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LEADING BUSINESS

Hunter Business Chamber

NeW Space Project,
University of Newcastle EIS

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Introduction

The Hunter Region has long held the reputation as the powerhouse of the NSW economy and ranks highly as one of the most valued, diverse and resilient regions in Australia.

The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and is now over 128 years old. The Chamber represents more than 1800 member businesses to all levels of government. The Hunter Business Chamber is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth and is the peak industry association in the Hunter which represents all sectors of business in the region.

The Hunter Business Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a brief submission to the EIS for the University of Newcastle's NeW Space Project that is currently on exhibition.

Submission

On behalf of the Hunter Business Chamber I am pleased to lodge this supportive submission for the University of Newcastle, NeW Space Project.

It is noted that the design and construction of the University of Newcastle's NeW Space Campus will consist of library and information common areas, collaborative learning spaces and zones for professional and community engagement. This new facility will seamlessly integrate with the adjoining University House.

The Chamber notes that works to University House and upgrade works to the Laman Street car park will also be undertaken as part of the project.

It is crucial to note that this project will epitomise the next generation of teaching and learning space in the tertiary education sector. The traditional lecture and library spaces of universities are changing at a rapid pace. The value of providing adaptable physical space for a range of uses, including community use and being a 24-7 facility is key.

The Chamber acknowledges that transport via a range of modes to the Newcastle CBD is a crucial aspect of not only this one project but for the urban renewal of the city as a whole. Travel to and from the city by public transport (light rail, taxi, bus), cycle ways and private transport will all have a role to play as the city evolves and develops.

It is our understanding that the allocation of parking spaces for the project is currently the subject of debate and scrutiny. The University has acknowledged that it is their intent that park and ride facilities will be a key focus to encouraging people to keep cars out of the city precinct.

The Chamber is keen to see the University, the City of Newcastle and relevant stakeholders, such as the Chamber, property owners and others collaborate to review the full range of appropriate transport options, including public transport and private transport to and from the CBD as a whole.

It will be vitally important that the transport solutions are adaptable and can complement the ongoing growth and renewal of the city. In regard to private transport facilities (parking stations) based in the city there is a need to review both capacity and demand of these facilities. The Chamber recommends that this key aspect of the project is advanced in a collaborative manner.

The Hunter Business Chamber is supportive of the urban renewal of the CBD of Newcastle broadly and the NeW Space project in particular.

Contact

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