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Following today's release of the Newcastle Airport Master Plan, RDA Hunter offers a further comment regarding the Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan.

Consultations with freight professionals and analysis of demand trends indicate that "significant potential exists to increase air freight traffic" at Newcastle Airport, Williamtown. Economic development across the Hunter, with benefits flowing to the rest of NSW, will increase through links with a comprehensive international and domestic freight network.

In *2036 Newcastle Airport Vision*, released on 22 March 2018, the Airport's freight catchment zone is identified as, "the Hunter Region and Central Coast, inland NSW, and even potentially North Sydney from a road connectivity perspective".

Time critical and sensitive freight for industries such as: medical, health research and veterinary; food products including seafood and meat; perishable goods, like flowers; machinery parts, defence equipment, electronics as well as mining and safety equipment are all identified as potential areas for growth in air freight into and out of the Hunter. In addition to meeting current demand, long-haul freight capability also has the potential to stimulate growth in new or other industries.

One of the airport precinct developments in the short term is construction of a new freight terminal capable of handling up to 2,500 tonnes of freight per annum. The longer-term vision sees Newcastle Airport serving the Hunter region as a multi-modal transport interchange, which offers air, road and rail connectivity including passengers and freight.

Newcastle Airport will be conducting further research to deliver a detailed study of air freight demand and capacity. The Newcastle Airport Master Plan, *2036 Newcastle Airport Vision* is available at: <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

Yours faithfully

Trevor John  
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