



## APPROXIMATE DISTANCE TO DEFENCE LOCATIONS

East Maitland/Ashtonfield to Williamtown Base:	30 kms
Thornton to Williamtown Base:	30 kms
Raymond Terrace to Williamtown Base:	16 kms
Medowie to Williamtown Base:	9 kms
Nelson Bay/Corlette to Williamtown Base:	35 kms
Newcastle city area to Williamtown Base:	28 kms
Adamstown to Williamtown Base:	27 kms

The Williamtown posting location encompasses a variety of lifestyle options; beaches (Newcastle and Nelson Bay), city life (Newcastle), rural areas (Raymond Terrace and Maitland regions), small communities (Medowie) and regional townships (Singleton).

The Singleton posting location encompasses the township of Singleton. Singleton is a semi-rural township that has grown due to mining, wine-related industries and the Defence presence.

### Finding a property

Finding a rental property can be quite a competitive process, particularly in January and February due to the influx of Defence members posting into the region and the commencement of the university year.

Affordable rental properties are available throughout the posting localities, though you may need to broaden your search area and property criteria to locate a rental property during times of heavy rental demand.

You will usually need to inspect a property before your tenancy application can be accepted. This means that securing a property prior to your arrival into location will be quite unlikely.

Real estate agents usually only advertise properties a few weeks before they become vacant. Inspections are often 'open house' in the afternoons on week days.

Rental prices will vary dramatically from suburb to suburb. If you choose to live near the beaches around Merewether and the cafes of Darby Street in Newcastle, you will pay significantly more for this lifestyle choice.

**NOTE** - Ceiling increases to cover any rent above the ceiling entitlement is not guaranteed, and must meet the requirements as set out in the Defence Pay and Conditions Manual (**PACMAN**). You should check your eligibility before submitting a request.

If posted to Singleton, you must seek rental properties within the township. If you wish to live elsewhere, you will need approval from your unit Commanding Officer/Officer in Command to live outside the locality.

The following regions are all considered within the Williamtown posting location for Defence housing:

**East Maitland/Ashtonfield:** Just 20 minutes from Newcastle city and 30 minutes from the Pokolbin region, this area is home to a stunning and vibrant wine growing community. This area has major infrastructure with large shopping centres, services (TAFE College at nearby Metford) and public transport (train line and buses) available.

**Thornton:** With ready access to the F3 and the main road to Newcastle nearby, this satellite suburb tends to offer large homes on reasonable sized blocks. Close to all the services of East Maitland but also just a short distance from Newcastle. Thornton also has its own shopping centre, schools, day care centre and train station.

**Raymond Terrace:** The major appeal of Raymond Terrace is its close proximity to Williamtown as well as the wide range of services and activities on offer. Two moderately-sized shopping centres, an active main street with local shops and cafes, sporting centres and gymnasium, schools, medical centres and child care centres are all features of this area. Raymond Terrace is situated beside the Hunter and Williams Rivers which provide a range of water-based activities from fishing to skiing.

**Medowie:** The closest housing community to RAAF Base Williamtown. A quiet location with local shopping centre, medical centre, schools and indoor sports centre.

**Newcastle:** Australia's largest regional city offers a diverse range of entertainment and lifestyle options. Swimming and surfing beaches, modern cafes and fine dining restaurants, theatres, galleries, concert venues, sporting stadiums, boutiques, huge shopping complexes, private and public hospitals and universities.

**Note:** Check with the regional DHA office as not all parts of this region are available for Rent Allowance.



MAP

A map of the Hunter region can be found on the **Defence Housing Australia (DHA) website** and **Google Maps**

**Nelson Bay Area:** Port Stephens, Corlette, Salamander Bay, Anna Bay. This seaside community has a range of services; a large shopping complex, good quality sporting facilities, delightful cafes and restaurants, beautiful beaches, a yacht club and access to bays and the ocean for boating and water activities.

### Townhouses and units

Townhouses and units are subject to Body Corporate rules. Please ask your landlord or real estate agent for details. The ability to keep pets in townhouses is limited and you should check with the landlord or real estate agent in regards to this.

### House hunting trips

House hunting trips are subject to approval. If you wish to apply for a house hunting trip please refer to **PACMAN** for your entitlements or alternatively, contact the the DHA on **139 DHA (139 342)**.

### Utilities

You will need to arrange your own utilities such as electricity, gas, pay TV, internet services or telephone. You should contact your local service providers, or you may like to take advantage of the free **Fast Connect** service, where they will arrange for the disconnection and reconnection of utilities on your behalf – you can contact them on **1300 661 464** (local call cost) or access the service via the **DHA** website.

### Public transport

A rail network operates from Singleton to Newcastle. For full information on network routes and timetables visit the **CityRail** website and go to the Hunter line.

Various bus lines operate throughout the region. **The Newcastle Buses** website has information on Newcastle buses and ferries, while **Hunter Valley Buses** cover the regional areas.

### Schools

The Williamstown posting location has a wide range of schooling options including public and private schools, selective schools, Grammar schools, TAFEs and universities.

It is important that you decide on your housing arrangements before finalising schools. Defence does not regard a choice of school as grounds to limit your search for a property.

For comprehensive information on schooling in NSW visit the **Department of Education** website.

The following websites are good sources of information on private schools in NSW:

> [Private Schools Guide](#)

> [Association of Independent Schools of NSW](#)

> [Catholic Education Commission NSW](#)

### Hospitals

Newcastle has both public and private hospitals. The largest public hospital is the **John Hunter** and the **Mater** is the largest private hospital in the region.

Maitland also has a public and private hospital.

Visit the **Hunter New England Area Health Service** website for information on health care services in this region.

### Child care

There are a variety of options for child care in the Hunter region. Some useful contacts are:

> [Family Day Care Australia](#) **1800 621 218**

> [ABC Learning Centres](#) **1800 222 543**

> Child Care Access Hotline **1800 670 305**

> [Department of Defence Child Care Centres](#)

> [Australian Child Care Index](#)

> [Newcastle City Council](#) **(02) 4974 2000**

> [KU Children's Services](#)

### Sport

There is an extensive range of sporting activities within the region.

Newcastle has a strong tradition for supporting their sporting teams such as the Knights (rugby league) and the Jets (soccer). Newcastle beaches host several top-level surfing tournaments each year, while Broadmeadow Racecourse is the scene of regular gala race days.

Cycling, cricket, basketball, baseball, sailing, swimming, netball and equestrian sports are all popular sports in the region.

The Newcastle Entertainment Centre hosts international artists, events and concerts.

Energy Australia Stadium, the home of the Newcastle Knights, is an international class venue that hosts a variety of sporting events.

The Civic Theatre, located in the city centre, hosts a range of musicals, dance, theatre, concerts and other events. The theatre is housed in a historic restored building.

### Where can I find more information?

> [Visit Newcastle](#)

> [Newcastle City Council](#)

> [Hunter Valley Wine Country](#)

> [Maitland City Council](#)

> [Port Stephens Council](#)

> [Lake Macquarie City Council](#)

> [Cessnock City Council](#)

> [Singleton Shire Council](#)

### Contact DHA

> DHA (139 DHA) **139 342**

> Hunter Region Office Fax **(02) 6222 2255**

> [www.dha.gov.au](http://www.dha.gov.au)



**Defence Housing**  
**AUSTRALIA**