



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# NEW ERA BEGINS FOR HUNTER VENUES

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said legislation passed by Parliament today to establish Venues NSW will position the Hunter Region to take advantage of any new opportunities in sport and entertainment for the benefit of the local community and the State's economy.

"Having one authority replace three separate authorities will deliver more efficient services to the community and provide better value for public investment.

"Venues NSW will also be in a better position to take advantage of economies of scale to ensure each venue is more financially viable to deliver on behalf of local communities.

"Community involvement will be a key focus of Venues NSW, with a Local Venues Council being established in the Hunter region.

"The Chair of the Local Venues Council will also be appointed to the Board of Venues NSW," Mr Annesley said.

Tim Owen MP, Member for Newcastle, said "I will be making it a priority to ensure the Hunter community continues to have a voice in the running of its sporting and entertainment facilities, and that Venues NSW meets local needs.

"Local Venues Councils will provide important feedback and advice about the future use of venues, strategies relating to regional tourism and events, sport and recreation development, and participation," Mr Owen said.

Mr Annesley added, "Under the new arrangements we are seeking qualified and genuinely interested people to achieve the best possible outcomes for all three regions and NSW as a whole.

"I look forward to the important community input of the Local Venues Councils and working with the Board of Venues NSW to assist in helping make NSW number one again," Mr Annesley said.

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