

Hunter Joint Organisation



Annual Performance Report

May 2018 to 30 June 2019

Contents

Hunter JO Strategic Regional Priorities	3
2018-19 Performance Highlights	4
Financial Statements 2018-19	10
Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income	10
Statement of Financial Position	11
Statement of Changes in Equity.....	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Statutory Information	14
Government Information Public Access (GIPA)	14
Overseas Travel.....	14
Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan.....	14
Remuneration Executive Officer	14

Hunter JO Strategic Regional Priorities

As outlined in the organisation's Strategic Plan 2018-21, the Hunter JO identified six strategic regional priorities through which to meet the three principal functions set out in the *Local Government Act* for joint organisations.

These six strategic regional priorities are as follows;

1. Our communities stay inclusive, proud and safe and celebrate diversity
2. Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently
3. Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading regional economy
4. Our people and products move across the region easily in integrated and accessible transport networks
5. Our educational facilities support and encourage our young people and foster lifelong learning and encourage our young people
6. Our people have access to the full range of health care fostering active and healthy communities

The delivery of these strategic regional priorities within the first year of the Strategic Plan, in collaboration with various partners, is detailed below.

2018-19 Performance Highlights

Some of the highlights of what the Hunter JO has achieved since its inception as a Joint Organisation in June 2018 can be found below. These correlate directly to the above priority action areas, and are part of the organization tracking its performance against its Strategic Plan.

Strategic Regional Priority	Activity & Description	Progress During 2018-19
Our communities stay inclusive, proud and safe and celebrate diversity	Develop an engaging online presence which tells the story of the diverse places and people which make up the Hunter region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hunter JO website currently under development, with updated hunterjo.com.au URL. This website will incorporate news and media of projects underway that the Hunter JO are leading and/or involved in. Website is due to launch in early 2020 • The Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Web Portal is currently also under development, in collaboration with Regional NSW (State Government), to be completed in February 2020, and to be hosted from the Hunter JO Website
	Continue to work together to deliver the programs to increase community resilience and preparedness for natural disasters through the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community disaster vulnerability mapping project (due for completion March 2020). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring, integrating and analysing spatial datasets (demographics, infrastructure and natural hazard characteristics) to identify relative community vulnerability to a range of natural hazards at a local community (Statistical Area) scale across the region. Project outputs will be of benefit to a variety of Council functions including Emergency Management, Land Use Planning, Community Engagement / Communications, Community Development / Social Planning and GIS / Spatial Data Management. 2. Disaster Communications Project (due for completion April 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Disaster Communications Framework and template resources to assist Councils communicate and engage with their local communities around disaster preparedness, response and recovery. • Regional capacity building workshop delivered 3rd December 2019 3. Regional Disaster Resilience Support Program (to commence February 2010). Advocacy by the Hunter JO to the NSW Minister for Emergency Services has contributed to the Hunter being one of three JO's to pilot establishment of a Regional Disaster Support Officer, to be employed by the NSW Office of Emergency Management and based in the JO. The focus of the role will include: Increasing council capability to prepare, respond to and recover from disasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving collaboration between local councils and agencies • Strengthening Council local emergency management plans • Establishing local recovery plans • Identifying priority systems, strategies and investments (within and across Councils) to mitigate risks • Integrating climate change adaption strategies into emergency management systems • Establishing regional networks focussed on building Council and community resilience 4. Six Steps to Resilience Project (completion December 2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an "All Hazards" Resource Kit to support Community Service Organisations identify and access a suite of existing information materials for engaging and building disaster resilience within the staff, customers and clients. • Delivery of regional "Preparing Community Organisations for Extreme Events" workshop (22nd August 2019)) to support Community Service Organisations commence Business Continuity Planning for their organisations.

		<p>5. Convened two regional workshops to facilitate input of HJO member Councils to DPIE study “Hydraulic and cost benefit assessment of the impact of climate change on the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme”</p>
<p>Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently</p>	<p>Continue to work together to deliver the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy</p>	<p>Environmental Resilience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Represented member Councils on Steering Committee for the ‘Enabling Regional Adaptation Pathways’ Project being implemented by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, to identify adaptation pathways to build resilience to climate extremes and minimise climate change impacts across the Hunter & Central Coast. 2. Regional Contaminated Land Capacity Building Program (commenced August 2019). Three-year program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing technical and project specific support to Councils around identification and management of contaminated land • Support Councils to develop and maintain a local Contaminated Land Information System • Assist Councils embed tools and resources into corporate systems that supports their role as the Regulatory Authority • Support Councils to identify, assess and prioritise management of Contamination on Council-owned Land • Support councils transition to their new role as regulator of the Underground Petroleum Storage System (UPSS) Regulation • Support Councils to remain aware of and develop capacity for the management of emerging contaminants 3. Development of regional submissions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Regulation 2019 and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement (June 2019) • Guideline Review – Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Land (October 2019) <p>Natural Systems</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Government Biodiversity Reforms Support Program. Regional Support Officer (employed by HJO to provide support to Council to transition to the NSW Biodiversity Reforms through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a Regional Helpdesk service to support Councils navigate the new planning pathways and requirements • Facilitating interagency collaboration and communication on a range of issues relating to implementation of the reforms • Design and delivery of training to all HJO member Councils • Design and delivery of regional information and capacity building forums (NB position currently vacant, further delivery subject to extension) 2. Legal Review of Draft Model Vegetation Management DCP (complete). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HJO allocated \$10,000 to Lake Macquarie City Council to engage the Environmental Defenders Office to undertake a legal review of draft Model Vegetation Management DCP provisions, developed by a Local Government NSW (LGNSW) BioReforms Working group (including representatives from Port Stephen, Lake Macquarie and MidCoast Councils). 3. Developed regional submission on Draft Greater Newcastle Biodiversity Scoping Study (June 2019) 4. Regional Flying Fox “Little Aussie Bat” Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and production of a suite of community education resources to support Councils engage local communities consistently and effectively on Flying Fox management issues

5. Development of regional submission on Review of the NSW Government Flying-fox Camp Management Plan Template 2016
6. Integrating Roadside Environmental Assets into Council's Asset Management Systems (complete). A collaboration between Hunter JO, LGNSW, Port Stephens and Muswellbrook Councils to support Councils integrate natural assets and values into their corporate asset management systems and plans.
 - Delivery of two regional forums (all Councils) delivered May and June 2019 focusing on "Frameworks for Integrating Natural Assets into Asset Management Plans" and "Natural Assets Valuation"
 - Development of a comprehensive spatial data management and analysis tool for identifying priority locations and issues at which to target roadside environmental assessment and conservation measures
 - A policy template for facilitating corporate wide support and commitment to roadside environmental management by local Councils
 - Standard Operating Procedures for facilitating consistent and practical delivery of environmental assessment and conservation initiatives such as the Regional Roadside Environment Marker Scheme
 - Template Asset Management Plans and Case Studies to directly assist Councils integrate roadside "natural assets" into corporate asset management frameworks and systems – a core requirement if roadside environmental assets are to be effectively valued and incorporated within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Frameworks of Councils.
7. Convened regional council & agency workshop "Pest Animal Management in the Hunter Region: Achieving outcomes through shared responsibility" to explore opportunities for improved collaboration across organisations in the management of pest animals.
8. Hunter River Reserve Rehabilitation Project (complete)
 - In collaboration with Cessnock City Council, HJO managed site restoration works and community engagement activities at the Hunter River Reserve, Greta, which contains one of the last remaining stands of intact native vegetation along the Lower Hunter River - including the endangered Lower Hunter Valley Dry Rainforest, Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark forest, and Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest.

Resource Recovery

1. Ongoing Delivery of Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy comprising:
 - Ongoing coordination and facilitation of meetings of the Regional Waste Managers Network
 - Baseline survey of community waste behaviours (i.e. how are households managing their waste and what matters most to communities when it comes to the waste cycle),
 - Design and delivery of the Regional Waste Education Campaign "Small Acts Big Change"
 - Regional Litter Governance Project
 - Recreational Parks and Sports Field Litter Reduction Project
 - Design and delivery of inaugural Cut! Waste Short Film Festival as part of the Real Film Festival
 - Delivery of free / subsidised training to Councils including:
 - Frontline Complaint Handling
 - Behavioural Insights workshop
2. Development of regional submissions on
 - Draft NSW Asbestos Waste Strategy 2018-22
 - NSW 20-year Waste Strategy (September 2019)

	<p>Establish a Coastal Resilience Sub Committee, made up of representatives from relevant Hunter JO councils, to increase collaboration in planning for climate change</p>	<p>Coastal Resilience Technical Committee established in October 2019. The Committee is a collaborative initiative comprising representatives from MidCoast, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Maitland, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Councils, Hunter Joint Organisation and representatives from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The Committee’s focus includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote collaboration between Agencies and Councils to address common issues and needs relating to components of the NSW Coastal Management Framework, and on broader initiatives to facilitate adaptation to a range of coastal management issues arising from climate change • Provide the opportunity to share experiences across the region; • Work together to integrate coastal management in broader council land use and corporate (IP&R) planning processes. • Advise the Department on regional themes and topics for future forums, workshops, presentations and other relevant communications on regional coastal management planning and issues.
	<p>Work together to find an effective recycling solution for the region</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Hunter JO Circular Economy Working Group was established in July 2018, and is continuing to oversee delivery of regional initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE Ecosystem Mapping (completion due February 2020) • Materials Flow Analysis (completion due February 2020) • Procurement • Regional Collaboration Program (regional organics and recyclables) 2. Participating in and contributing to regional working group (being led by LMCC) to investigate preferred options for development of a new regional materials recovery facility 3. HJO represented on NSW Energy & Resources Knowledge Hub, Resources NSW Steering Committee Meeting 4. HJO represented on NSW Circular Economy Innovation Network (convened by NSW Office of Chief Scientist and Engineer) 5. Community Recycling Centres – establishment of a regionally coordinated approach to promoting community awareness of Community Recycling Centres (CRC’s) across the region. 6. Development of regional submission on NSW Government Draft Circular Economy Policy and Discussion Paper
<p>Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading smart regional economy</p>	<p>Establish an Economic Sustainability Sub Committee, made up of representatives from member councils, to coordinate the economic development activity of the JO and report to the Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hunter JO Regional Economic Transition Standing Committee was established in July 2019 to address the issue of economic transition in the Hunter. Since then a Working Group has been established to explore the possibility of establishing a Foundation for Economic Transition in the Hunter, to better partner with industry, academia, and other state/federal government partners to lead the transition in the Hunter. A project plan for the foundation establishment has been approved and stakeholder engagement on the role and function of the foundation has commenced. • A submission on the Foundation for Economic Transition was made to the Senate Select Committee into Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas, and a presentation provides at the senate hearing of this committee on 5 November 2019 • A submission on the Foundation for Economic Transition was also made to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment & Planning on Sustainability of Energy Supply and Resources in NSW
	<p>Work with the Hunter Research Foundation, University of Newcastle and other research partners to gather and analyse economic data and</p>	<p>Hunter JO Regional Destination Management Working Group established with council officers from member councils. Meeting held with nominated council officers to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Next steps included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HJO to provide 2018 report on Regional Events Strategy to attendees

	develop a regional attraction plan based on regional strengths in research, education, transport and logistics, aerospace, agribusiness and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HJO to develop a succinct charter to frame up future discussions for this group in this forum, to circulate to the group for exploration
	Deepen relationships with the Department of Planning and Environment and the Hunter Development Corporation and gain a commitment to a formal JO role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 and Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036. Be an effective and outcome oriented committee member	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Hunter JO Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee established by local government as a key forum for all stakeholders to meet and discuss the metropolitan plan. Advocacy on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan between local and state government is currently underway to establish commitment to sustainable governance and collaboration on the actual implementation of the plan as a program of work by multiple stakeholders (state and local government, and industry). Delivered Regional Workshop – Population Scenario Planning (15th November 2019). Hunter JO identified as a vehicle to continue to progress this work and currently exploring process and capacity to deliver within a timeframe to inform next regional planning process. Local Strategic Planning Statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated delivery of LSPS training delivered to Mayors, Councillors and GM's Mapping of HJO Strategic Plan (Aspire Act Achieve) against GNMP and HRP strategies to identify alignment and potential areas in which the JO can provide regional level support to the delivery of Council LSPS's Regional LSPS planning workshop (16th December 2019)
	Work with the Hunter Regional Leadership Executive to deliver the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project Action Plan, monitor its success and review as needed	The Hunter JO has been an active member of the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project, with the majority of actions within the Action Plan currently on track for delivery. This Project also helps to progress key priorities identified in the Hunter JO Strategy Plan 2018-21.
	Collaborate to ensure Newcastle and the Hunter realise our potential as a smart region and innovation ecosystem, driving jobs and investment whilst ensuring technology improves liveability and sustainability for our region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Smart Region workshops have been run with council officers from member councils, focusing on what it means to be a smart region, key elements of a smart region, and how the Hunter can focus on these as a priority across the region The Hunter JO was involved in and presented at the Smaller & Smarter Cities International Symposium in October 2019, exploring the themes of smart region, and the future of the Hunter region. The Hunter JO ran a workshop looking at the future population of the Hunter in November 2019, with representatives from member councils. Two further workshops are planned for early 2020, as well as the development of a Population Roadmap for the region.
	Work with Destination NSW, Newcastle Airport and other partners to more strongly promote the Hunter as a multifaceted visitor destination. Develop a regional destination management plan	Regional NSW (the old regional division of DPC and now part of the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment) and Destination Sydney Surrounds North are contributing \$30k each towards the engagement of a co-ordination role for key regional stakeholders, including local government, for the upcoming seasons. The HJO is participating by holding the contract for the role and the Port Authority of NSW is participating by hosting the individual who will perform the role in their office. Sarah Foster has commenced in the role of Cruise Newcastle Coordinator – Gateway to the Hunter for the 2019-20 cruise season

	<p>Work with the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities to undertake more detailed exploration of the opportunities created by a City Deal, as well as the pre-conditions and process to develop a City Deal in the Hunter</p>	<p>The Hunter JO has consulted with Ministers at both a Commonwealth and State level to explore the opportunity for a City and Regional Deal for the Hunter. This has included consultation at a Board and at a CEO level. A draft MoU was provided to the Deputy Premier in 2018 for discussion, and consultation and correspondence has continued.</p>
<p>Our people and products move across the region easily on integrated and accessible transport networks</p>	<p>Engage at a senior level with key transport stakeholders including Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Authority, Newcastle Airport, Port of Newcastle and Keolis Downer to better understand their forward planning for the region</p>	<p>The Hunter JO has consulted and partnered with the Port of Newcastle, Port Authority of NSW, City of Newcastle, and other stakeholders on the Cruise Newcastle initiative, to begin forward planning on the future of cruise in the region, while also establishing and solidifying these key stakeholder relationships. Consultation has also taken place with the Newcastle Airport to look at opportunities for partnership for the future of the region.</p>
<p>Our educational facilities support and encourage our young people and foster life-long learning</p>	<p>Engage at a senior level with key education stakeholders including the University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW and School Infrastructure NSW to better understand their forward planning for the region</p>	<p>The Hunter JO has engaged with the University of Newcastle, Hunter Region Commonwealth Employment Facilitator, and with the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Working Group to discuss training and employment in the region, as part of planning for the transition and closure of Liddell and Bayswater Power Stations.</p>
<p>Our people have access to the full range of health care fostering active and health communities</p>	<p>Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare a Hunter JO agreed priority list of improvements to health services and facilities which will make the greatest difference to communities across the region</p>	<p>Hunter JO has engaged initially with Compass Housing, with the Board receiving a presentation from Compass Housing on the Big Ideas Homelessness Network. The Hunter JO are also an active member of the RLE Human Services Sub-Committee with key stakeholders in the region, to help develop a list of priority actions for the Hunter JO.</p>

Financial Statements 2018-19

A full copy of the Audited Financial Statements for the 2018/2019 year is provided on the Hunter JO website at: <https://strategicservicesaustralia.com.au/meeting-agendas-business-papers/>

Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income

Statement for the period 9 May 2018 to 30 June 2019

	Notes	Actual Period 9 May 2018 to 30 June 2019 \$
Income from continuing operations		
Member council contributions	2a	200,000
Other income	2b	545,000
Interest and investment revenue	2c	4,641
Grants provided for operating purposes	2d	660,794
Total income from continuing operations		1,410,435
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs		307,590
Project expenses		511,880
Depreciation and amortisation		3,348
Administrative expenses	3	138,293
Total expenses from continuing operations		961,111
Net operating result for the period		449,324
Other comprehensive income		-
Total comprehensive income		449,324

The above Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4	269,434
Receivables	5	196,089
Prepayments		777
Total current assets		466,300
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment	6	54,232
Total non-current assets		54,232
Total assets		520,532
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	7	58,273
Borrowings	7	3,000
Provisions	8	9,589
Total current liabilities		70,862
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	8	346
Total non-current liabilities		346
Total liabilities		71,208
Net assets		449,324
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus		449,324
Total equity		449,324

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

Statement of Changes in Equity for the period from 9 May 2018 to 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	
	Accumulated surplus	Total equity
Opening balance	-	-
Net operating result for the period	449,324	449,324
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	449,324	449,324
Closing balance	<u>449,324</u>	<u>449,324</u>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

Statement of Cash Flows for the period from 9 May 2018 to 30 June 2019

	Period from 9 May 2018 to 30 June 2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities	
<i>Receipts:</i>	
Contributions from member councils	172,060
Other Income	381,016
Investments revenue and interest	44
Grants and contributions	660,794
<i>Payments:</i>	
Employees and suppliers	(889,901)
Net cash provided from operating activities	324,013
Cash flows from investing activities	
<i>Payments:</i>	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(57,579)
Net cash provided from (or used in) investing activities	(57,579)
Cash flows from financing activities	
Credit card facility	3,000
Net cash provided from financing activities	3,000
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	269,434
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period	<u>269,434</u>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statutory Information

Government Information Public Access (GIPA)

Hunter JO received zero formal access and zero informal applications for the reporting year under *Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009 (GIPA)*.

Overseas Travel

No representatives from the Hunter JO made any overseas trips during the 2018/2019 financial year.

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

The implementation of the Hunter JO Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan is scheduled for mid-2020.

Remuneration Executive Officer

The total remuneration package of the Executive Officer for the 2018/2019 financial year was \$130,708 inclusive of salary, vehicle allowance, superannuation & fringe benefits tax payable (for the period).