



JOHN KAYE
GREENS MEMBER OF THE NSW PARLIAMENT



[HOME](#)

[CAMPAIGNS](#)

[PORTFOLIOS](#)

[PARLIAMENT](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[CONTACT](#)

NEWCASTLE HERALD 15/9/15 - TAFE WARNING: SALE WILL 'ROB REGION'

September 15, 2015 By John Kaye, Greens MLC

The full and partial sale of Hunter TAFE campuses will cost more than \$60m and rob the state government but potentially rob the region of a prosperous economic future, according to Greens MLC John Kaye.

There is no question the Hunter has taken a fairly savage blow, Mr Kaye said. For more than a century the state has provided young people, working class people and people with disadvantaged backgrounds with a ladder to climb to get employment and to get on in life. The current government is now busy breaking that ladder.

Mr Kaye said the leaked four-page cabinet document that named 27 TAFE sites across the state to be sold for a total of \$82.9 million earmarked four Hunter campuses to be fully or partially sold for \$6.47 million.

This includes the sale of the Scone campus for \$1.17 million, which will move primary industries training to the Kurrumbidgee campus.

The western side of the Murrumbidgee campus will be sold or repurposed in collaboration with Murrumbidgee Shire Council for \$1.48 million. The western side of the Belmont campus will be sold for \$2.96 million, which will require courses to be delivered either in other campuses or to a limited extent in nearby leased facilities. Vacant land at the Glenide campus will be sold for \$800,000.

disadvantaged backgrounds with a ladder to climb into employment and to get on. The Baird government is now busy breaking that ladder.

Mr Kaye said the leaked four-page cabinet document that named 27 TAFE sites across the state to be sold for a total of \$62.97million earmarked four Hunter campuses to be fully or partially sold for \$6.47million.

This includes the sale of the Scone campus for \$1.17million, which will move primary industries training to the Kurri Kurri campus.

The western side of the Muswellbrook campus will be sold or "repurposed" in collaboration with Muswellbrook Shire Council for \$1.48million. The western side of the Belmont campus will be sold for \$2.96million, which will require courses to be delivered either in other campuses or to a limited extent in nearby leased facilities. Vacant land at the Glendale campus will be sold for \$860,000.

Dr Kaye said the proposed closures would reduce the access of a whole generation of Hunter residents to education and training, particularly if they did not drive or have access to public transport to travel to another campus.

He said many of the students who attended TAFE needed the support of a face to face teacher and physical classroom and would struggle with courses being moved online.

"It's fine for people who have experience in learning and who have language, literacy and numeracy skills, but very bad for people who struggle with the use of computers and who will be isolated without access to teachers," he said.

"Many young people will have the chance of employment, the chance of building a life for themselves taken away because the Baird government wants to cut its investment in TAFE.

"The Hunter community is being robbed of its economic future and pathway to employment and quality of life in return for more than \$6million being ripped out by the government."

Dr Kaye said the Hunter faced employment challenges and needed tools to continue building the skills of its workforce. "Investment in public education produces a big return to the community and to government, and not just economically, but socially, too," he said.

The leaked document said TAFE NSW required a \$54.5million increase in capital spending this year to fund \$32million for new projects.

