



**John Barilaro**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional NSW  
Minister for Skills  
Minister for Small Business

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEWCASTLE TO BE REVITALISED WITH NEW MARITIME HUB**

The NSW Government today announced funding to renew the Fitzroy Street shipyard slipway to reactivate the Port of Newcastle and the Hunter as a major marine ship repair and maintenance precinct.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, John Barilaro, said defence company Thales Australia will begin stage one of a phased redevelopment of the site, creating an additional 70 new jobs.

“This ship repair operation for a nationally significant facility will revitalise the Hunter’s proud maritime heritage and restore the Port as a maritime hub,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The slipway upgrade will allow the Port to handle bigger ships, attract skilled tradespeople back to the region and ensure naval maintenance work stays in NSW.”

Minister for Industry, Niall Blair, said Thales Australia’s plan closely aligns with the NSW Government’s Defence and Industry Strategy to build on NSW defence capabilities.

“This will be a major boost for our defence and industry sector. Thales expects to grow local sub-contractor industries to support its maritime operations in the region,” Mr Blair said.

“The Fitzroy Street site will support ship docking, repair and maintenance work as well as engineering, deeper level repairs and maintenance.”

Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and Hunter, Scot MacDonald, said the project is a big win for the region.

“Phase one of the proposed redevelopment involves the repair of the Fitzroy Street slipway to allow for ship repairs and maintenance on vessels from 20 to 55 metres in length and up to 1,000 tonne displacement,” Mr MacDonald said.

“This will position NSW as a leader in maritime maintenance and drive economic growth in the Hunter.”

Thales Australia CEO, Chris Jenkins, said the company has a long term vision to establish a lasting ship repair and maintenance facility.

“Thales has successfully conducted ship maintenance, repairs and upgrades for Defence and commercial vessels for over 26 years at Garden Island,” Mr Jenkins said.

“Thales’s heritage in marine maintenance and sustained engagement with local businesses puts us in a unique position to reactivate the site, creating a new East Coast marine precinct at the Port of Newcastle.”

Port of Newcastle CEO, Geoff Crowe, said the project will help grow and diversify the Port and build on its rich history of ship building and repair.

“The Port of Newcastle welcomes Thales’s expanded presence which fits well with our Port Development Plan and will benefit local skills, jobs and wider economy.”

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