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MEDIA RELEASE

## Hunter Takes Six in the Housing Hotspots

“The Hunter region has taken out six Hotspots in this year’s Housing Hotspots Report,” commented Craig Jennion, HIA Executive Director for Hunter.

The Hunter region was well represented in the housing Hotspots front according to the HIA’s latest *Population & Residential Building Hotspots* report 2019, published yesterday. The Report is aimed at finding employment growth areas targeted towards builders and tradies.\*

“Thornton-Millers Forest is again the Hunter region’s number 1 Hotspot this year with \$96.3 million in building approvals and population growth of 7.7 per cent,” explained Craig.

“In second place is Maryland – Fletcher – Minmi with \$57.1 million in building approvals and a population growth rate of 4.4 per cent. Followed by Branxton – Greta – Polkolbin with \$75.3 million in building approvals and population growth of 4.2 per cent.

“The locality that recorded the largest value of new housing approvals of any area in the Hunter was Newcastle-Cooks Hill with \$239.3 million in building approvals. This value placed it as one of only 17 locations in NSW that had in excess of \$200 million in residential building work approved in 2017/18, and the only location outside of Sydney”.

“Newcastle-Cooks Hill momentum has continued recently. In the financial year to January 2019 \$160.2 million of residential building approvals have been undertaken, an increase of 58% on the same period a year earlier. Based on 2018/19 performance to date the area is likely to remain a Hotspots in next year’s Report”.

“This Report again demonstrates the residential construction sector is underpinned by robust levels of new home building and increases in population,” concluded Craig Jennion.

\*A “Hotspot” is defined as a local area where population growth exceeds the national rate (which was 1.6 per cent in the year to June 2018) and where the value of residential building work approved is in excess of \$50 million.

### Hunter Region Building and Population Hotspots\*\*

\*\*SAs with in excess of \$50 million in residential building work approved in 2017/18 and with an annual population growth rate in excess of the national rate of 1.6%

	Statistical Area Level 2	Statistical Area Level 4	Residential Building Approved, 2017/18, (\$'000)	Annual Population Growth Rate (%)
1	Thornton - Millers Forest	Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	96,332	7.7
2	Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi	Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	57,170	4.4
3	Branxton - Greta - Pokolbin	Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	75,267	4.2
4	Warnervale - Wadalba	Central Coast	50,615	3.7
5	Newcastle - Cooks Hill	Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	239,327	2.5
6	Edgeworth - Cameron Park	Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	53,972	2.5

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