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## **Honeysuckle HQ a great leap forward for city and region**

Business Hunter has welcomed the announcement of the Honeysuckle HQ development, describing the \$1.5 billion project as a transformative investment that signals a new era of confidence and growth for Newcastle and the wider Hunter region.

The project, also to be known as Newcastle Quay, will be delivered over six stages across 15 years, and will include more than 1,000 high-density dwellings, commercial and retail space for 4,000 workers, a 180-room hotel, a 500-seat conference centre and 11,000 square metres of public space, supported by proximity to a major public transport interchange.

Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said the new precinct marked a turning point for Newcastle and its status as a metropolitan city.

“This bold plan represents a great leap forward, not just for Honeysuckle but for Newcastle as the regional capital,” Mr Hawes said.

“The scale of the project is significant and reinforces the extent to which Newcastle and the region have matured.

“The sort of development under way today was unimaginable to most even 10 years ago, but we are now seeing the fruits of a successful urban renewal strategy to shift the city’s CBD west and incorporate high-density, mixed-use development into the inner city.

Mr Hawes said project proponent DOMA Group had a strong reputation for design and delivery in the Honeysuckle precinct, having already undertaken landmark projects including the Little National Hotel, Lume and Huntington apartment buildings and the twin-tower development of the Store site currently under construction.

“Business Hunter has consistently supported a mixed-use vision for Honeysuckle, and this project realises that vision,” Mr Hawes said.

“Importantly, it ensures Newcastle can continue to provide opportunities for future commercial growth, which will be critical to achieving the region’s long-term economic ambitions.”

“There are, of course, challenges associated with a project of this size, but there will be opportunity for these to be addressed through the State Significant Development assessment process.”

The inclusion of hotel and conference facilities was highlighted by Business Hunter as a driver for the city's visitor economy.

"Newcastle has rapidly strengthened its position as a destination in its own right," Mr Hawes said.

"The addition of a hotel and conference centre further enhances the city's capacity to attract both business and leisure visitors, creating new opportunities across the wider economy."

Business Hunter said Honeysuckle HQ would complement the development of the Broadmeadow Precinct and help drive further investment in infrastructure and transport in the inner city.

"Together, the Honeysuckle and Broadmeadow precincts represent one of the largest urban regeneration projects in the country, providing more people with opportunities to live and work close to jobs and services and enjoy all the benefits of city living," Mr Hawes said.

"The project should provide strong impetus for further investment, including improvements to transport connectivity and much-needed upgrades such as the extension of the light rail."

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