



*Minister for Finance
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for the Hunter*

Lower Hunter Regional Strategy

I'm advised by the Minister for Planning:

Preparation of the Strategy commenced in mid 2004 and is now at an advanced stage.

The Strategy will assist the Government to manage ongoing population growth and infrastructure needs in the Lower Hunter.

Consultation with the private sector, environmental, social, and government organisations has been undertaken through a series of focus groups and briefing sessions.

The five Lower Hunter Councils (Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Cessnock and Maitland) have also been consulted via a Reference Group and a series of individual briefings.

Work on drafting the Strategy is nearing completion and will be reviewed by the Government in the near future, followed by further community consultation.



MICHAEL COSTA



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TCorp Guidelines

I'm advised:

The New South Wales Treasury Corporation (TCorp) is the central financing authority for the New South Wales public sector. They have a key role in managing investments and liabilities for the government, its authorities and businesses.

TCorp's investments in equities are held as part of their Hour-Glass Investment Facilities where funds are managed by external professional fund managers. The facilities are available to all NSW public authorities and are expressly referred to in the Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987.

Details of TCorp's Hour-Glass Investment Facilities are publicly available on the T-Corp web site at: www.tcorp.nsw.gov.au.

The NSW Treasury and TCorp are not directly involved in the process of deciding which shares should be purchased or sold on behalf of the government, its authorities and businesses. This function is undertaken by professional fund managers.

Each fund manager has set constraints and parameters in relation to the investments it may undertake. For example, one of the main restrictions in connection with investments in shares is the requirement to only invest in companies listed on a stock exchange. As such, only companies that satisfy stock exchange listing requirements, including compliance with legal and regulatory standards, will be eligible for investment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Costa'.

MICHAEL COSTA