

BUSINESS HUNTER

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SUBMISSION: DA2026-01704 – 87B HANNELL ST WICKHAM

Business Hunter writes in support of the above-mentioned development application by the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC) for new marina berths to provide facilities for the mooring of up to four super yachts in the club's existing marina at Wickham.

This project represents a major opportunity to support and drive investment in the maritime industry, boost the visitor economy and further establish the region as a leading tourism hub.

Business Hunter is the peak organisation for business and industry in the Hunter region, representing members across all business and industry sectors. Our network of more than 4,400 members and affiliates across the region includes members of 17 aligned local chambers across 10 local government areas. Through our membership and network of local chambers of commerce, we advocate for initiatives that strengthen regional competitiveness, attract investment, create jobs and support long-term economic growth.

Business Hunter supports this proposal because it represents a significant opportunity to enhance the Hunter's visitor economy, strengthen the region's maritime capabilities, and further position Newcastle as a premier destination for high-value tourism and marine industry investment. The facility will also serve to strengthen and reinvigorate the region's traditional shipbuilding and maritime services industry, preserving skills that are important in our diversifying economy.

The global superyacht sector is a rapidly growing market that delivers substantial economic benefits wherever supporting infrastructure exists. Superyacht visitors typically generate significantly higher levels of expenditure than traditional tourists, supporting local accommodation providers, hospitality businesses, transport operators, tourism experiences, retail businesses and professional service providers. Importantly, these economic benefits extend well beyond the marina itself and create flow-on opportunities throughout the broader regional economy.

The proposed facility would also contribute to the growth of the Hunter's maritime industry by creating demand for marine maintenance, repairs, refuelling, provisioning and specialist maritime services. The development aligns with broader efforts to diversify Newcastle's economy and build on the region's existing strengths in marine operations, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades and tourism.

Business Hunter has previously highlighted the strategic opportunity for Newcastle to establish itself as a key destination on Australia's east coast superyacht network. Cities such as Cairns, Hobart and the Gold Coast have demonstrated the significant and

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lasting economic returns that can be achieved through investment in superyacht infrastructure. Newcastle possesses many of the same competitive advantages, including a deep-water harbour, proximity to Sydney, world-class coastal attractions, and access to the Hunter Valley and Port Stephens tourism regions.

The addition of superyacht berthing facilities would strengthen Newcastle's reputation as a destination capable of attracting high-value domestic and international visitors while reinforcing the city's growing profile as a sophisticated waterfront and tourism destination. It would also support the broader vision of Newcastle as a globally connected regional centre that attracts investment, talent and new business opportunities.

Business Hunter strongly supports NCYC's development application for superyacht marina berths and encourages its approval. We believe the project will deliver substantial economic and community benefits for Newcastle and the Hunter region for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Hawes
Chief Executive Officer
Business Hunter