



MEDIA RELEASE

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Million dollar vote of confidence in the Hunter economy

Leading Australian engineering, construction and asset management contractor, Bilfinger Berger Services, today announced a \$1 million expansion of its business operations in the Hunter, with the funds invested in 25 new jobs, facilities and equipment.

Speaking at business breakfast briefing in Newcastle this morning, Bilfinger Berger Services Managing Director, Mark Elliott, said the company was taking a long-term view on the Hunter economy.

“While the economic outlook for 2009 may be uncertain, we believe prosperity will soon return to this region and we intend to be in a strong position to service a reinvigorated market,” Mr Elliott said.

“Our view is that coal mining, power production and population growth will continue to drive the Hunter economy, requiring rising investment in new or updated infrastructure.

“Bilfinger Berger Services’ new operation is a power and telecommunications network maintenance depot at Tomago, set up to service several contracts with EnergyAustralia and other clients in the region.

“Our company is also one of Australia’s leading power station construction contractors and we see considerable opportunity for new wind farms and gas-fired power plants in the Hunter. The modernisation of coal-fired power plants may also present opportunities for us.”

New South Wales Minister for the Hunter, Jodi McKay, addressed the breakfast briefing to welcome the new investment by Bilfinger Berger Services. Leading business and local government representatives from the region also attended the event.

With the new Tomago depot, Bilfinger Berger Services now employs more than 110 engineers, tradesmen and field crews across its Hunter operations, which include:

- Operation and maintenance services for Macquarie Generation at the Bayswater Power Station.
- The design, manufacture and installation of electrical switchgear and process automation products, predominantly for the mining industry, by the *i.power solutions* subsidiary business, based at two sites at Beresfield.
- Long-term maintenance services to the new Karuah to Bulladelah Pacific Highway upgrade.

About Bilfinger Berger Services

Bilfinger Berger Services is a specialist engineering, construction and asset management contractor, creating, operating and maintaining vital public and industrial infrastructure in Australia, New Zealand and the region. Comprising business units with operating histories of 60 years or more and employing in excess of 3,000 people, the company is a leading provider to the energy, utilities, resources, industrial, transport and social infrastructure sectors.

Bilfinger Berger Services, Boulderstone and Abigroup are subsidiaries of Bilfinger Berger Australia, the regional arm of Bilfinger Berger AG.

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