



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Just three Years to Go until the 2022 Australian Deaf Games!

In three years' time, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie will welcome over 1,000 Deaf and hard of hearing people to the Hunter Valley as they host the 2022 Australian Deaf Games. Both Newcastle City and Lake Macquarie Councils will jointly host the Games from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022, coinciding with the Easter long weekend. The event will again see the two councils partnering as games hosts, with a vision to replicate the successful partnership between Albury and Wodonga Councils and their communities, in hosting the 2018 Australian Deaf Games.

Over the coming months, the Games' Organising Committee will meet to plan the games we all love and work closely with both Councils to ensure that this is the best games ever, utilising the region's excellent sporting venues and facilities that Lake Macquarie and Newcastle both have to offer.

Leonie Jackson, Chairperson of the 2022 Australian Deaf Games Organising Committee says "This Games is an exciting time for the local community and businesses of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle to come together to host the next Australian Deaf Games. Both cities share the love of sports and cultural get-togethers, which makes them the perfect locations for this wonderful event."

Lake Macquarie Mayor Kay Fraser said, "The 2022 Australian Deaf Games will no doubt be another fantastic event that will showcase the exceptional talents of competitors and the wonderful spirit of competition and friendship that these games encourage.

"Our community has a real passion for sport, and we love to welcome visitors to our beautiful part of the country. Hosting the games is a privilege and I'm sure our community will get out and support the event in 2022."

Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said both Newcastle and Lake Macquarie had strong reputations for delivering world-class sporting events, such as the 2015 AFC Asian Cup football tournament, Newcastle 500 Supercars, 2013 Special Olympics Asia Pacific Games and the 2014 International Children's Games.





"We are thrilled to join Lake Macquarie in hosting this event, which is yet another coup for Newcastle and the Hunter region," she said. "We boast a strong history of hosting international sporting events, and I've said before that we could easily host the Commonwealth Games in similar partnerships with other councils.

"Newcastle has transformed itself into a vibrant, unique and culturally rich city and, before the athletes arrive in three years, major infrastructure projects will have reinvented our coastline and city centre."

Kathryn Armfield, President, Deaf Sports Australia stated, "With three years to go, I encourage everyone from all over Australia to start planning for their attendance in the next Australian Deaf Games as an athlete, official, visitor, volunteer or interpreter. You all will be welcomed in the beautiful areas of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle to enjoy every aspect of the Games."

"We would like to thank NSW Deaf Sports, Destination NSW, Lake Macquarie City Council and Newcastle City council for their support and commitment to the Games" Ms Armfield added.

The Australian Deaf Games have been held around the country since 1964 and it is the first time the event is being hosted in Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.

For more information about the 2022 Australian Deaf Games, please contact Leonie Jackson, Chair of the Games Organising Committee at [leonie.jackson@deafsports.org.au](mailto:leonie.jackson@deafsports.org.au)