



# Premier of New South Wales

## Minister for Western Sydney

## Minister for Infrastructure

### **An Open Letter to the People of Newcastle**

I am deeply sorry for the way the Liberal Party has let down the people of Newcastle.

What hurts me most of all is that the actions of a few have tarnished the wonderful achievements of the Liberals & Nationals in the Hunter Valley since 2011.

As Treasurer, in 2013, I based my Budget around a vision for Newcastle – the first time this has ever occurred with a regional city.

I did this because I believe in the vision – and in the city, and in its people.

Unlike NSW Labor, we do not take the people of the Hunter for granted.

Among other key projects, along with the Commonwealth, we have delivered the Hunter Expressway from Seahampton to Branxton.

Through the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, we are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on vital social and economic infrastructure in the region.

I have said many times that the revitalisation of the Newcastle CBD, including the introduction of light rail, will turn Newcastle into one of the jewels of the Asia-Pacific region.

My solemn promise to the people of Newcastle and the Hunter is this: every project we have committed to will be completed, including the Newcastle Inner City Bypass.

I will visit the region repeatedly – between now and the election, and beyond – to reinforce my regret at the behaviour of some of our former MPs, and to recommit to the transformative projects we are funding.

We will keep delivering the projects the city and its people need and deserve.

And above all, while I lead this State, we will never again let the people of Newcastle down.

**MIKE BAIRD MP**  
Premier