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BUSINESS HUNTER

20 October 2026

Lake Macquarie to be key hub in the Hunter's rail future

Business Hunter has welcomed the NSW Government's decision to name Teralba as the preferred location for the Future Fleet train manufacturing facility, describing it as a transformational opportunity to secure the Hunter's place as Australia's leading rail manufacturing and engineering region and support the region's economic diversification.

Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said the decision reflected the unique advantages of the Teralba site and its potential to support the development of a broader rail manufacturing ecosystem for NSW.

"This is a significant investment in the future of the Hunter and a recognition of the region's industrial strengths, highly skilled workforce and long-standing manufacturing capability," Mr Hawes said.

"The Teralba site stands out because of its scale, strategic location and existing infrastructure. Few sites in NSW can offer this combination of large industrial landholdings, proximity to rail and freight connections, existing utility infrastructure and the capacity for future expansion."

Business Hunter said the decision created an opportunity to establish a dedicated rail manufacturing hub in Lake Macquarie, building on existing industrial strengths and creating long-term benefits for the broader regional economy.

"The Future Fleet facility should not be viewed as a standalone project. It has the potential to become the foundation of a rail manufacturing hub that attracts suppliers, advanced manufacturers, engineering firms, training providers and research institutions," Mr Hawes said.

"The Hunter already has deep expertise in manufacturing, engineering, maintenance and heavy industry. Bringing these capabilities together around a major anchor investment creates the opportunity for a genuine centre of excellence in rail manufacturing.

"There is potential for significant synergies between major rail projects, as the area is also being considered for future High Speed Rail manufacturing activities."

Mr Hawes said the project represented an important opportunity to repurpose former mining land for the industries of the future.

"For generations, communities around Lake Macquarie have powered NSW through coal mining and energy production. This project will ensure these industrial lands continue to generate jobs and economic value for the community, supporting new skills and opportunities in emerging industries."

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Business Hunter acknowledged the advocacy efforts of Lake Macquarie City Council and Dantia in championing the Teralba site, by working consistently to demonstrate its strategic advantages and potential to deliver long-term economic benefits for the region.

Mr Hawes said the siting of the manufacturing facility in the Hunter would position the region to play a leading role in rebuilding sovereign manufacturing capability and creating highly skilled employment opportunities for future generations.

“The Future Fleet project is about much more than building trains. It is about building capability, creating jobs and ensuring the Hunter remains at the forefront of Australia's industrial future.”

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