



**Rob Stokes**  
Minister for Planning

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 28 October 2015

### **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD AND COMMITTEE**

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today announced three appointments to the Hunter Development Corporation, as a new advisory committee has been formed to consider the operation of development corporations in NSW.

Mr Stokes named David Evans as Chairman of the HDC Board of Directors. Former Landcom Managing Director Sean O'Toole has been appointed as a director, and former director Karen Howard has been reappointed.

"These appointments will provide stability to the HDC Board to ensure it can continue to provide sound strategic advice to the corporation," Mr Stokes said.

"The NSW Government's program to revitalise the Newcastle city centre is in full swing and HDC will continue to play an important role in this whole-of-government program.

"It is therefore critical that the HDC Board continues to have highly experienced and credentialed directors such as Mr Evans, Mr O'Toole and Ms Howard."

Mr Evans has been a director of the HDC Board since 2007 and is a Sydney Catchment Authority member. He is also a former chief executive of the Regional Land Management Corporation and former Managing Director of Sydney Water and Hunter Water.

Mr O'Toole was General Manager of Landcom NSW until mid-2013 and is a well-known, highly regarded leader in the property sector. He is a member of the Building Professionals Board NSW and Director of the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation.

Ms Howard was an HDC Board director from 2009 to 2014 and has served on the HDC Audit and Risk Committee. She was director of the NSW Business Chamber and is a former Chair of Hunter Medicare Local. She was a Hunter Business Chamber director for 10 years and also served on the board of Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

All HDC director appointments will now run until 31 December 2016.

Mr Stokes also announced that a new advisory committee will examine current operations and provide advice on potential improvements for regional development corporations.

It will be chaired by Angus Dawson, the former General Manager of the Honeysuckle Development Corporation which preceded the Hunter Development Corporation.

There are currently two regional development corporations in NSW – the Hunter Development Corporation and the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation. The committee will examine the role of these corporations and consider the role of development corporations in areas such as the Illawarra and the Western Sydney Priority Growth Area.

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