



PAUL BROAD

Time to harness strength

By NEIL GOFFET

HUNTER Development Corporation (HDC) chairman Paul Broad believes the Hunter economy has never been stronger and it is time to take advantage of this position.

Mr Broad told a Property Council of Australia function yesterday that Australia's economy was in an excellent position compared with other parts of the world and the Hunter was playing an important role.

The mining sector and related industries were the main reasons but the increase in private investment in the Hunter was a key contributor to confidence.

"When you look at Australia, and the Hunter in particular, you realise that this is not only the lucky country but the lucky region we live in," he said.

Mr Broad said he was encouraged by the number of investors putting money into the city, including The GPT Group, Westrac through its industrial park at Tomago, and Buldev at the old BHP site.

"We are in a massive development process from the private sector," he said.

"What we need now is the governments to join in and that's what the HDC was set up for."

Mr Broad said infrastructure was essential, but "we must make what we in the Hunter need and not what Sydney people force upon us."