



The Hon. Robyn Parker MP

Member for Maitland

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 27 September 2013

MAITLAND SET FOR \$91 MILLION WINDFALL

Maitland MP Robyn Parker today announced Maitland would be the recipient of more than \$91 million in Government funding over the next four years to provide for new water and wastewater infrastructure.

Ms Parker said the \$91 million is a record investment by Hunter Water in the Maitland electorate.

“Hunter Water will be delivering infrastructure worth \$91 million in Maitland, building on the \$46 million in work it has completed locally during the past 2 years,” Ms Parker said.

“Among the projects set for Maitland is the replacement of the tunnel that allows water to be transported under the Hunter River, as well as significant upgrades to the Farley and Morpeth Wastewater plants.

“The tunnel is one of Newcastle’s most critical pieces of infrastructure as it transports more than 20 per cent of the Lower Hunter’s daily drinking water.

“Two new 900 mm pipes will be constructed beneath the Hunter River delivering water to Maitland and the Coalfields.

“The original tunnel was built in the 1920s using cast iron pipes running to Chichester Dam. The new crossing will make use of state of the art trenchless technology that installs a flexible pipe without impacting the Hunter River.

“The upgrade to the Farley plant is also important as it will improve its environmental performance as well as further increase the number of homes it can process sewerage from.

“New sewer mains will also be built in Lochinvar and Maitland to cater for the rapid population growth that is underway in the area.

“Hunter Water will also construct a second trunk main to the new Lochinvar Reservoir which will improve water supply and water pressure for residents living in Lochinvar, Aberglasslyn and Rutherford.

“Today we turned on the 10 million litre Lochinvar Reservoir for the first time, delivering high quality water to 23,000 local homes and another 26,000 properties expected to be built nearby by 2040.”

Hunter Water's Managing Director Kim Wood said the forecast population growth in Maitland made the area a focus.

"Hunter Water has just completed a \$29.5 million upgrade to the Farley Waste Water Treatment Plant. This significantly increases its capacity while delivering huge environmental benefits through a state-of-the art UV disinfection system. An additional \$11.5 million will now be spent further improving its environmental performance.

"Hunter Water is acutely aware that Maitland is the new economic engine room of the Lower Hunter. We understand the importance of ensuring water and sewer infrastructure is not just reliable but also ready to handle the tens of thousands of people that will move to Maitland over the next decade," Kim Wood said.

**Media: John McCormack 0467 731 806 (Robyn Parker)
Jeremy Bath 0419 267 789 (Hunter Water)**