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LABOR'S AGENDA FOR NEW MANUFACTURING JOBS IN NEWCASTLE

Almost 2,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in the Newcastle region since John Howard came to power.

Manufacturing has always been the backbone of our regional economy. Newcastle simply can't afford another 3 years of neglect from a Howard government that has no policy or vision for the future of manufacturing.

The industry has faced challenges as manufacturing shifts towards smaller companies producing hi-tech products. But unlike the Howard government, Labor believes that manufacturing plays a critical role in maintaining a modern prosperous economy.

Labor has committed to a new agenda for Australian manufacturers and their employees – an agenda that will boost enterprise, exports, growth and jobs.

Labor has committed to:

- A \$25 million Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing.
- An Australian Manufacturing Council.
- A 10-year National Manufacturing Strategy to revitalise manufacturing.
- An Industry and Manufacturing Minister 100% committed to Australian manufacturing industries.
- A restructured and revived Industry Department with a renewed focus on manufacturing.
- A commitment to make AUSTRADE and the Australian Trade Commission work harder to promote Australian manufacturing in our region, deeper engagement with countries such as China and the world.
- New investments in training, especially through TAFE places and apprenticeships to overcome skills shortages in manufacturing.

By investing in the drivers of productivity: education, training, research and development, and by giving the manufacturing sector strong representation in government, Labor will assist local manufacturers to compete in a competitive international marketplace and create high-skill, high wage jobs for the people of Newcastle.

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