



Don Harwin

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNTER WATER'S HISTORY ON EXHIBITION

Secrets and hidden treasures of Hunter Water's 125-year history are now on display at Newcastle Museum as part of a special exhibition to celebrate the utility's milestone birthday.

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin said the exhibition gives a fascinating insight into how water and sewerage systems have evolved over the years, and explored the opportunities technology presents for the future.

"The Hunter is brimming with history and its story is one of determination, resilience and innovation. A story not often told however is the early struggle to provide a secure water supply for the region, and the role water played in the industrial boom that laid the foundations for the Hunter's future," Mr Harwin said.

"Hunter Water is one of the region's oldest and proudest institutions and this exhibition shows us some of the ways work practices have changed over the years with historical tools and tales of what a day in the life once looked like at the 'Water Board'.

"Visitors will also learn about the modern water supply system, including a virtual reality experience showing the journey of a drop of water from the sky to the tap.

"This is a thought-provoking exhibition that demonstrates just how important our local water systems are for our communities, and encourages visitors to consider how technology and innovation will shape our water future," he said.

Hunter Water Managing Director Jim Bentley said he hoped the exhibition would engage people to form their own ideas about how the water systems of the future should operate.

"Our region is growing and changing, with the Hunter's population expected to exceed 862,000 by 2036. This means we need a deeper conversation with the community about how we want to use water in the future," Mr Bentley said.

"We hope visitors to the exhibition come away with thoughts on how they would like to see Hunter Water enable the sustainable growth of our region, and what we can do to help deliver the future aspirations of the region."

The exhibition is open to the public free of charge until Sunday 29 October.

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