisset and Charlestown
- Australia's first integrated manufacturing product prototyping and commercialising facility for start-ups and commercial sector
- Regional sporting facilities including Hunter Region Sports Centre, Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility, and Hillsborough Regional Basketball Stadium (State-funded project under development)
- Extensive 100GB fibre optic network and 100% coverage with commercial grade LoRaWAN (internet of things) network

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- 32km of pristine coastline
- 38,000ha+ of accessible National Parks and State Forests
- Largest salt-water lagoon in the Southern Hemisphere
- Competitive adventure tourism product with 1.3+m international and domestic visits annually

GOVERNANCE

- City council culture focused on collaboration and regional prosperity
- Research led decision making
- Unique economic development concierge entity – Dantia – with a comprehensive private investment and development pipeline

KEY ADVOCACY INITIATIVES FOR 2020-2022

We're advocating for:

- Red tape reduction at all levels of Government
- Pilot projects to explore sequential land use activities, such as the adaptive reuse of ex-mining land
- Increased investment in transport infrastructure (road, rail, and active transport) and interchange facilities to encourage public transport service utilisation
- Regional connectivity improvements to provide residents, visitors and businesses with unhindered access to the internet (5G, public Wi-Fi, fibre networks, etc).
- Expansion of tertiary education opportunities within Lake Macquarie
- City and the surrounding Hunter and Central Coast regions
- Faster road and rail connectivity between Sydney, Gosford, Lake Macquarie and Newcastle to support growth and decentralisation of government and non-government services
- Tangible support for industry initiatives to develop clean energy and power generation
- New mechanisms and funding to support the transition of workforces affected by decline in traditional sectors of mining, manufacturing and energy production

How we'll do it

- Identify feasible initiatives and create opportunities for pilots, prototyping and proof of concept
- Collaborate with both the public and private sector to deliver outcomes
- Be adaptive in our approach to advocacy, using real-world evidence and analysis to make our case for change
- Value add before we value ask, recognising that we can no longer rely on governments to invest in Lake Macquarie City without us doing so first
- Harness the expertise of Dantia (the Lake Macquarie Economic Development Company), to inform initiatives that will attract and accelerate investment and job creating opportunities by existing and new businesses
- Respond strategically to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and transform practices and processes so that the City can:
 - + re-establish and accelerate social and economic activity
 - + create confidence and certainty to secure investment and jobs from public and private sectors
 - + diversify the business base and become more agile and resilient to negative events in the future



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