

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**BHP's LOCAL BUYING FOUNDATION INVESTS IN SINGLETON COMMUNITY TRAINING KITCHEN**

When it comes to improving the training and employment outcomes of the Singleton community, the Local Buying Foundation recognises this starts with the local youth.

That's why the Local Buying Foundation has partnered with Singleton Business Chamber, Singleton Shire Council and Singleton High School with funding of \$15,000 to assist with the vital development of the Singleton Community Training Kitchen.

The funding will allow Vocational Education and Training (VET) Hospitality students at Singleton High School to complete their required practical hours to complete their course. The café, to be located at Singleton Civic Centre, will also provide catering for community events and delivering training programs for the community.

Singleton Business Chamber President Sue Gilroy said the project was a great opportunity for young people of the Singleton community.

"These students are required to complete 70 hours each over the course of their training which is often difficult for them to complete within the Singleton Shire," Ms Gilroy said.

Local Buying Foundation funding will be used for the equipment required for the students, such as utensils and dry and cool room shelving, appropriate uniforms and workspaces.

Foundation Chairperson Deirdra Tindale said the funding meant an important resource in the Singleton community could be maintained and Singleton High School students have a vital source of training, which could ultimately improve their employment outcomes.

Ms Tindale said at the heart of the Foundation's values was a commitment to strengthening the capacity and capabilities of small to medium businesses in the regions it operated – namely, the Mt Arthur Coal footprint through the shires of Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter and Singleton.

"The Foundation supports funding for the implementation of initiatives which build the capacity and capability of businesses," Ms Tindale said.

"Supporting students as they prepare for their future careers is a great investment in their individual capability as well as the skills they will offer to future employers," she said.

Ms Tindale said the Local Buying Foundation's capacity to resource projects and sponsor events was only possible due to the success of the Local Buying Program, which was established in New South Wales in

2016. It was initiated by BHP as a sustainable local procurement program, to help small to medium businesses more easily and directly connect with the Mt Arthur Coal operation.

The Local Buying Foundation is an initiative of BHP's Local Buying Program, which is delivered in partnership with C-Res.

The Local Buying Program is an innovative approach to increasing the local supply chain effectiveness and supporting regional economic development. It also reflects BHP's genuine desire to demonstrate a long-term commitment to the social and economic well-being of the local communities in which it operates and the broader shires.

Singleton Business Chamber President Sue Gilroy welcomed the funding from the Local Buying Foundation.

"We are very excited that Singleton Business Chamber is continuing to work in partnership with the Local Buying Foundation to deliver training opportunities for students to improve their employment pathways," Ms Gilroy said.

**For more information:** please visit [www.localbuyingfoundation.com.au](http://www.localbuyingfoundation.com.au)

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Image LEFT: Sue Gilroy (Singleton Business Chamber), Tracey Holloway (Singleton High School), Jo Scott (Singleton High School), Deirdra Tindale (BHP Local Buying Foundation), Tony Chadwick (Singleton Shire Council) & Catherine Scott (Singleton Shire Council)