



## key benefits

If you are located in a metropolitan area your lifestyle is probably disturbed by crowding, pollution, transport chaos, crime and inner city isolation.

Your business may face higher overheads, unreliable supply, worker disinterest, skills shortage, adverse zoning regulations, escalating land costs and limited room to expand.

Kurri Kurri & District offers expanding businesses numerous benefits including:

- ❖ Affordable housing costs
- ❖ Relaxed rural lifestyle
- ❖ A short distance from work
- ❖ Minutes from vineyards and major tourist attractions
- ❖ Competitive rates and charges
- ❖ Friendly reliable service
- ❖ Ready supply of engineering skills
- ❖ Strong community spirit
- ❖ Reliable and skilled workforce
- ❖ Expanding industrial base including Hunter Economic Zone
- ❖ High quality TAFE facilities
- ❖ Well developed education facilities



## spacious land

As well as spacious industrial sites, the region offers low establishment costs. Quality housing in well serviced suburbs is another benefit of the area.

## central location

Located close to the national highways and the proposed F3 freeway extension, Kurri Kurri and district is easily accessible by road to Sydney, Brisbane, the Central Coast and the North-West region. It is well serviced by all forms of transport. You can be in Sydney in 30 minutes by air and 90 minutes by road or luxury coach. Shipping overseas can be arranged through the Port of Newcastle which has well developed import and export facilities and is Australia's second largest tonnage port and the worlds largest coal export port. It is about to be developed as New South Wales largest container facility with an eventual capacity of up to one million containers annually.



## stable industries

Originating in 1902, Kurri Kurri was established to service the rapidly expanding coal industry. Since the decline of the coal mines in the 1960's, new industries have stimulated growth in the region.

Hydro Aluminium, Weston Aluminium, Orica Explosives and Signode Strapping have located in the region to take advantage of the abundant labour force, spacious sites and proximity to overseas markets. These industries have attracted numerous smaller companies, revitalised the retail area and encouraged the development of new housing sub-divisions.

With the release of large tracts of industrial land at the Hunter Economic Zone, major manufacturing and infra-structure companies are expected to relocate to the area.

Located within an easy distance of the vineyards, Kurri Kurri and district forms the eastern gateway to the fabulous Hunter Valley wine region and its associated tourism industries.



## attractions

Reminiscent of bygone times, Kurri Kurri & district is rich in heritage activities including colliery tours, steam train rides and one of Australia's last drive-in movie theatres. Art galleries, antiques, craft shops and markets abound in the vicinity of Kurri Kurri.

Bush dancing at the Buttai Barn is a favorite activity with residents and visitors to the area. Within a short drive are the beautiful Hunter Valley Vineyards with their many fine wineries, and the recently established, magnificent Hunter Valley Gardens, world-class golf courses, resorts, restaurants and picnic facilities.

Adventure tourism is also becoming increasingly popular with activities such as motor-cycle touring, whale watching, hot-air ballooning, horse riding, aerobatics and helicopter charters all available.

Many picnic areas and scenic lookouts are found in the Watagan Mountains 25 minutes drive south of the region. Kurri Kurri & district features many sporting facilities including, golf, tennis, squash, lawn bowls and a newly established aquatic centre.

Within a 40 minute drive, Newcastle has the finest surfing beaches on the coast, and the water wonderlands of Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens are easily accessible from the area.

## regional summary

POPULATION:	15,000
ELEVATION:	54.4 Metres
DISTANCES	(kms)
Kurri Kurri-Weston - Sydney	145
Kurri Kurri-Weston - Newcastle	38
Kurri Kurri-Weston - Cessnock	14
Kurri Kurri-Weston - Maitland	13

## education

The Kurri Kurri district offers a host of education and training opportunities for a regional community.

The Kurri Kurri TAFE campus offers a broad range of subjects including Viticulture, Horticulture and Heavy Plant Mechanic training.

Kurri Kurri High School is a centre of excellence in education with the only Telecommunication Call Centre training facility in an Australian school.

Kurri Kurri Community Centre offers adult education training through the WEA.

The Lower Hunter Business Enterprise Centre provides training in small business management and business start up support. The BEC is a part of a network of Business Enterprise Centres across the nation.

There are eight Junior Schools in the district including Catholic Education. Nearby Maitland offers private education facilities.

Within 40 minutes drive of Kurri Kurri is the University of Newcastle.



## commerce & industry

The district has an active Chamber of Commerce committed to ensuring the Kurri Kurri district retains a strong economic base.

The Aluminium industry and Steel Strapping plant employ more than 700 people.

The mining industry in the Upper Hunter and Lake Macquarie still provide employment opportunities for local people.

The development of the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ) will provide substantial employment opportunities for decades to come.

Many new fabrication and manufacturing companies are setting up operations on the Weston Industrial Estate, which is at near capacity.

New housing estates have been developed to cater for the growing population of the district.

## heritage & tourism

The Kurri Kurri district was established around coal mining in the late 1890's. The township of Kurri Kurri was gazetted in 1902, with the townships of Abermain and Weston being gazetted in the following years.

Today the townships are rich in coal mining history with ten grand hotels testament to the early wealth of the district. The hotels provide a significant link to the past.

In recent years the Kurri Kurri, Weston and Abermain Tidy Town committees along with the Coalfields Heritage Group and Richmond Main Steam and Heritage Museum have worked tirelessly to ensure the cultural heritage of the district is retained.

To preserve the heritage of the district, the community is undertaking an extensive mural project reflecting the history of the area.

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## recreation & sport

For the nature lover there are a number of beautiful picnicking and bushwalking sites in the region.

The Watagan Mountains 25 minutes south of the district offer spectacular views of the Hunter, excellent picnic spots, and for the more adventurous the Great North Walk. Other lookouts include Bimbadeen at Cessnock and Mt Sugarloaf 15 minutes east of the district.

The world famous Hunter Valley Gardens in Pokolbin offer extensive picnic and leisure activities and the largest privately owned gardens in Australia.

The community is developing a Heritage Walking trail within the town limits of the Kurri Kurri district that will eventually link up the many villages around the town and have photographic stands depicting the history of the community.

Peace Park at Weston offers picnic and playground equipment for young families.

The Kurri Kurri district boasts an ultra modern indoor Aquatic Centre unmatched in the Lower Hunter. The Kurri Kurri district is famous for the large number of international Rugby League and Soccer stars that the community has produced.

Sports such as Rugby League, Soccer, Netball, Lawn Bowls and Golf are popular in the district.



## cultural activities

A wide range of cultural experiences are available to residents and visitors alike in the Kurri Kurri district.

The Coalfields Heritage Group houses an impressive historical collection in its museum and responds to frequent research requests from both visitors and locals by using the extensive files and historical records in the Jim Comerford Library.

The district is proud of its Geordie, Welsh and British heritage with the Abermain Eisteddfod one of the best annual events in the country for up and coming artists and entertainers.

The Richmond Main Steam and Heritage Park is popular with people who have an interest in the age of steam and coal mining heritage.

The annual Weston District Art show is one of the largest regional art shows in the Hunter.

Abermain and Kurri Kurri Girl Guides conduct the Abermain and Kurri Kurri Farmers Markets each month.

Nearby cultural events include Maitland SteamFest, Morpeth Jazz, Jazz in the Vines, Opera in the Vineyards, the Lovedale Long Lunch and the annual Harvest Festival in the vineyards.



Cattle in the Hydro Aluminium buffer zone.

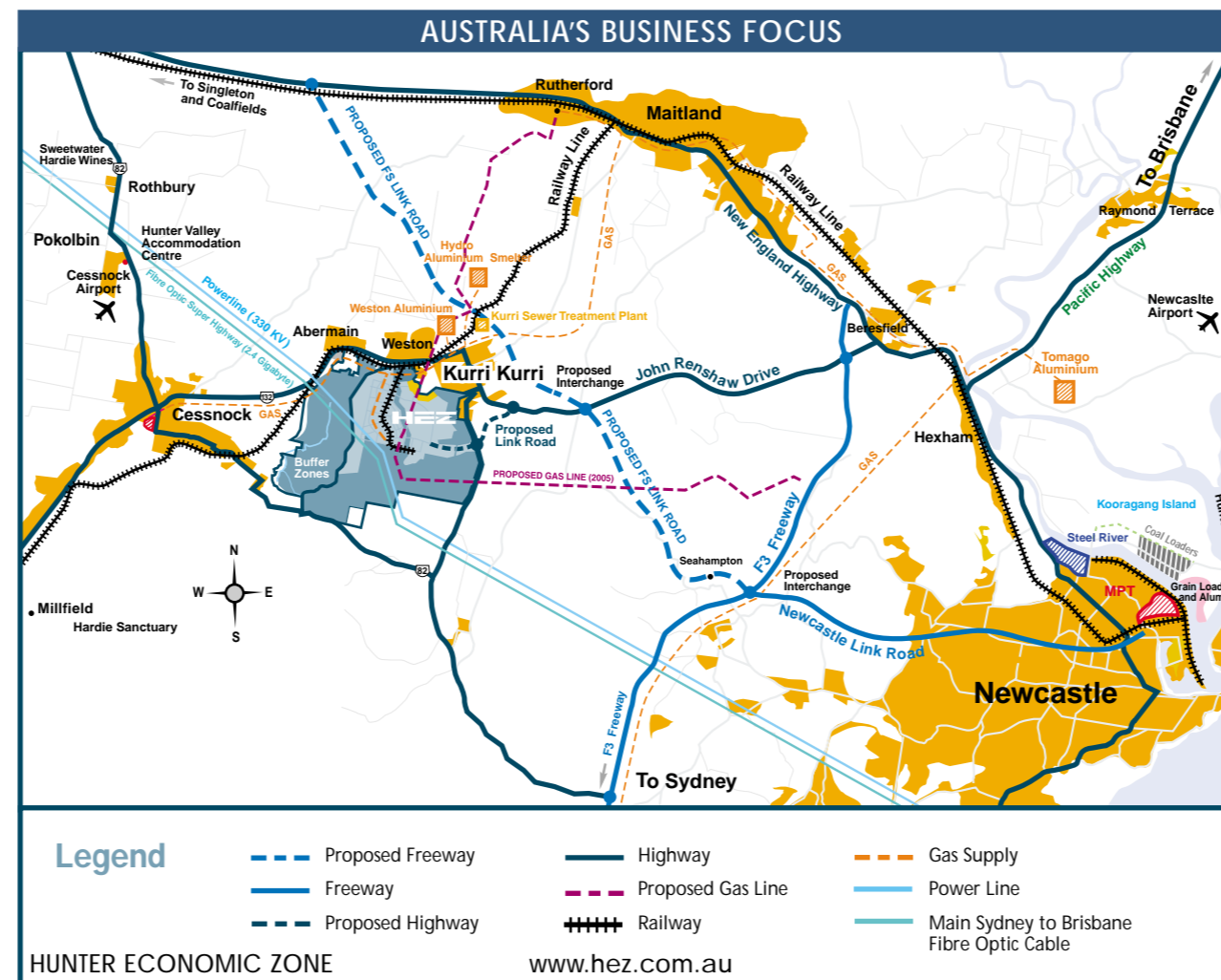
**Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri - proud supporter of the Kurri Kurri Community**

Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri has been a part of the local community since 1969.

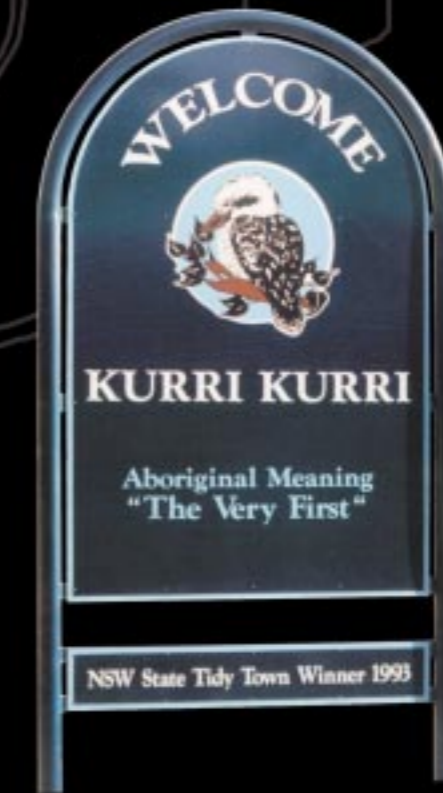
Today the aluminium plant employs around 600 local people and is at the forefront of the highly competitive international aluminium market.

We have built our reputation for environmental excellence through the management of our 2,100 hectare buffer zone which contains a 980 hectare farm known as Wangara, which accommodates cattle and a variety of wildlife.

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# Business, Tourism & Lifestyle



## Kurri Kurri & District Investment Prospectus



Kurri Kurri Chamber of Commerce and Industry is committed to improving the communities of Kurri Kurri and district through communication, promotion of our community, business opportunities and lifestyles.

**Kurri Kurri • Weston • Abermain • Neath • Heddon Greta • Cliftleigh • Pelaw Main • Stanford Merthyr**

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