



Nambucca Vehicle Body Manufacturing Cluster

The Nambucca Shire is set to become the recognised centre of excellence for vehicle body manufacturing in Australia

Cluster Background

Vehicle Body Manufacturing includes activities such as the production of buses, coaches, truck bodies, boats, motorhomes and trailers. Over the past decade a cluster of vehicle body manufacturers have emerged in the Nambucca Shire on the NSW North Coast. Nambucca Vehicle Body Manufacturing Cluster (NVBMC) group companies employ 250 people directly in core activities, a significant increase over the 6 people employed in 1995.

In 2009, cluster group companies generated 98 per cent of their combined \$30 million income from outside the region, a significant increase from \$16.7 million in 2005. The vehicle body manufacturing sector is now a key driver of the Nambucca Shire economy. This growth is expected to continue with employment in the cluster projected to increase to at least 500 people by 2015.

Cluster Development Strategies

- Develop a network of cluster group companies, suppliers and support agencies that are committed to working collaboratively to address key industry impediments and issues
- Build a pool of highly skilled labour in the region that supports the continued growth of the cluster through local delivery of the National Bus, Truck and Trailer Industry Training Package and advanced welding techniques.
- Develop a culture of continuous improvement, innovation and e-business export strategies amongst cluster group companies with a focus on World Class Manufacturing (WCM)
- Build on the improved infrastructure locally by establishing a Centre for Manufacturing Excellence that focuses on best practise in design, skills training, R & D, CAD/CAM, MRPII and supply chain management issues
- Attract new investment and companies to the cluster
- Identify opportunities for new suppliers to fill potential supply chain gaps
- Ensure the provision of adequate infrastructure to support the continued growth of the cluster
- Nambucca Vehicle Body Cluster Plan

Cluster Development Plan

The 2010 Nambucca Vehicle Body Manufacturing Cluster Development Plan is available as a downloadable PDF at www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au





Nambucca Vehicle Body Manufacturing Cluster

The Nambucca Vehicle Body Manufacturing Clusters' success has been driven by the expansion of several highly progressive companies within the group

Kara Kar Trailers

In 2001 Kara Kar Trailers, a name synonymous with Horse Floats in Australia, relocated and consolidated its production activities to Nambucca Heads.

Horse Float and Trailer builders since 1962, Kara Kar are recognised as experts in their field.

Through years of experience Kara Kar have proven that to manufacture the best quality product on the market, only the finest materials must be used. Together with this, superior engineering and a state-of-the-art assembly plant the final result is the finest quality trailer available.

Aerodynamically designed to ensure stability and ease of towing, these trailers are designed for durable performance and structural integrity with the minimum of maintenance.

Contact: Grant English

Phone (02) 6568 8444

Email: admin@karakar.com.au



BusFurb

Family owned and operated, BusFurb has earned a name for itself for producing high quality Bus and Coach refurbishments.

This hands-on approach company has accumulated a wealth of knowledge within the industry.

Specialising in Bus, Coach, Motorhome and Camper refurbishment, general repairs and accident damage the level of workmanship and commitment to producing the best possible result is evident through ongoing contracts.

- Refurbishment
- Repairs and Accident damage
- Painting

Contact: Kerry Ward

Phone (02) 6568 1844

Email: kerry@busfurb.net.au



Other Cluster Companies

- Matax Trailers - Macksville
- Sable Engineering - Macksville

VIPER Aluminium Boats

This high quality custom boat manufacturer based in Nambucca Heads is owned and run by master boat builder Phillip Anderson who brings over 20 years of experience to VIPER Boats.

From 3 metre 'tinnies' to 10 metre commercial fishing craft, VIPER has a boat to suit most applications.

Every VIPER Aluminium Boat is meticulously made by hand to suit the discerning and fastidious boat buyer. With a wide range of Naval Architect designed standard hulls to choose from customers can create their own variations to suit a particular need or customise an existing aluminium boat. Quality and value make VIPER Aluminium Boats a leader in their class.

Contact:

Phil Anderson, Managing Director: 0405-710-846

Glenn Bishop, Marketing Manager: 0418-868-580

Email: viperaluminiumboats@bigpond.com

Express Coach Builders

Established in 1995, Express Coach Builders are leaders in the bus and coach industry, producing custom made buses, coaches and specialty vehicles.

Using modern equipment and innovative techniques, Express Coach Builders pride themselves on producing consistently high quality vehicles built to endure the toughest conditions.

Recipient of many industry awards, Express boast an impressive manufacturing plant streamlined to assist the multitude of steps in the manufacturing process.

Express Coach Builders commitment is to achieve the best result on time and within budget.

- Buses and Coaches
- Motorhomes and Special Vehicles

Contact: Paul Hoffman

Phone (02) 6568 4000

Email: info@expresscoachbuilders.com

Midcoast Trucks

Midcoast Trucks, operating since 1991 established their specialised truck body fabrication facility at Macksville in 2001.

As one of Australia's top Isuzu Dealers and a leading used truck outlet, Midcoast Trucks are well supported by clients including Government departments because of their ability to build new, stretch, refurbish and alter bodies for purpose built applications.

This flexibility for customising heavy vehicles has proven a great asset for Midcoast.

- New Truck Sales
- Truck Body Fabrication, Alterations and Repairs
- Heavy Vehicle Servicing

Contact: Robert Keough

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Cluster Support Agencies

- Industry & Investment NSW, State & Regional Development and Tourism
- Nambucca Shire Council
- TAFE NSW - North Coast Institute
- Automotive Training Australia
- Manufacture Coffs Coast Network
- Manufacture Nambucca Industry Network

Cluster Contacts

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