



1000 jobs tipped for Williamtown cluster

This is going to put the Hunter in a great position to attract more aerospace business in the future.

One of the world's leading aerospace companies, Boeing Australia, will expand its Hunter Valley operations at Williamtown to create almost 500 new jobs by 2007, Premier Bob Carr has announced.

And at least another 400 local jobs are likely to be created as new firms set up in a 'cluster' at Williamtown to provide goods and services directly to Boeing.

"The NSW Government and Boeing are working together on a plan that will create the foundation for a major aerospace industry in the Hunter which could deliver up to 1,000 jobs across a number of companies by the end of the decade," Mr Carr said.

Three high-level industry/government working parties, charged with addressing training, recruitment, supply and skills issues, will be overseen by a special management group comprised of representatives of Boeing, the Department of State and Regional Development and the Department of Education and Training.

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\$130m upgrade for Albury paper mill

Albury will be the winner when Norwegian paper group Norske Skog undertakes a \$130 million upgrade of its paper mill, an investment securing the employment of 260 people and 40 contractors.

The upgrade will create a further 280 construction jobs on site, peaking at 500, over a four week period in early 2006.

The Norske Skog board's decision to proceed with the Albury upgrade is great news for the region.

It locks in jobs, meaning hundreds of pay packets will continue to flow into local businesses, restaurants, shops and hotels.

There are also the benefits that come with the construction work that is expected to inject \$16 million into the local economy.

The upgrade will improve the international competitiveness of the Albury mill by increasing production capacity to world standards.

The Norske Skog plant, located at Table Top, 12 km northeast of Albury, uses wood from pinus radiata trees and recycled fibre recovered from newspaper and magazines to make pulp.

Norske Skog Australasian Executive Vice President Rob Lord said NSW Government support had helped streamline the way for a positive board decision in Norway.

"The paper mill upgrade will increase capacity of the plant by about 50,000 tonnes a year to 265,000 tonnes a year," Mr Lord said.

The upgrade, secured following assistance from the Department of State and Regional Development, would involve increasing the use of recycled paper; sawmill waste and plantation thinnings as well as upgrading and installing new machinery.

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Export coup for engineering firm

A North Wyong company has achieved an export coup with the first overseas sale of its award-winning marine energy resource unit, paving the way for an export bonanza worth potentially \$100 million.

The engineering firm Gosfern sold the Closed Cycle Energy Resource Unit (CCERU), which produces safe fuel on board offshore oil and gas production platforms, to Indian offshore oil and gas producer Aban Loyd Chiles.

Producing safe fuel on board means platform operators don't have to bring in diesel from offshore, an expensive and hazardous process. The technology also has the potential for use on land.

"Interest in the technology, which was developed, patented, designed and engineered by Gosfern, is strong with several interested parties monitoring interest in the first commercial version of the unit," Gosfern Projects Manager, Trevor Gilmore, said.

Gosfern has previously won categories of the Premier's NSW Exporter of the Year Awards in 1998 and 1999.



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Putting regional NSW on the menu

The Minister for Regional Development, David Campbell, has launched a program to raise awareness of State Government assistance available to the food and wine industry in regional NSW.

“As NSW food and wine gains recognition and market success across Australia and overseas, the Government wants to help this important regional industry build on its successes and create more business opportunities,” Mr Campbell said.

“Through this program, called Putting Regional NSW on the Menu, the Government is encouraging businesses and groups in the industry to be strategic about their future by tapping into the Government’s business and community development programs.”

Its four main strategies are: promoting investment in the NSW food and wine industry; boosting domestic export, sales and market opportunities; improving the business

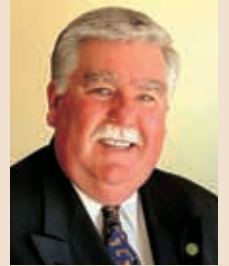
climate through industry development; and supporting food industry innovation.

Mr Campbell said the Government is keen to facilitate clusters and networks in the food and wine industry because individual businesses that pool their expertise and co-ordinate their efforts can achieve more together than those working on their own.

Putting Regional NSW on the Menu is available from offices of the NSW Department of State and Regional Development.

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Minister for Regional Development, David Campbell

Seminar a success

More than 40 people from as far away as Mudgee braved icy weather to participate in this year’s Regional Food and Wine Tourism seminar, titled ‘Eat, Drink, Sleep New South Wales’.

The two-day event, held at Coolangatta Estate in the Shoalhaven on the NSW South Coast, attracted small

business people and producers and growers who heard from tourism and marketing experts, industry association representatives and development officers.

This is the second year the NSW Government has hosted the seminar to help develop the industry, a significant contributor to regional economies.

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The additional Boeing jobs alone are expected to inject \$22.5 million a year in wages into the Hunter economy.

The new jobs will support the operations and upgrade of the RAAF fleet of about 70 F/A-18 Hornet fighters and the introduction of six new Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft based at Williamstown.

“These are the sort of skilled jobs that will provide real opportunities for young people in the Hunter for years to come,” Mr Carr said.

Boeing Australia Managing Director, David Gray said: “This is going to put the Hunter in a great position to attract more aerospace business in the future.

“As one of the major aerospace employers in Australia, we are delighted to be driving development of high-skill jobs in the Hunter region. In fact, we are already talking to Newcastle University because we need four new systems engineers wearing Boeing uniforms before Christmas.”

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NSW coffee a world winner

A home-grown coffee from Nimbin on the State's North Coast was the 'secret weapon' for the 2004 World Barista Champion.

Norwegian barista Tim Wendelboe won his title from a field of 38 contenders at the fifth annual World Barista Championships using his mystery brew – Mountain Top Estate coffee.

Andrew Ford's boutique company can now claim to be one of the world's best coffee bean producers.

Thirty-seven nations from five continents participated in what could be dubbed the Olympics for professional coffee makers, held in Trieste.

At the same time as giving the World Barista Champion his six point lead, Mountain Top Estate coffee has sold its entire season's production overseas to the US and Europe.

It's a great example of how a producer with vision can target the boutique market and take on the world.

From virtually nothing 10 years ago, the Australian coffee industry has expanded rapidly, mostly in the Northern Rivers region of NSW which has the world's most southerly coffee plantations.

Established six years ago, Mountain Top Estate has 20 hectares planted which produce 40 tonnes of beans a year. About 700 ha of coffee are planted Australiawide, out of only about 2,000 suitable for cultivation.



It's a great example of how a producer with vision can target the boutique market and take on the world



The NSW coffee industry is growing at six per cent a year. The NSW Government, through the Department of State and Regional Development, provides support in the form of advice and financial assistance to help individual growers market their products at food fairs, trade and export events.

At up to \$9 kg for beans and \$35 kg for roasted product, North Coast coffee commands premium prices.

Australians drink about 50,000 tonnes of coffee a year and of that almost all of it is imported, at a value of \$630 million.

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BlueScope to invest \$100m in steelworks

BlueScope Steel has given the go ahead for a \$100 million investment to increase the capacity of its Port Kembla Steelworks hot strip mill.

The two year project will increase hot strip mill capacity to 2.8 million tonnes will secure hundreds of jobs and create more than 150 new jobs during construction.

"BlueScope Steel's decision to increase the capacity of its hot strip mill demonstrates the company's commitment to the Illawarra," The Minister for Regional Development, David Campbell said.



"This significant investment is a major vote of confidence in the region from its biggest industrial employer."

The expansion would also strengthen the business globally by making it one of the most efficient low-cost steel mills in the world.

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Big Banana seeks wider appeal

One of Australia's favourite tourist attractions has an even bigger future thanks to the NSW Government.

The Government has assisted the owners of the Big Banana with the funding of a business plan to make the attraction more appealing.

The 13-metre long, five-metre high banana, on the Pacific Highway at Coffs Harbour, was Australia's first Big Thing when it opened 40 years ago. About 600,000 people visit it every year, and they take a million photos featuring the Big Banana.

Like many tourism ventures the Big Banana faces the challenges of changing market conditions, despite its iconic status on the State's mid north coast.

Last year the owners began working with an adviser from the Department of State and Regional Development to explore ways to redevelop the attraction to make it more efficient and realise its potential.

The Big Banana employs 65 in peak periods and 35 in the off-season. This is expected to increase as the \$1 million redevelopment goes ahead.

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Awards for regional exporters

Exporters in regional areas are encouraged to participate in the Premier's 2004 NSW Exporter of the Year Awards.

The prestigious awards highlight the enormous contribution exporters make to the prosperity of their communities and to job creation.

The NSW Government is the principal sponsor of the awards and sponsors two categories: the NSW Premier's Exporter of the Year and the Regional Exporter of the Year.

Award categories cover areas such as agribusiness, arts and entertainment, tourism, manufacturing, minerals and energy, information and communications technology, and services.

Companies chosen as the outstanding exporter in their category in NSW become national finalists in the Australian Export Awards.



The awards are open to exporting companies of all sizes, from all parts of NSW. Companies are judged on their export marketing strategy, export growth and commitment to international market development.

Last year's winner included Yenda-based Casella Estate Wines and the Ricegrowers Cooperative in Leeton, which trades as the well-known SunRice brand.

Entries close on August 30, with winners to be announced at a presentation dinner on October 21.

For further information contact the Australian Institute of Export on 9350 8170 or email nswinstitute@aiex.com.au

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September focuses on small business

The NSW Government is encouraging small business owners and managers from around the State to participate in this year's Small Business September.

This event-filled month highlights the diversity of this sector of the State's economy and the contribution small business makes to jobs growth and prosperity.

Organised by the Department of State and Regional Development, Small Business September is backed by more than 100 business, industry, professional and government organisations.

"This annual celebration of the value small business adds to our economic and social fabric is an important milestone in the State's business calendar," the Minister for Small Business, David Campbell, said.



Seminars, workshops and exhibitions will be offered to small business owners, operators and employees in regional and metropolitan NSW.

The events are designed to present business people with information they need to grow their businesses and widen their network of contacts.

The regional events on this year's calendar include the Central Coast Business Expo; Internet Marketing for Exporters, in Orange and Ourimbah; Border Bizfest in Albury; the Hunter Business Expo; a Wollongong workshop on commercialising inventions; and the Food Service Industry Trade Show in Wagga Wagga.

View the calendar of this year's Small Business September events at www.smallbusinessmonth.nsw.gov.au

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New Macey plugs into export opportunities

Manufacturer of high voltage electrical connectors for hazardous and exposed environments, New Macey, is developing promising export opportunities.

The Tomago company in the Hunter region recently resigned an agreement with the Yankuang group in China to sell its range of connectors in China.

"The Department of State and Regional Development helped introduce our company to the Yankuang Group which is the second largest mining company in China," New Macey commercial director, Bob McCotter said.

"The joint venture means the New Macey range of connectors will be sold into the largest coal mining industry in the world."

➤ "... the New Macey range of connectors will be sold into the largest coal mining industry in the world."

In Malaysia, the company has supplied specially developed connectors to KTMB, the country's national rail authority, for trial on some of their trains. This follows a contract to supply connectors for NSW RailCorp's fleet.

Flameproof and waterproof, New Macey's connectors are used in rugged environments such as mines, oil and gas installations, ports, railways, and defence infrastructures.

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Accolades for community achievements

Excellence in community economic development is being recognised following the launch of the State Government's first Community Enterprise Awards for NSW and the ACT.

Councillor Sue Whelan, Chair Regional Development Advisory Council of NSW, said it's a great opportunity to highlight community achievements.

"The Community Enterprise Awards are a first for NSW and a first for regional development," Ms Whelan said.

"Whether it's community, business, or local government it's important to acknowledge the enormous contribution many people make to our regional communities and our State.

"The initiative and commitment of local councils, businesses and community groups is vital to the economic success of towns in NSW," she said.

The Community Enterprise Awards comprise four categories — Business Enterprise Award, Events and Tourism Award, Youth Enterprise Award and Local Council Enterprise Award.

The awards are also sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank and supported by Prime Television.

Nominations for the awards close on August 31, 2004 and the winners will be announced at a dinner at Coffs Harbour on October 30, 2004.

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Growth strategy

The NSW Government is expanding its Small Towns Growth Strategy to include Tenterfield in the Northern Tablelands and Merriwa in the Hunter region. The strategy aims to help small towns plan their economic futures to encourage business growth and local industry. Last year a pilot for the strategy was successfully launched in Tumbaramba and West Wyalong.

CED conference 2004

The NSW Government's annual Statewide Community Economic Development Conference will take place at Gosford on the Central Coast on October 17-19, 2004. Gosford and Wyong areas' unique features and the region's opportunities as a conference and tourism destination will be highlighted during the conference. Field trips will showcase areas including Mount Penang, Mangrove Mountain, The Entrance and Wyong.



Successful projects highlighted on tour

Hunter and Central Coast communities highlighted successful community economic development projects to a visiting delegation from across NSW.

Organised by the Department of State and Regional Development, the Enterprising Communities May tour was a first for NSW, promoting regional business and community development.

Nineteen participants from chambers of commerce, local councils and other community development organisations toured the two regions to learn about local successes and exchange ideas for positive change in their own communities.

They came from government areas throughout NSW, including Gwydir, Inverell and Tenterfield to the north, Cabonne, Orange, Upper Lachlan and Dubbo to the west, Albury and Tallaganda in the South East, Culcairn in the Riverina, Wingecarribee, the Illawarra, plus Newcastle and Maitland.

Twelve shire councils from the Hunter and Central Coast presented projects and programs on topics including youth activities, tourism, festivals, education and training services and redevelopment programs.

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Regions take stand at Manufacturing Week



Seven regional NSW companies shared a stand at National Manufacturing Week in Sydney in June, with support from the NSW Government.

Considered the largest event of its kind in Australia, National Manufacturing Week highlights manufacturing technologies including engineering, computers, process and control mechanisms, welding, machine tools, material handling, safety and hydraulics.

The Department of State and Regional Development organised a group stand at this year's show under the banner 'Manufacturing Business Success' to

help the seven companies promote their products and technologies and develop business leads.

The three companies from the Hunter were HunterNet Cooperative, NEMCO and Steel River Manufacturing.

From the Central Coast came Blue Lava Solutions, and from the Illawarra, CNC Teknix. The two companies from the mid north coast were PCF Industries and Thermal Electric Elements.

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CNC Teknix goes global

Oak Flats based CNC Teknix is joining forces with US software company BobCAD-CAM, in a move to open up global markets for both companies.

The US firm will combine its design and manufacturing software with the Illawarra company's electronic control system for small computer numerically controlled (CNC) machines, such as mills and lathes.

Up to 100 CNC machines are expected to be sold by 2005 as a result of the deal.

CNC Teknix is a member of the

Australian Technology Showcase (ATS) initiative.

"The NSW Department of State and Regional Development supported our company at critical times of business development," director of CNC Teknix, Peter Dunster said.

"The business now receives Australian and international recognition as an ATS member, and we also gained valuable exposure to potential buyers through participation on the DSRD stand at Manufacturing Week."

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