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Peak body praises Tangara investment as boost for the region

Regional peak organisation Business Hunter has praised today's announcement by the NSW Government that two new production lines will be established at the Downer facility in Cardiff as part of the \$447 million Tangara Life Extension Program, delivering a major boost to manufacturing in the Hunter region.

The investment will create 100 new local jobs and 20 apprenticeships, reinforcing the Hunter's reputation as a centre of manufacturing excellence and ensuring critical skills are retained and grown in the regional workforce.

Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said the decision demonstrated confidence in the Hunter's industrial capability and skilled workers.

"This is a significant vote of confidence in the Hunter region. Establishing new production lines at Cardiff not only secures highly skilled jobs today but helps future-proof our regional economy by growing the advanced manufacturing capabilities we will need for decades to come," Mr Hawes said.

"Manufacturing skills developed through programs like this are highly transferable – supporting opportunities across other industries including defence, mining, infrastructure and emerging clean technology industries."

Mr Hawes said the government announcement highlighted the strength of the Hunter's manufacturing supply chain and the importance of sustained investment.

"The Tangara Life Extension Program will keep skilled tradespeople, engineers and technicians working locally while also creating clear pathways for young people through apprenticeships," he said.

"These are precisely the kinds of skills that can move across industries, enabling the Hunter to adapt and lead as our economy continues to diversify."

Mr Hawes emphasised that maintaining a strong manufacturing base was essential to regional resilience, innovation and productivity. The Cardiff facility will play a key role in extending the life of critical transport assets while supporting a pipeline of skilled workers.

"Business Hunter welcomes the NSW Government's commitment to local jobs and skills and looks forward to continuing to work with government and industry to ensure the Hunter remains one of Australia's most capable and competitive manufacturing regions."

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