

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Friday 1 May, 2009

NSW Chief Scientist announced patron for the Hunter Central Coast Innovation Festival

Minister for Science and Medical Research and Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay will today announce that NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer Professor Mary O’Kane will be the patron for the Hunter Central Coast Innovation Festival

“The Hunter Central Coast Innovation Festival presents a wonderful opportunity to support and promote innovation in our region and I am delighted to have Professor Mary O’Kane as patron for the 2009 festival,” Ms McKay said.

“The NSW Government is a strong supporter of innovation and sees it as a critical factor to driving our competitiveness and economic productivity into the future.

“Professor O’Kane is charged with the responsibility of helping stimulate innovation across NSW. She works across all scientific disciplines and provides the NSW Government with important advice and analysis on important issues like public health, climate change and education,” Ms McKay said.

The Hunter Central Coast Innovation Festival will run for two weeks from Friday 8th May to Friday 22 May.

The festival will feature a program of events throughout the Hunter and Central Coast that will show off the region's special talents for innovation in areas such as Science and Mining; Health and Wellness; Education; Energy; Industry and Business; Environment; and Diversity.

Media opportunity

What: NSW Chief Scientist Professor Mary O’Kane announced as patron to the Hunter Central Coast Innovation Festival

When: 1.30 pm today

Where: Hunter Economic Development Corporation - Level 3, 251 Wharf Rd, Newcastle

Who: Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay, Newcastle Lord Mayor and Chair of HEDC Cr John Tate, Lorraine Flynn, CEO, HEDC and NSW Chief Scientist Professor Mary O’Kane.

Media contact: Hayley Thomas 0427 299 446