Media release

Wednesday, 4th July 2012

**Federal Government funding to boost infrastructure in the Port Macquarie region**

**In their latest budget, the Federal Government has announced infrastructure improvements to the Port Macquarie region including a $1.5 million expansion for the Port Macquarie Private Hospital, a $19 million regional aviation plan to upgrade Port Macquarie Airport and a much need upgrade to the Pacific Highway**.

“The Federal Government has listened to our needs and got it right by legislating this important funding to our local hospitals, airport and roads,” said Diane Deland, Principal Raine & Horne Port Macquarie.

“Approximately 60% of the population in Port Macquarie are retirees and the government has heeded the call for an aged health care upgrade in the region, giving $1.5 million dollars to the Port Macquarie Private Hospital to expand and refurbish its existing rehabilitation services.”

The government upgrade will include extra beds, a gymnasium and a purpose-built hydrotherapy pool as well as, Ms Deland reports, a much needed cauterisation lab.

“All of these facilities will greatly benefit and support the older members of our community,” said Ms Deland.

Furthermore, progress continues on the $25 million expansion of the Port Macquarie Airport with detailed designs and DA plans already completed and approved by council.

“There has been, for some time now, a need for the Port Macquarie Airport to support more flights coming to and from the region,” said Ms Deland.

“Once the runway upgrade is finished, the airport will be able to accommodate larger jets from locations such as Melbourne. At the moment, our major destination hubs are Brisbane and Sydney.”

In addition to the aviation funding, the Federal Government announced its largest ever allocation of funds of $3.56 billion on the Pacific Highway upgrade, which will include $60.2 million for local road projects around the Port Macquarie region such as the $31 million project to complete the dual carriageway.

“They have just completed a $20 million upgrade of road stretching between Port Macquarie CBD and the Pacific Highway. It looks very nice and is very functional for the town,” remarked Ms Deland.

The local Port Macquarie Hastings Hockey Association are also receiving a much needed cash injection with federal funding to the tune of $1.8 million retiring their outstanding $320,000 debt.

Additionally, many local sporting facilities are receiving a face-lift including an upgrade of the Wayne Richards Park complex, which is expected to house a modern combined AFL/cricket oval and all-weather athletics track.

A further $1 million will go to improve pedestrian safety and access of the Port Macquarie foreshore which is one of the town’s most popular meeting spots. From the funding, a bridge over the Kooloonbung Creek will constructed as well as appropriate lighting along the footpaths.

The Federal Government’s decision to support these multiple improvements will aid Port Macquarie’s growing population, which is forecasted to reach around 100,000 residents in the next 20 years.

“As the town grows, so will the need for newer facilities which will in turn bring in working families that will help stimulate the property market and local economy,” said Ms Deland.

“Our market is predominately retirees and empty nesters,” said Ms Deland, “and they come here because of the regions fantastic temperate climate, holiday seaside lifestyle and the affordable housing.”

“Lewis Land Group’s ‘Sovereign Hills’ is a new residential estate scheduled for construction and is expected to house around 3,500 new homes and apartments, just nine kilometres west of the CBD,” explained Ms Deland.

In addition, land sales in ‘Banksia Grove,’ just three kilometres from Port Macquarie’s CBD, start from around $195,000 and range in size from 555sqm to 739sqm.

**For more information about the improvements to the Port Macquarie region or general real estate advice in the area, contact Diane Deland, Raine & Horne Port Macquarie on (02) 6583 2699 or 0408 628 997.**

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