



ABN 19 949 536 343

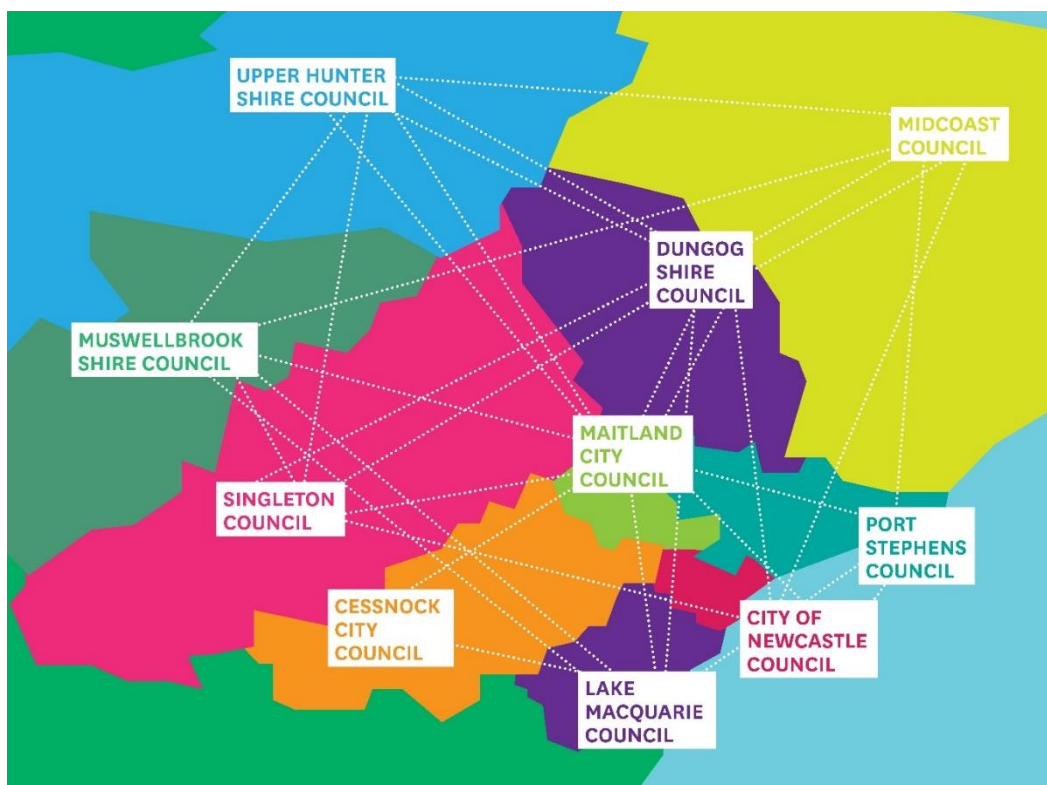
59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



## Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Papers

11:00am, Thursday 10 June 2021



### Videoconference Details

Microsoft Teams Link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MDI3MDI0Y2UtMDY3Zi00NjM4LTg5ODMtMjJlYjM3YzA0MWYx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2284531a4d-01d8-4e2d-b5ea-5d9e22ed7c28%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2290e79b79-147d-4a6e-bb6a-e45e04730874%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MDI3MDI0Y2UtMDY3Zi00NjM4LTg5ODMtMjJlYjM3YzA0MWYx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2284531a4d-01d8-4e2d-b5ea-5d9e22ed7c28%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2290e79b79-147d-4a6e-bb6a-e45e04730874%22%7d)

## Contents

1. Welcome and Apologies .....	3
1.1. Acknowledgement of Country .....	3
1.2. Conflicts of Interest.....	3
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.....	3
2.1 Minutes of Meeting 8 April 2021 .....	3
3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes .....	8
3.1 Business Arising: Action Register .....	9
4. Presentations .....	11
5. Correspondence.....	11
6. Reports.....	12
6.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy .....	45
6.2 HJO May 2021 YTD Profit & Loss Statement.....	68
6.3 Hunter JO Program Delivery Highlights .....	72
6.4 Department of Regional NSW Standing Update .....	109
6.5 Transfer of Secretariat – Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Subcommittee .....	112
6.6 Resilience NSW Strategic Directions Project.....	114
6.7 Future ownership of Sandringham Avenue - For Noting .....	117
7. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision .....	122
7.1 Hunter JO Budget 2021-22.....	122
7.2 Request for Statement of Support - Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct Project .....	122
7.3 CEO Performance Review Endorsement – Confidential Item.....	124
8. Matters Raised by Members.....	125
9. General Business.....	125
9.1 ALGA Conference Update .....	125
9.2 Compliance & Governance Calendars.....	125

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

### 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

---

*The Hunter Joint Organisation acknowledges the country and history of the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we meet today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, of our region, and of Australia.*

### 1.2. Conflicts of Interest

---

*The Chair asks for any potential Conflicts of Interest to be declared from members of the Board.*

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

### 2.1 Minutes of Meeting 8 April 2021

---

#### **Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes**

**10:30 – 2:00pm, Thursday 8 April 2021**

**Hunter JO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Ave Thornton (via Videoconference)**

#### **Voting Directors Present**

Cr Bob Pynsent,	Cessnock City Council
Cr John Connors,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Loretta Baker,	Maitland City Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr David West,	MidCoast Council
Cr Maurice Collison	Upper Hunter Shire Council

#### **Non-Voting Members Present**

Lotta Jackson	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council
Greg McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Alison McGaffin	Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW (DPIE)

#### **Apologies**

Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council
Cr Martin Rush,	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council

David Evans, General Manager, Maitland City Council  
Jason Linnane, General Manager, Singleton Council  
Fiona Plesman, General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council

**Staff in attendance**

Joe James, CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation  
Steve Wilson, Director, Regional Policy and Program Division, Hunter JO  
Melinda Curtis, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO  
Tim Askew, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO  
Boyd Blackwell, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO  
Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)  
Hayley-lee Summers – Administration Officer, Hunter JO

**Also Present**

Virginia Errington Council Engagement Manager, Office of Local Government

*The meeting opened at 10:00am.*

**Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies**

**1.1 Acknowledgment of Country**

*The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting, and noted the apologies.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the apologies be noted.***

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: Sue Moore***

***Carried.***

**1.2 Conflicts of Interest**

*The Chair called for any conflicts of interest to be registered by members of the Board. No conflicts were noted.*

**Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*The minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2021 were noted.*

**Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes**

**Resolved:**

- ***That the minutes of the previous meetings of 28 January 2021, be adopted.***

***Moved: John Connors***

***Seconded: Sue Moore***

***Carried.***

**3.1 Business Arising: Action Register**

*The Action Register was taken as read.*

- ***That the Action Register be noted.***

***Moved: John Connors***

***Seconded: Sue Moore***

**Carried.**

#### **Item 4 Presentations**

4.1. HCC Regional Contaminated Land Program - Peter Brennan, Hunter JO

4.2. Shiraz to Shore Project Concept - Tim Askew, Hunter JO

4.3. Disaster Dashboards - Mel Curtis (Hunter JO) & Skye Moore (Resilience NSW)

#### **Item 5 Correspondence**

*The correspondence was taken as read.*

##### **Resolved:**

- ***That the correspondence letter, Attachment 2: Correspondence from NSW Electoral Commission re Meeting Arrangements for GM's be disregarded as this will be addressed by councils individually.***
- ***That the update report be received and noted.***

**Moved: Ryan Palmer**

**Seconded: Sue Moore**

**Carried.**

#### **Item 6 Reports**

##### **6.1 CEO Report**

*The CEO spoke to the report and noted that with regard to the "other" BLERF applications, there has been correspondence overnight that the funding round is oversubscribed by about 400 to 500% and so the feedback has been that they will conduct merit-based assessment but are very interested in advocacy from other places i.e. local members. The CEO confirmed the Hunter JO will be advocating on this front with its local members and asking if any Mayors would be interested in being involved in that. The CEO noted this will be communicated out of session.*

*The report was taken as read.*

##### **Resolved:**

- ***That the update report be received and noted.***

**Moved: John Connors**

**Seconded: Sue Moore**

**Carried.**

##### **6.2 HJO February 2021 YTD Profit & Loss Statement**

*The report was taken as read.*

##### **Resolved:**

- ***That commentary be added to the front of the report with regard to any issues or variations.***
- ***That the Profit and Loss Statement for period ending February 2021 be received and noted.***

**Moved: Loretta Baker**

**Seconded: Ryan Palmer**

**Carried.**

##### **6.3 Regional Policy and Programs Update**

*Steve spoke to the report briefly and gave a brief highlights summary.*

*The report was taken as read.*

##### **Resolved:**

- ***That the report be received and noted.***

**Moved: Ryan Palmer**

**Seconded: Loretta Baker**

**Carried.**

#### **6.4 Department of Regional NSW Standing Update**

*Alison spoke to the report and the attached paper.*

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

**That the Board note:**

- ***The outcomes of the meeting of the Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) on 2 March 2021 as outlined in the Communique at Attachment 15;***
- ***The timeframe and process through which Hunter JO regional priorities will be identified and used to inform the next review of the RLE Statement of Intent in May 2021;***
- ***The establishment of the Hunter Central Coast Regional Recovery Committee in response to the recent flood events, with the inaugural meeting to be held 1 April 2021.***

**Moved: Bob Pynsent**

**Seconded: Kay Fraser**

**Carried.**

#### **6.5 Regional Freight and Logistics - Initiatives and Opportunities**

*Steve Wilson spoke briefly to the report.*

*The Board asked that the project be brought back for endorsement as a Project Brief.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Board endorse the proposed steps within the report for determining the specific roles and priorities for the Hunter JO in relation to regional freight and logistics opportunities.***
- ***That a Summary Brief on the Regional Freight & Logistics Project be brought back to the Board for endorsement.***

**Moved: Kay Fraser**

**Seconded: Sue Moore**

**Carried.**

#### **6.6 Summary Project Briefs – Hunter JO Delivery Program**

*The CEO gave a brief update on the summary project briefs and spoke specifically to the Hunter 2050 Foundation brief.*

*The Board discussed the progress of this project thus far, and noted that the structure and deliverables of the projects should be revisited once the outcome of the BLER Funding has been determined.*

*The Board also asked that indicative resourcing be included in future Project Briefs, both taking into consideration staffing and funds required for completion of projects.*

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Hunter 2050 Foundation project be revisited pending the success or failure of the submission to the BLER Funding.***
- ***That the focus and scope of the projects identified within the Summary Project Brief's be noted and their delivery endorsed.***

**Moved: Bob Pynsent**

**Seconded: Sue Moore**

**Carried.**

## **7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Decision**

### **7.1 CEO Performance Review Panel**

*Wayne Wallis spoke to the report and noted in David's absence a discussion has taken place about how the feedback process through the different boards can be as simple and relevant as possible and therefore introduction of a template against KPI's to gather feedback is suggested. Wayne noted the earliest this could be circulated would be early next week and asked how long does everyone need for responses.*

*The report was taken as read.*

#### **Resolved:**

- ***That Hunter JO Board Members provide any feedback on the CEO's performance to the Hunter JO Chair, Bob Pynsent, via email, one week from the feedback template being received, for inclusion in the CEO's Annual Performance Review.***

***Moved: Sue Moore***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

### **7.2 Cities Power Partnership Options**

*Melinda Curtis spoke briefly to the report and confirmed that all ten councils are now partners, or have endorsed to become partners. It was also confirmed that the Hunter is the first region to do so nationally and there are now options for the Hunter JO to become a partner.*

#### **Resolved:**

- ***That the Board endorse the Hunter JO exploring a Regional Partner arrangement with CCP (the first region in Australia to do so) in line with Option 3: Collaboration Pledges Partnership.***

***Moved: Sue Moore***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

### **7.3 Hunter JO Related Party Disclosure Policy**

*The Board asked that the policy be updated following the meeting to refer to Arrow Collaborative Services, rather than Strategic Services Australia.*

#### **Resolved:**

- ***That the reference within the Policy, to Strategic Services Australia, be replaced with Arrow Collaborative Services.***
- ***That the Hunter JO Board adopt the Hunter JO Related Party Disclosures Policy.***

***Moved: Loretta Baker***

***Seconded: Sue Moore***

***Carried.***

## **Item 8 Matters Raised by Members**

### **8.1 World Masters Games**

*Ryan Palmer spoke to the report the opportunities it could present for reviewing the concept of a regional events strategy.*

*Alison McGaffin noted that a regional events acceleration fund is open for submission currently, which may be an avenue for funding for this project.*

**Resolved:**

- ***Establish a Regional Events Strategy Working Group.***
- ***Review opportunities and costs associated with hosting the World Masters Games.***
- ***Scope out the development of a bid for the 2029 World Masters Games on behalf of the Hunter Region.***
- ***Review existing strategies and develop a roadmap for the implementation of key actions to attract major events to the region.***

***Moved: Ryan Palmer***

***Seconded: Loretta Baker***

***Carried.***

**Item 9 General Business**

**9.1 Update on the Hunter JO Strategic Workshop**

*The CEO spoke to the report and gave a verbal update on this, following the timeline and plan that the Board had previously endorsed.*

**Resolved:**

- ***That the Board note the update on the Hunter JO's strategic planning process.***

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: Sue Moore***

***Carried.***

**9.2 Compliance and Governance Calendars**

*The CEO spoke to the report and noted this as a standing item.*

**Additional General Business**

*The CEO noted that Nola Merino, Federal Parliamentary Secretary, is coming to the region on 15 April and asked if there were any Mayors interested in attending a dinner with her. The CEO noted he would send out an email to gauge the level of interest on this to respond to the invite.*

*The Chair also noted Deputy Premier was coming up next week to look at the economic development across the Hunter.*

Meeting closed 11:48 am

---

**3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes**

---

**Recommendation:**

- **That the minutes of the previous meetings of 8 April 2021 be adopted**

### 3.1 Business Arising: Action Register

I.D	Action	Meeting Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-19-13	That a discussion of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees be added to the agenda for the Hunter JO for discussion at a later date	29 Aug 2019	On hold	Revised Due date: March 2021 Revised Status: On Hold	This action is to be put on hold until the framework is finalised and provided from OLG. It is proposed that no further investigation of shared resourcing of ARICs be completed until the OLG Framework has been finalised, and at that point only if member councils express interest in sharing resources (if this option is allowed within the Framework)
HJO-20-45	That the CEO draft correspondence to the Deputy Premier regarding the Resources for Regions grant program, with assistance from the General Managers of Singleton and Cessnock for specific feedback.	Dec 20	Underway	Mar 21	May 2021: It is proposed that this item be removed from the Action Register by the General Managers, as this has been resolved out of session.
HJO-20-55	<b><u>Hunter JO Waste Strategy</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Hunter JO Board endorse development of a new Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2027 that creates an ambitious yet achievable plan to transition our resource recovery sector to a circular economy model.</li> <li>That the Hunter JO Board support future engagement of, and reporting to the GMAC and Hunter JO Board to facilitate input to the Strategy objectives and actions.</li> </ul>	Feb 21	Ongoing	Aug-21	Progress report to be provided to the Board August 2021
HJO-20-60	<b><u>Regional Freight and Logistics</u></b> That a Summary Brief on this project be brought back to the Board for endorsement.	Apr-21	Underway	Oct-21	Summary project brief dependent on outcomes from delivery of the project "Regional Strategy Review: Exploring the role of Local Government in regional Economic Development" endorsed by the Board at its April 2021 meeting.

I.D	Action	Meeting Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-20-61	<b><u>Hunter JO Delivery Program</u></b> That the Hunter 2050 Foundation project be revisited pending the success/failure of the BLERF funding.	Apr-21	Underway	Aug-21	The timeframe for this action is dependent on advice being provided by Regional NSW on the outcome of the BLERF application, which is anticipated to be by 30 June 2021.
HJO-20-62	<b><u>CEO Performance Review Panel</u></b> That Hunter JO Board Members provide any feedback on the CEO's performance to the Hunter JO Chair, Bob Pynsent, via email, one week from the feedback template being received, for inclusion in the CEO's Annual Performance Review.	Apr-21	Completed	Apr-21	
HJO-20-63	<b><u>Cities Power Partnership Options</u></b> That the Board endorse the Hunter JO exploring a Regional Partner arrangement with CCP (the first region in Australia to do so) in line with Option 3: Collaboration Pledges Partnership.	Apr-21	Underway?	Aug-21	Discussions underway with CPP on process and timeframe for formalising preferred partnership arrangement. Collaboration continues in the interim, including delivery of regional workshop 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 (refer Hunter JO Program Activity Report for details)
HJO-20-64	<b><u>Hunter JO Related Party Disclosure Policy</u></b> That the reference within the Policy, to Strategic Services Australia, be replaced with Arrow Collaborative Services.	Apr-21	Underway	Jun-21	Policy is being updated in line with branding implementation timeline.
HJO-20-65	<b><u>World Masters Games</u></b> That the Hunter JO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Regional Events Strategy Working Group.</li> <li>• Review opportunities and costs associated with hosting the World Masters Games.</li> <li>• Scope out the development of a bid for the 2029 World Masters Games on behalf of the Hunter Region.</li> <li>• Review existing strategies and develop a roadmap for the implementation of key actions to attract major events to the region.</li> </ul>	Apr-21	Underway	Oct-21	RFQ process being initiated to seek the services of a consultant to support the Hunter JO progress this work – refer HJO Program Activity Report for greater detail. Initial communication has occurred between the HJO CEO and the CEO of the Confederation of Australian Sport, who award the Masters Games. A joint briefing session is being arranged. Next games to be awarded is 2025 and bids will be sought later this year.

## 4. Presentations

---

*Nil presentations planned.*

## 5. Correspondence

---

**Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Assistant to the CEO**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

### Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on correspondence sent and received in relation to the Hunter JO.

### Correspondence Received:

- Attachment 1: Correspondence from Paul Scully MP re Meeting with Hunter JO – 28 April 2021
- Attachment 2: Correspondence from Minister for Local Government re Evaluation of Joint Organisations – 27 April 2021
- Attachment 3: Correspondence from Lord Mayor Brisbane re Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors Forum – 5 May 2021
- Attachment 4: Correspondence from Barnaby Joyce MP re BLER Fund Advocacy – 11 May 2021
- Attachment 5: Correspondence from Meryl Swanson MP's Office re BLER Fund Advocacy – 13 May 2021

### Correspondence Sent:

- Attachment 6: Correspondence to Resilience NSW re Disaster Recovery Assistance – 30 March 2021
- Attachment 7: Correspondence re BLER Fund - 4 May 2021: sent to;

#### **State Members**

Member for Maitland – Jenny Aitchison  
Member for Cessnock – Clayton Barr  
Member for Myall Lakes – Stephen Bromhead  
Member for Swansea – Yasmin Catley  
Member for Newcastle – Tim Crakanthorp  
Member for Charlestown – Jodie Harrison  
Member for Wallsend – Sonia Hornery  
Member for Lake Macquarie – Greg Piper  
Member for Port Stephens – Kate Washington

#### **Federal Members:**

Member for Newcastle – Sharon Claydon  
Member for Lyne – David Gillespie  
Member for Hunter – Joel Fitzgibbon  
Member for New England – Barnaby Joyce  
Member for Shortland – Pat Conroy  
Member for Paterson – Meryl Swanson

#### ***Candidates running for the seat of Upper Hunter:***

David Layzell  
Jeff Drayton  
Sue Gilroy  
Dale McNamara  
Sue Abbott  
Eva Pears  
Kate Fraser  
Tracy Norman  
Kirsty O'Connell

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- **That the update report be received and noted.**



## Paul Scully MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

20 April 2021

Mr Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
59 Bonville Avenue  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Dear Mr James *Joe*

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me last week during my visit to the Hunter region along with Councillor Bob Pynsent, as Chair of the Hunter Joint Organisation and Mayor of Cessnock, and Councillor Sue Moore, Chair of the Regional Economic Transition Sub Committee and Mayor of Singleton.

I found the exchange of views and discussions on the Resources for Regions program and how it can be substantially improved to provide funding certainty to local government in mining areas of great interest.

I was pleased to learn of Organisation's proactive study visits to other areas of Australia seeking to diversify their economic bases and the place-based focus for further investments, including from Federal and State Governments.

I took note of the views on land use and rehabilitation of mine sites and the regulatory changes which may be required to make such land available far more quickly than is currently the case.

I look forward to future discussions with you on issues within my natural resources portfolio responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

*Paul Scully*  
PAUL SCULLY MP



**The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**  
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A765194

Clr Bob Pynsent  
Chairperson  
Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils  
PO Box 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

By email: bob.pynsent@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Pynsent

As you are aware the Office of Local Government (OLG) is undertaking an evaluation of the joint organisations (JOs) framework.

I am pleased to inform you that ARTD has been appointed to undertake the evaluation. ARTD is a leading public policy consulting firm, with significant experience and expertise in undertaking reviews and evaluation.

Given the importance of the initiative, I have requested significant engagement and consultation be undertaken with JOs and key stakeholders, as part of this process.

Over the next couple of weeks, representatives from ARTD and the Office of Local Government (OLG) will contact you and your JO Executive Officer to arrange a suitable interview time. You will also be invited to nominate two stakeholders with direct relationships with your JO, to participate in a survey as part of the evaluation process. I encourage you to take this opportunity to nominate stakeholders who can offer useful insights into your JO's operation in your region. A wide range of local government and other stakeholders will also have the opportunity to provide input.

As you know, the NSW Government is committed to the ongoing success of the JOs. Your input into the evaluation process will be vital to ensure an appropriate framework to support JOs into the future. I would like to thank you in advance for your interest and important contribution.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**  
Minister for Local Government

CC: ceo@ssalimited.com.au

26 APR 2021



OFFICE OF THE  
LORD MAYOR  
Brisbane

Office  
City Hall  
King George Square  
Brisbane Qld 4000 Australia  
Tel 07 3403 4400  
Fax 07 3403 9930  
LORDMAYOR@brisbane.qld.gov.au  
Postal  
GPO Box 2287  
Brisbane Qld 4001 Australia

22 April 2021

Mr Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils  
PO Box 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Dear Mr James

**2021 Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors' Forum Special Edition  
(2021APCS Special Edition)  
'Redefining Cities through Opportunities and Challenges'  
Wednesday 8 September – Sunday 12 September 2021**

It is with great pleasure I invite you and your members to be part of the 2021 Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors' Forum Special Edition **(2021APCS Special Edition)** to be held in Brisbane from **8-12 September 2021**.

The 2021APCS Special Edition enables senior city and business leaders to share their experiences on rebuilding local economies, including city tourism, as well as learnings on how the city landscape has been redefined as a result of the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The APCS and Mayors' Forum is the Asia Pacific's internationally acclaimed, award-winning gathering of city and business leaders. Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, APCS provides immense opportunity for connection, learning and relationship building between civic and business sectors.

The overarching theme of the 2021APCS Special Edition is '**Redefining Cities through Opportunities and Challenges**'. Senior Government and industry experts will address the current trends, issues and challenges facing cities, through the Summit's sub-themes consisting of:

- **Healthy Cities** - strengthening agility, wellbeing and sustainability
- **Vibrant Cities** - celebrating and enhancing creativity, diversity and tourism
- **Connected Cities** - redefining connections and movement
- **Intelligent Cities** - harnessing and supporting talent, innovation and business.

This year's Summit will offer you a range of opportunities to enhance connections, including:

- **Showcase businesses** - local businesses and industry have the option of exhibiting in the market square to showcase their brand, product or services to key decision makers of the region, including government, business, industry and emerging leaders.
- **Speaking opportunities** - the call for speakers is **now open** and we are seeking presentations by industry leaders to showcase projects and innovations within their field to a high-calibre audience. **Submissions are open until 13 June.**
- **Exposure to international markets** - a digital attendance option will be available for international delegates unable to travel to the Summit. This will allow further insights to be shared globally, as well as the opportunity for your local businesses and industry bodies to gain exposure to the entire Asia Pacific region.
- **Site visits** - a number of site visits will be offered during the program, which will allow delegates to experience Brisbane's strategic precincts, share best practice and learn from industry leaders.

Registrations for 2021APCS are now open and discounts are offered for early registrations and bookings.

I expect this Summit will be of significant interest to both you and your members. I encourage you to connect with Ms Edel Melia from my International Relations and Multicultural Affairs Unit, the APCS Secretariat, by phone directly on 07 3178 1723 or by email at [edel.melia@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:edel.melia@brisbane.qld.gov.au) to discuss how your organisation may be able to promote the event to your valuable members. Alternatively, you may wish to visit the official APCS website at [www.apcsummit.org](http://www.apcsummit.org).

I wish you the very best of health and prosperity in these most challenging circumstances. I sincerely look forward to welcoming you and your members to 2021APCS Special Edition to be part of this important dialogue.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Schrinner  
**LORD MAYOR**

Ref: LM00840-2021



Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Our ref: NE6942

7 May 2021

Mr Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
PO Box 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Via e-mail: <mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au>

Dear Mr James

Thank you for your e-mail message of 4 May 2021 with which you forwarded your letter and four fact sheets regarding projects submitted by the Hunter Joint Organisation for consideration under Stage 2 of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

I have noted the contents of your correspondence, together with the project summaries attached to your e-mail, and appreciate you contacting me.

As you have noted, there was a recent short opportunity for State and Federal Members of Parliament to comment on BLER Fund project applications within their electorates via an online portal, however this closed on 15 April 2021. Unfortunately, as your correspondence was received following the closing date, I was unable to consider the information which you provided in relation to the Hunter Joint Organisation's applications when I provided feedback via the online portal.

Nevertheless, I have written to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, the Hon John Barilaro MP, drawing his attention to your correspondence and have expressed my support for the Hunter Joint Organisation's applications which extend into the Upper Hunter Shire Council region as part of the New England Electorate.

I wish the Hunter Joint Organisation all the best with its submissions and initiatives and thank you once again for bringing these projects and funding applications to my attention.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP  
Federal Member for New England

[bj.lt.tam](mailto:bj.lt.tam)

**Principal Office - Tamworth**

All Mail: PO Box 963, Tamworth NSW 2340  
Suite 17, Ground Floor, 454-456 Peel Street, Tamworth NSW 2340  
**ph** 02 6761 3080 **fax** 02 6761 3380

**Tenterfield Office**

255 Rouse Street, Tenterfield NSW 2372  
**ph** 02 6736 1099 **fax** 02 6736 1433

Authorised by Barnaby Joyce MP, The Nationals, Tamworth, NSW

[barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au) [www.barnabyjoyce.com.au](http://www.barnabyjoyce.com.au) [www.facebook.com/BarnabyJoyceMP](https://www.facebook.com/BarnabyJoyceMP)



**From:** [Higgins, Leeca \(M. Swanson, MP\)](#)  
**To:** [Joe James](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence re Hunter BLER Fund Projects  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 May 2021 4:14:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Good afternoon Joe

Thank you for your email to Meryl Swanson MP, Member for Paterson, providing information on grant applications submitted by the Hunter Joint Organisation to the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund.

Meryl has asked that I organise a time to meet with you and following a discussion today with Louisa we have locked in 1 pm on Wednesday 19 May at our office in Raymond Terrace (35 Sturgeon Street).

Please let me know who will be accompanying you or if there is a problem with this time or date.

Kind regards,

Leeca Higgins | Diary Manager  
**Office of Meryl Swanson MP, Member for Paterson**  
**Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence**

**Electorate Office:** 35 Sturgeon Street (PO Box 156), Raymond Terrace NSW 2324  
**Electorate Office Phone:** 02 4983 2401 | **Parliament Office Phone:** 02 6277 4248  
**Canberra Office:** Parliament House Suite R2.97 (PO Box 6022), Canberra ACT 2600  
**Email:** [meryl.swanson.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:meryl.swanson.mp@aph.gov.au) | [merylswanson.com.au](http://merylswanson.com.au)



[facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)

---

**From:** Joe James <[ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 1:43 PM  
**To:** Swanson, Meryl (MP) <[Meryl.Swanson.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Meryl.Swanson.MP@aph.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Correspondence re Hunter BLER Fund Projects

Dear Meryl,

Please find attached correspondence in relation to the projects submitted by the Hunter JO to the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

Kind Regards,

## Joe James

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



[ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) | 0405 217 249

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322

**P** (02) 4978 4043 | **F** (02) 4966 0588

Follow our progress

[hunterjo.com.au](http://hunterjo.com.au)  



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Shane Fitzsimmons  
Commissioner, Resilience NSW  
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: [shane.fitzsimmons@resilience.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shane.fitzsimmons@resilience.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Shane,

Following the recent flooding and disaster declaration across parts of our region, I am writing on behalf of our member councils to request further support in recovery efforts. The support received by Resilience NSW and Regional NSW, particularly in MidCoast Council which was heavily affected, has been incredibly encouraging, with coordination with council and local staff much appreciated.

In recovering from the damage caused by the storm and floods, the issue of waste is causing difficulty for councils who have been heavily affected. While we appreciate the announcements made by State and Federal Governments in waiving the waste levy, such relief should also extend to reimbursing those councils who elect to waive waste management fees and charges for their communities. Indeed, in the context of the recent State and Federal Government announcements, there is an expectation from communities that these facilities should also be made free to use.

As you would appreciate, many councils simply do not have the landfill capacity to accommodate the volume of waste generated by the recent flood event, with waste management fees used to fund future waste capacity.

The NSW Storm and Flood Clean-up Program references 'associated clean-up and waste disposal costs – to cover additional costs incurred by affected councils and relevant state agencies', however it is currently unclear whether this will include additional support for



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



council-run waste management facilities, or the additional costs associated with the clean-up of council assets.

We would like the opportunity to discuss with you how this burden on councils and community can be resolved, to ensure that we are best enabling disaster recovery efforts, and for clarity on the support being provided to councils specifically through the NSW Storm and Flood Clean-up Program.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bob Pynsent", is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

**Cr Bob Pynsent**  
Chair, Hunter Joint Organisation  
Mayor, Cessnock City Council

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David West", is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

**Cr David West**  
Mayor, MidCoast Council

Cc: Chris Presland - Director, Natural Disaster Expenditure and Governance  
Wendy Graham - Director, Resilience & Recovery



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP  
Member for Hunter  
PO Box 526  
Cessnock, NSW, 2325

Dear Joel,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Hon. David Gillespie MP  
Member for Lyne  
PO Box 244  
Wauchope, NSW, 2446

Dear David,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP  
Member for New England  
PO Box 963  
Tamworth, NSW, 2340

Dear Barnaby,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Ms Sharon Claydon MP  
Member for Newcastle  
427 Hunter Street  
Newcastle, NSW, 2300

Dear Sharon,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Ms Meryl Swanson MP  
Member for Paterson  
PO Box 156  
Raymond Terrace, NSW, 2324

Dear Meryl,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Mr Pat Conroy MP  
Member for Shortland  
PO Box 499  
Belmont, NSW, 2280

Dear Pat,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS  

Jeff Drayton

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

jeff.drayton@nswlabor.org.au

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Kate Fraser

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

fraser@staubins.com

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



Kirsty O'Connell  
Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Mr Clayton Barr MP  
Member for Cessnock  
118 Vincent Street  
CESSNOCK NSW 2325  
cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clayton,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Ms Jodie Harrison MP  
Member for Charlestown  
Unit 3, 313 Charlestown Road  
CHARLESTOWN NSW 2290  
charlestown@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jodie,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Mr Greg Piper MP  
Member for Lake Macquarie  
92 Victory Parade  
TORONTO NSW 2283  
lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Greg,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



Ms Jenny Aitchison MP  
Member for Maitland  
2/12 Elgin Street  
MAITLAND NSW 2320  
maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jenny,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Mr Stephen Bromhead MP  
Member for Myall Lakes  
PO Box 272  
TUNCURRY NSW 2428  
myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Stephen,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Dale McNamara

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

dale.mcnamara@nsw.onenation.org.au

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS  

David Layzell  
Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter  
upperhunter@nswnationals.org.au

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Eva Pears

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

evaforupperhunter@ldp.org.au

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP  
Member for Newcastle  
Ground Floor, 414 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Tim,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Ms Kate Washington MP  
Member for Port Stephens  
PO Box 82  
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324  
portstephens@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Kate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Ms Yasmin Catley MP  
Member for Swansea  
Shop 1, 204-206 Pacific Highway  
SWANSEA NSW 2281  
swansea@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Yasmin,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Ms Sonia Hornery MP  
Member for Wallsend  
PO Box 324  
WALLSEND NSW 2287  
wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sonia,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Sue Abbott

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

Cr.Abbott@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS  

Sue Gilroy

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

sue@cultivateconfidentcultures.com.au

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Tracy Norman

Candidate for the Seat of Upper Hunter

contact@tracynormanforupperhunter.net

Dear Candidate,

**Re: Stage 2 - \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund**

I am writing to you in regards to the Stage 2 – \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund.

We understand that the grants application process has been significantly oversubscribed and that you may be asked for your feedback on grants that relate to your local area. Therefore, we wanted to make you aware of the following grants that the Hunter Joint Organisation, on behalf of its member councils, has applied for within the BLER Fund.

I have attached four brief fact sheets summarizing each of our proposed projects within the BLER Fund;

- Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)
- Hunter 2050 Foundation
- Hunter BioCircular
- Shiraz to Shore (Regional Cycle Tourism Masterplan)

Each project has a whole of region benefit and we would invite you to support them by emailing the Regional Program Unit at Department of Regional NSW; [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a briefing on these projects or any further information on the applications, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) or by phone on 0405 217 249.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe James", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation

## 6. Reports

### 6.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy

---

**Report Author: Joe James, CEO**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of key collaboration and advocacy engagement since the last meeting of the Hunter JO. This includes key networks, meetings, workshops and forums in which the CEO and staff have recently participated in to facilitate and support intergovernmental collaboration.

The report provides an update for the last period on:

1. Advocacy (other than is reported in a project update or through a standing engagement)
2. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement
  - a. Political Engagements;
  - b. Existing Standing Engagements (convened by local government)
  - c. Existing Standing Engagements (convened by others)
  - d. Proposed New Standing Engagements
  - e. Additional Strategic Engagements (if any)
3. Submissions (in development or lodged)
4. Regional Funding Applications (status)

#### Advocacy

Current advocacy being undertaken by the JO includes:

**Correspondence re: BLER Fund**

As an action from the most recent Hunter JO Board Meeting, the CEO sent correspondence to a range of stakeholders regarding the Hunter JO's submissions to the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund. Correspondence was sent to local Federal and State Members of Parliament, as well as to all candidates running for the State seat of Upper Hunter.

With the BLER Fund having been heavily oversubscribed, this correspondence spoke to the submissions made by the Hunter JO and their whole-of-region benefit.

These letters have been included under Correspondence, and the associated fact sheets are included at Attachment 8.

**Airport Runway Announcement**

The Hunter JO provided a media release responding to the Federal Government's announcement prioritising the upgrade to the Newcastle Airport Runway in the Federal Budget, highlighting the advocacy of the Hunter's Mayors over the past two years on this project.

Since the announcement, the Hunter JO CEO and Director Regional Policy and Programs have met with Peter Cock, CEO, and Stephen Crowe from the Airport to discuss using momentum from the runway announcement to advance critical enabling work including funding and delivery of the Airport Terminal Upgrade and supporting the Airports engagement with airlines around 'route development' (with a particular focus on freight and passenger/tourism market development).

A copy of the media release has been included at Attachment 9.

## Hunter Expert Panel Announcement

The announcement by the Deputy Premier regarding establishment of a Hunter Expert Panel on energy transition is encouraging in the context of the Hunter JO's advocacy over the last 18 months regarding the Hunter 2050 Foundation.

Key messages within the Deputy Premier's announcement echoed some core concepts of the Hunter 2050 Foundation, including;

- planning early to build on the economic legacy of mining
- Leverage existing industries and new opportunities using local knowledge
- Local leadership as essential (the "joint organisation of councils" being explicitly called out by the DP) in partnership with Government;
- Maximise 'bang for buck' (a loose term but echoing the positives that the DP office saw in our self-funded model that accelerates private capital).

A media release was drafted by the Hunter JO and was released on Thursday 20 May 2021. A copy of the release has been included at Attachment 10.

It is currently proposed keep momentum in the development of the Expert Panel through additional engagement with the Deputy Premier's office and Regional NSW in order to explore how we can support the development of the panel and its role.

## Cities Power Partnership

Since the last meeting of the Hunter JO in April, all councils within the Hunter region have now signed up to the Cities Power Partnership. While this has been announced within the Hunter JO's most recent newsletter and through social media, the Hunter JO are drafting a separate media release about being the first region nationally, and the first Joint Organisation, to formally partner with the CPP. It is anticipated that this release will be sent out prior to the Hunter JO Board Meeting, with approval already provided by the Hunter JO Chair. The draft release is currently within internal CPP processes.

## Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
<b>Political Engagements</b>	
Paul Scully MP, Shadow Minister for Natural Resources	The Hunter JO Chair, the Chair of the Economic Transition Standing Committee and the CEO met with Paul Scully to discuss matters pertaining to his shadow portfolio.  Discussion focused on economic diversification.  A follow-up letter was received from the Shadow Minister and is included in the Correspondence.
State and Federal Members of Parliament and candidates running for the seat of Upper Hunter	Support requested for funding applications lodged by the Hunter JO under the Stage 2 – Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)</li><li>• Hunter 2050 Foundation</li><li>• Hunter BioCircular</li></ul>

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shiraz to Shore</li> </ul> <p>Meryl Swanson has requested a briefing on the HJO of the back of this communication.</p>
Office of the Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier	<p>The CEO met with the Deputy Premier's office on 11 May 2021. Present were Susanna Montrone (Cabinet Director), Georgina Williams (Regional Policy Advisor) and Chris Hanger from the Department of Regional NSW. Noting the Deputy Premier's previous support for the Hunter 2050 Foundation concept, the CEO was seeking a response to the Hunter JO's letter of September 2020 that to inform the board's decision on the next steps with this concept. The CEO received a commitment to respond to the letter and, through the discussion, a reinforced sense that there was support for the concepts of the Hunter 2050 Foundation. Specific discussion focused on accelerating private investment through funds management and having a model that is self-sustaining. The Deputy Premier's subsequent announcement of the Expert Panel on the Royalties for Rejuvenation appears to embed the role of local leadership and preserves the opportunity for local and state government partnership on the Hunter 2050 Foundation or similar concepts.</p>
<b>Existing Standing Engagement (convened by Local Government)</b>	
Hunter RMS Reference Group (Project) (convened by LMCC & Hunter JO)	<p>Updates were provided by Damien Pfeiffer (A/Director Land Use Regional and Outer Metropolitan - Transport for NSW) on the progress of internal restructure underway in Transport for NSW to address concerns raised by Councils and industry. Damien will be briefing the Hunter JO Board at its June 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Following the Board Strategy Sessions and the focus on:</p> <p>(1) Connectivity, as a strategic theme, and</p> <p>(2) the role of Transport for NSW;</p> <p>a request has been made to the Deputy Secretary responsible for Regional Outer Metropolitan NSW to meet with the Board.</p> <p>A further meeting has been arranged between Greg Piper and the HJO CEO to plan a potential next stage in the engagement with Minister Toole.</p>
Regional Planning Forum and Regional Economic Development Forum (convened by Hunter JO)	<p>A joint session of these two forums was held on 30 March 2021 to facilitate Council input to State Government and other initiatives in shared areas of interest. These included Hunter Regional Plan review (DPIE), Hunter Regional Transport Plan (TfNSW), Hunter Identity and Positioning Strategy (HCCDC), and Regional Freight and Logistics Taskforce (Committee for the Hunter). An introduction to</p>

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	<p>the suite of Hunter JO programs being initiated or already underway was also provided, which has since directly resulted in greater collaboration between the Hunter JO, key agencies and councils on a number of projects. Presentations delivered at the forum can be accessed on the <a href="#">Past Events</a> page of the Hunter JO website.</p>
Hunter JO Circular Economy Sub-Committee (convened by Hunter JO)	<p>The most recent meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 19 May 2021, at which an overview of a range of both new and ongoing Circular Economy initiatives being delivered by the JO and member Councils was provided (Refer HJO Program Activity Report for greater detail on the range of circular economy programs being delivered).</p>
Hunter Circular Facilitators Group (jointly convened by Hunter JO & DPIE)	<p>This Group continues to meet on a 2-monthly basis to collaboratively drive and jointly deliver a range of Circular Economy initiatives by the JO and partner organisations. (Refer HJO Program Activity Report for greater detail on the range of circular economy programs being delivered).</p> <p>The CE facilitators group recently organised and delivered the Circular Economy Think Tank on 10<sup>th</sup> May, to develop ideas for the Region's circular economy. The event was attended by over 100 people.</p>
<p>Additional networks and regional forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Contaminated Land Working Group (convened by Hunter JO)</li> <li>• Hunter Regional Waste Strategy Group (convened by Hunter JO)</li> <li>• Committee for the Hunter (MOU monthly check-ins to discuss existing and potential collaboration opportunities)</li> </ul>	<p>Coordination of these regional forums continues to facilitate information sharing and collaboration across a range of shared interest focus areas between member councils, government agencies and other stakeholder organisations.</p>
<b>Existing standing engagements (convened by others)</b>	
EPA Local Government Advisory Group (convened by NSW EPA)	<p>The CEO received updates provided on a range of programs relevant to the Hunter JO's Strategic Plan and program delivery, including: 20 Year Waste Strategy; transition arrangements for Waste Less, Recycle More program; Clean Air Strategy; Paving the way to sustainable roads using Circular Economy principles; Net Zero Organics Plan; Chief Scientist's Report - Energy to Waste; PFAS Regulatory Ban; and NSW EPA's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Messaging on the 20 Year Waster Strategy was particularly pointed about it being with government for 'final' decision (suggesting that there may be limited, if any, consultation on the strategy). This was questioned by all local government representatives. Somewhat offsetting this message was the suggestion that it was 'high level' strategy</p>

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	<p>and that the execution of the strategy was where opportunities for co-design and partnership would occur.</p> <p>The Hunter JO's Regional Program Manager for Contaminated Land, Peter Brennan, delivered a presentation on the development process and ongoing benefits being realised by Councils across NSW, from the Hunter JO's Template Conditions of Development Consent for Contaminated Land. It was recognised that this resource provides a sound foundation for the development of state-wide conditions of development consent in respect to contaminated land, an initiative that is currently being explored by DPIE.</p>
RLE Recovery & Resilience Sub-Committee jointly convened by Regional NSW and Resilience NSW)	<p>The JO is continuing to lead a committee task group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm the specific issues / opportunities to improve sharing of best practice, building of connections across Councils and any other related issues; and</li> <li>• Identify specific priority actions that agencies can jointly deliver on to support / drive more regional approaches (and avoid duplication).</li> </ul>
RLE Human Services Sub-Committee (convened by Regional NSW)	The Hunter JO provided a presentation on the regional population scenario modelling project that is currently being initiated. The Subcommittee identified a significant need for this work to assist with the strategic planning of future human services across the region.
Urban Development Program Committee (convened by DPIE)	Significant shared interest and in some cases projects running in parallel were identified in the areas of infrastructure prioritisation and Blue Green Grid. It was resolved that subcommittees be established in these focus areas to facilitate collaboration between relevant stakeholders.
Transition Hunter Central Coast (HCC) working group (convened by DPIE)	The Hunter JO is actively participating in a stakeholder and project mapping exercise, being undertaken by this group, to inform the group's priorities and the development of an agency wide Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.
Local Government Climate Change Planning Toolkit Working Group (convened by DPIE)	The Hunter JO is taking a lead role in preparing products that add value to the Toolkit being developed by DPIE. These products will directly support Councils integrate elements of the toolkit into Council IP&R Frameworks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Working Group (convened by Regional NSW)</li> <li>• Upper Hunter Futures Working Group (Project Working Group) – convened by Regional NSW</li> </ul>	These working groups continue to review the outcomes and priorities arising from Upper Hunter Futures Project Report identifying priority actions for the Upper Hunter.

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Control Group Hunter Identity and Positioning</li> <li>• Hunter Identity and Positioning Local Government Reference Group (convened by Regional NSW)</li> </ul>	<p>The Hunter JO is represented on both the Project Control Group and the Local Government Reference Group for this initiative. Preliminary branding concepts have been developed and were presented to the Project Control Group on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. These will now be tested with the Local Government Reference Group.</p>
<p>Hunter Freight and Supply Chain Taskforce (convened by Committee for the Hunter)</p>	<p>There is significant shared interest between this initiative and the strategic focus of the Hunter JO Strategic Plan. Boyd Blackwell, Regional Policy &amp; Program Manager with the Hunter JO is now participating in the Taskforce, and in a supporting working group that is conducting a high-level review of available economic modelling in the region with the potential to assist the project.</p>
<p>Additional networks and forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RLE Economic Development Sub-Committee (convened by Regional NSW)</li> <li>• Metropolitan Regional Waste Coordinators Group (convened by NSW EPA)</li> <li>• Coastal Practitioners Working Group (convened by DPIE)</li> <li>• Climate Action Professional Officers Group NSW (convened by LGNSW)</li> <li>• EPA Local Government Advisory Group (convened by NSW EPA)</li> <li>• Business Attraction Committee (convened by Regional NSW)</li> <li>• Australasian Land &amp; Groundwater Association Newcastle Branch Committee &amp; Local Government Special Interest Group (Contaminated Land) – convened by ALGA</li> </ul>	<p>Participation in these regional forums continues to facilitate information sharing and collaboration across a range of shared interest focus areas between member councils, government agencies and other stakeholder organisations.</p>
<b>Proposed New Standing Engagements</b>	
<p>Urban Development Program Subcommittees (to be convened by DPIE):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure Prioritisation</li> <li>• Regional Blue Green Grid</li> </ul>	<p>To be established to facilitate collaboration in these areas of significant shared interest.</p>
<b>Additional Strategic Engagements</b>	
<p>Review of NSW Joint Organisation Framework</p>	<p>The CEO and Director Policy and Programs participated in an interview with ARTD Consulting delivered as part of the overall review of the NSW JO Framework currently being undertaken by the NSW Office of Local Government. Key elements addressed during the interview included:</p>

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significant value being realised by NSW government agencies from the activities of JO's around the State</li> <li>• The need for a more systemised approach to collaboration and engagement between Agencies and JO's</li> <li>• The value to be realised by establishing stronger / formal links between State and Local Government via the Integrated Planning &amp; Reporting Framework</li> <li>• The importance of supporting / building ongoing core capability within JO's to assist them deliver their statutory functions</li> <li>• The value that can be realised by the NSW Government from engaging JO's in the co-design of State programs targeting regional NSW</li> <li>• The need for NSW Government grant programs to recognise the strategic role and functions of JO's</li> </ul>
Hunter Regional Transport Plan sub regional workshops	<p>Hunter JO staff participated in three sub regional council consultation workshops (Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and Hunter North) delivered by Transport for NSW during April &amp; May 2021. The purpose of the workshops was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the collective findings from individual consultation sessions held with Councils during February 2021</li> <li>• Improve understanding of the key transport links within each sub-region, between sub-regions and beyond the Hunter.</li> <li>• Start a sub-regional priority list for further consideration.</li> </ul> <p>Outputs are now being collated by TfNSW to inform development of the Hunter Transport Plan.</p>
NSW JO Chairs Forum	The next meeting of the JO Chairs Forum is scheduled for Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May.
JO Network EOs Meetings	The CEO and Director Policy and Programs continue to participate in fortnightly meetings of this network, which provides a valuable forum for understanding the issues being experienced across the NSW JO network, and a mechanism through which to collaborate with other JO's in areas of shared interest.

## Regional Submissions

### Contaminated Land Consultant Certification Policy

Technical submission provided to NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) around the role of certified consultants and the implication on Council's contaminated land management approach.

### Status of Regional Funding Applications

#### Potential New Applications – Resources for Regions

The Regional Policy and Program team are considering opportunities to seek funding for regional projects under Resources for Region. We will be in contact in coming weeks to test initial support.

At this stage we are exploring:

- Airport – Next Steps: potential partnership with the Airport to support the Airports engagement with airlines around 'route development' (with a particular focus on freight and passenger/tourism market development).
- Events:
  - 'What's on' - build off existing calendars expansion;
  - Prepare a whole of region Masters games bid.

Program funding is available up to \$300k and would require eligible member councils to contribute part of their funding entitlement.

#### Current applications

Funding Program	Grant Title	Amount Requested	Status
Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Grant (Round 3) - (LG NSW)	<b>Act now on Adaptation: Coastal Wise Communities project</b>  This project aims to develop a communication framework and supporting resources around coastal hazards across the region's coastal councils.	\$120,000	Successful
Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2 (Resilience NSW)	<b>Transforming Resilience with the Integrated Planning &amp; Reporting Framework Project</b>  This project would provide an innovative approach to support our bush fire affected Councils to embed resilience principles and projects into their IP&R which in turn will provide Council the ability to allocate recurrent funds and commit to long term resourcing (financial and staff) for resilience projects.	\$300,000	Successful
Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2	<b>Simtables for Community Empowerment</b>  Simtables provide a "State of the Art" tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions. This project seeks to purchase a Simtable for the collective use of member Councils and to provide direct support to	\$300,000	Successful

<b>Funding Program</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Status</b>
(Resilience NSW)	Councils in undertaking the extensive community engagement associated with their use.		
Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund  (Regional NSW)	<b>Hunter 2050 Foundation</b> Funding has been sought to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initial cost of design and feasibility work, at both the organisational and project level, for new energy, agribusiness and SME transformation and growth in the region,</li> <li>• Deliver supply chain transition support to 30 highly vulnerable businesses in the region; and</li> <li>• Support up to 2000 workers in making critical career transitions, as the economy recovers and begins to transform.</li> </ul>	\$4,000,000	Application Submitted 28 February 2021 – advice pending
Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (Regional NSW)	<b>Accelerating Event Economies</b> This project seeks to strengthen the region's collective voice and the capacity of Councils to collaboratively pitch for major events for the region. It includes undertaking an events and opportunity audit, and identifying, preparing and implementing shared destination and event management resources including an event managers toolkit, prospectus, website and integrated council shared services, approvals and event data.	\$861,476	Application Submitted 28 February 2021 – advice pending
Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (Regional NSW)	<b>Hunter BioCircular</b> This focuses on delivering concept plans for 4 multi-element circular economy waste processing precincts in the region. Each precinct would represent a key part of the Hunter and outline the potential for circular processing, green energy and value-added businesses delivering diversified employment opportunities and new industries to the Hunter.	\$795,600	Application Submitted 28 February 2021 – advice pending
Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (Regional NSW)	<b>Shiraz to Shore</b> Significant opportunity exists to link existing and planned cycleway infrastructure across member Councils; to create an integrated region wide network. This would provide both a valuable region wide recreational resource for residents, and the foundation upon which to generate economic and business	\$19,515,600	Application Submitted 28 February 2021 – advice pending

Funding Program	Grant Title	Amount Requested	Status
	<p>development by holistically promoting the region as a key cycling destination.</p> <p>This project would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather all existing cycle tourism experiences across the Hunter Region, including mountain biking and road and recreation cycling opportunities, and package them up into a cohesive cycle tourism plan including a brand, marketing plan, product development, training and website; and</li> <li>Develop the concept and planning for a connected cycling trail called “Shiraz to Shore” extending over 100km among the vineyards of the Hunter Valley, through heritage towns and rail trails to the beach and lake experiences of the Hunter. Funding will also be sought for a build program that could construct all sections of the Shiraz to Shore Trail, including the Richmond Vale Rail Trail section.</li> </ul>		

### Overall Regional Success - Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2

In addition to the successful Hunter JO funding applications outlined above, additional successful grant recipients in the region who have received funding through the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund include:

Applicant	Project Name	LGA	Project Value
Cessnock City Council	Cessnock City Council - BCRRF - Stream 2 - Business Disaster Recovery and Disaster Planning Training	Cessnock City Council, Singleton Council	\$104,195
Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW Ltd	PCYC Fit for Life - Outreach Forster and Tuncurry	Mid-Coast Council	\$55,267
Bobin School of Arts Incorporated	Cooperative Community Fire Ready Project - BCRRF - Stream 2	Mid-Coast Council	\$50,562
Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare Connections	Property Fire Ecology and Management Workshops; Increasing landholder and communities' capacity for mitigation.	Mid-Coast Council	\$161,528

Applicant	Project Name	LGA	Project Value
Burrell Creek Youth and Community Association	Burrell Creek Youth and Community Organisation - BCRRF - Stream 2 Building community resilience and preparedness	Mid-Coast Council	\$89,160
MidCoast Business Chamber	Bigger Backyard MidCoast	Mid-Coast Council	\$217,100
Lake Macquarie City Council	Development of a web-based Bushfire Risk Assessment Scale tool using remote sensing	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$25,000
Dungog Shire Council	Dungog Shire Council; - BCRRF - Stream 2 Strengthen Resilience	Dungog Shire Council	\$136,000
Upper Hunter Shire Council	Upper Hunter Shire Council - BCRRF - Stream 2 - Upper Hunter 'Hall Crawl'	Upper Hunter Shire Council	\$33,000
Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association	Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Industry Capacity Building & Community Connectedness Program	Cessnock City Council, Singleton Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council	\$299,209
Central Coast Council	Central Coast Council - BCRRF - Stream 2	Central Coast Council	\$120,000
Cessnock City Council	Cessnock City Council - BCRRF - Stream 2 - Hunter Valley Industry Networking, Industry Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing Program	Cessnock City Council, Singleton Council	\$117,500
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council - BCRRF - Stream 2 - Upgrading of the Muswellbrook and Denman Indoor Sports and Evacuation Centres	Muswellbrook Shire Council	\$299,250
FireThrive	How would you respond? Bushfire preparedness quiz and behaviour change tool	Blue Mountains City Council, Central Coast Council, Cessnock City Council, City of Lithgow Council, Dungog Shire Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Ku-ring-gai Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Mid-Western Regional Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Oberon	\$113,180

Applicant	Project Name	LGA	Project Value
		Council, Penrith City Council, Singleton Council, Sutherland Shire Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council, Wollondilly Shire Council	
Rotary Club of Taree on Manning	Recovery-RiverStage Summer Series	Mid-Coast Council	\$90,000

**Recommendation:**

- That the report be received and noted.

# ACCELERATING EVENT ECONOMICS



**\$800k**

**This project seeks to collaboratively attract a greater number of major events to the region and to support:**

- **business diversification**
- **job creation and**
- **economic resilience for the Hunter.**

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

This project is about providing efficiencies and savings to streamline event management and planning in the region, strengthening councils shared capacity to collaboratively attract major events to the region.



## WHAT ARE WE AIMING TO ACHIEVE / DELIVER?

Undertaking a series of actions that deliver:

- 1) Assets and opportunities audit and shared impact show cases
- 2) An event managers toolkit, prospectus and website and
- 3) Integrated shared council services including:
  - a) Streamlined whole-of-region approval system and
  - b) Event database system for planning.

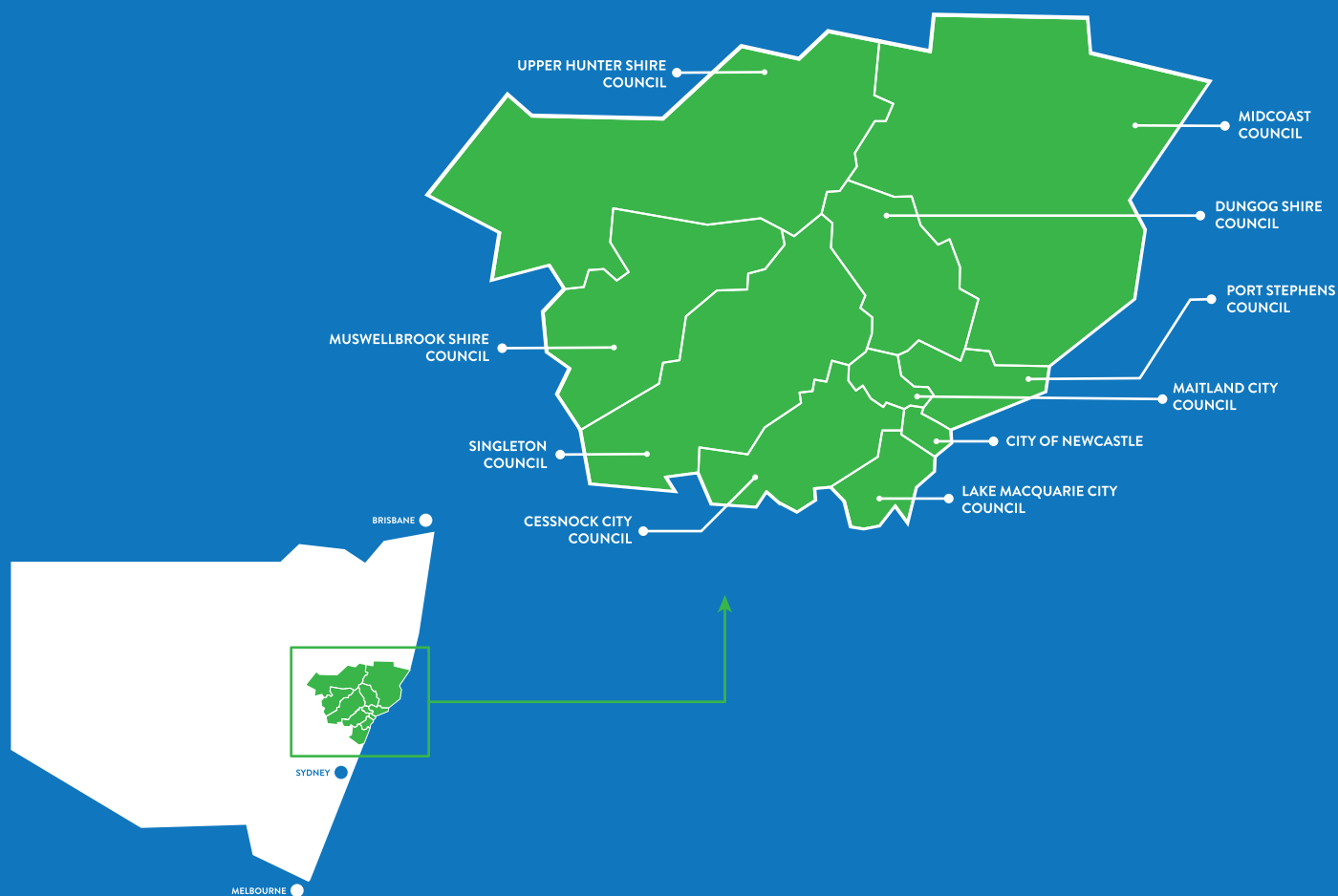


## PROJECT PARTNERS

- HJO Member Councils
- State Agencies
- DSSN
- RDA Hunter
- HCCDC
- Committee for the Hunter
- DPC
- Hunter Research Foundation
- Screen Hunter
- NSW Tourism Association
- Hunter Tourism Bodies



# HUNTER JO MEMBER COUNCILS



# HUNTER 2050 FOUNDATION

\$4m

Advancing energy technologies will reduce the world's reliance on coal over time. Establishment of the 2050 Foundation aims to help the region plan for any change that is accelerated by these new technologies by building investment and redevelopment capabilities as well as helping businesses and workers to seize the new opportunities. Getting ahead of this change will protect the region's jobs and quality of life.



## PROJECT SUPPORTERS

- All Member Councils
- AGL
- Bengalla Mining
- Malabar Coal
- University of Newcastle
- Committee for the Hunter
- RDA Hunter
- Newcastle Airport
- Hunter Angels
- Hunter Renewal
- HunterNET
- Enova
- HunteriF
- Hunter Region Employment Facilitator



## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?



Development of a regional program that supports:

- Business diversification
- Workforce transformation
- Land redevelopment and
- Fills funding, investment and capability shortfall to 2050.

Support initial design cost and feasibility work in the region, at both the organisational and project level, for transformation and growth of:

- New energy
- Agribusiness and
- Small and medium enterprises.

Deliver supply chain transition support to 30 highly vulnerable businesses in the region.

Support up to 2000 workers in making critical career transitions as the economy recovers and begins to transform.

## WHAT ARE WE AIMING TO ACHIEVE / DELIVER?



Create a foundation that builds regional capabilities in:

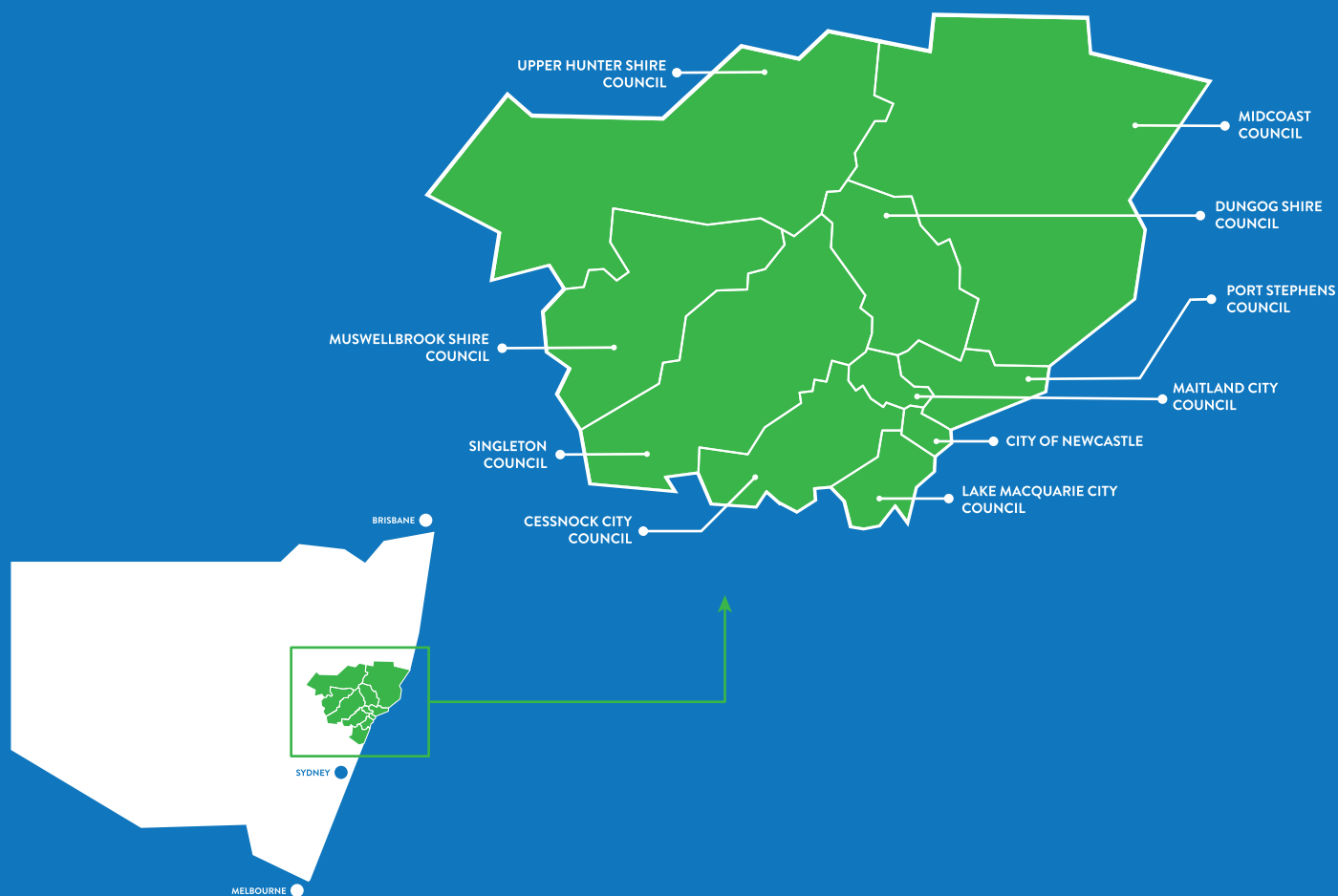
- Finance and investment
- Business diversification
- Workforce transformation and
- Land redevelopment

Establish the corporate entity.

Build a community mandate and funding portfolio.

Secure required start-up funding (\$15m/3yrs – BLERF \$4m)

# HUNTER JO MEMBER COUNCILS



# HUNTER BIOCIRCULAR



**\$800k**

Driving the establishment of a Circular Economy will require government assistance and guidance to remove the barriers for businesses to connect.

Organic waste management is an example with up to 40% of organics ending in landfill emitting methane and CO<sub>2</sub> with no biogas utilised.

Circular Economy precincts can solve this issue and the Hunter Central Coast region is well placed to deliver given our scale, land availability and skilled workforce in energy, engineering and agriculture.

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?



Develop concept plans for 4 Circular Economy Precincts in the region that show the:

- Inputs, technologies and outputs of a fully circular system
- Industries and jobs potential of each site
- Net – zero emissions outcome for each site (some sites may be carbon sequestering sites).

## WHAT ARE WE AIMING TO ACHIEVE / DELIVER?



- 4 Circular Economy precincts that allow businesses to setup in circular processing systems within the precinct.
- 4 Fully circular organics processing facilities as the central powerhouse for each precinct, using the world's best practice technology in anaerobic bio-digesters to produce: electrical and thermal energy, biomethane (gas grid injection/hydrogen production), CO<sub>2</sub> fed farming systems, and soil enhancement products as well as other carbon based products.
- Developing a Circular Economy innovation and education hub to advance learning and research in the region.

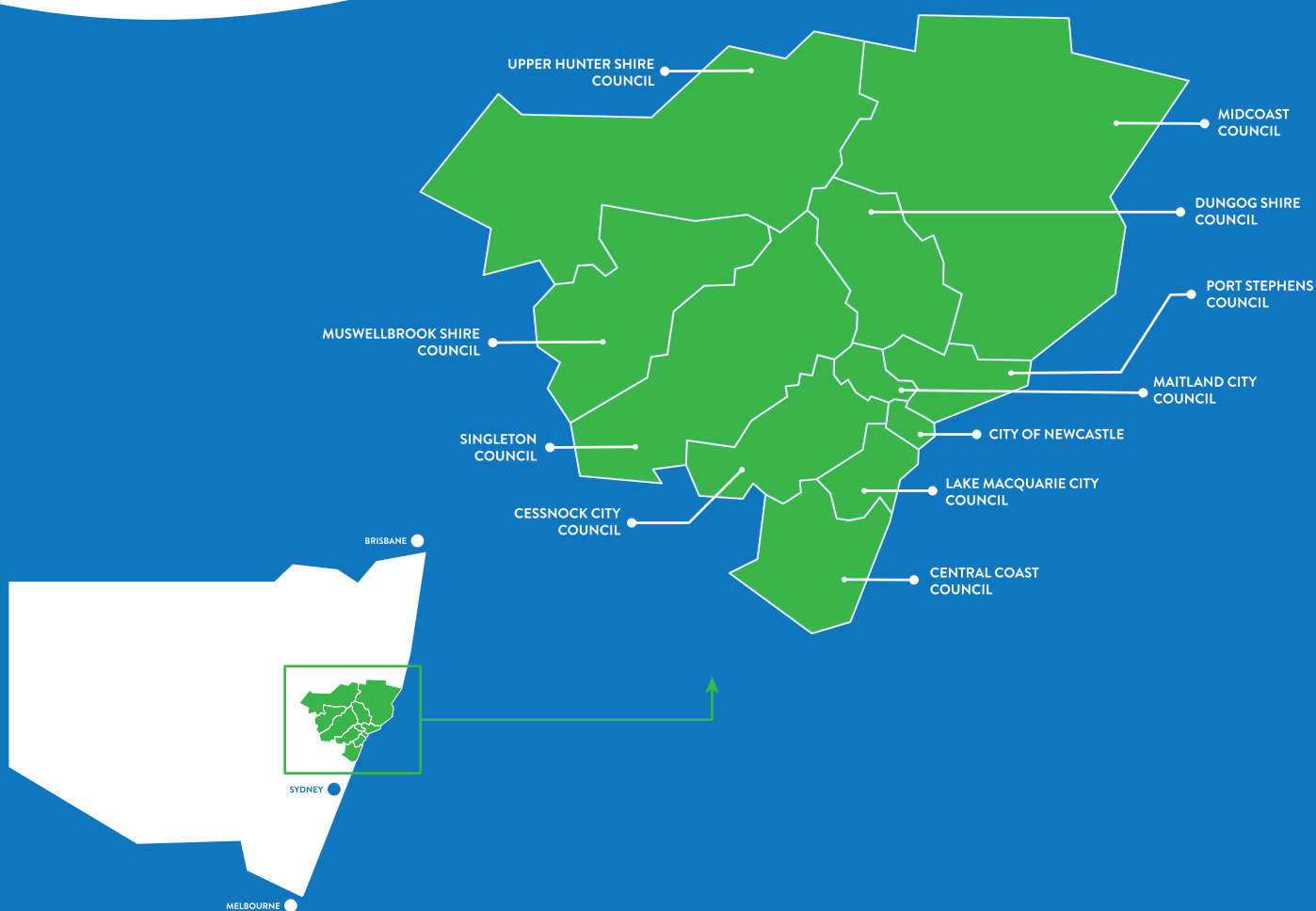
## PROJECT PARTNERS



- NSW Circular
- Hunter Water
- Newcastle University
- Monash University
- Venus Shell Systems
- Jemena
- AGL



# PARTICIPATING COUNCILS



# SHIRAZ TO SHORE

**\$20m**

**Significant opportunity exists to link existing and planned cycleway infrastructure across member Councils; to create an integrated region wide network.**

**This would provide both a valuable region wide recreational resource for residents, and the foundation upon which to generate economic and business development by holistically promoting the region as a key cycling destination.**



## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?



Coordination of cycle tourism opportunities across the Hunter.

To design and build the Shiraz to Shore Cycle Trail stretching from the vineyards to the shorelines of the Hunter.

## WHAT ARE WE AIMING TO ACHIEVE / DELIVER?



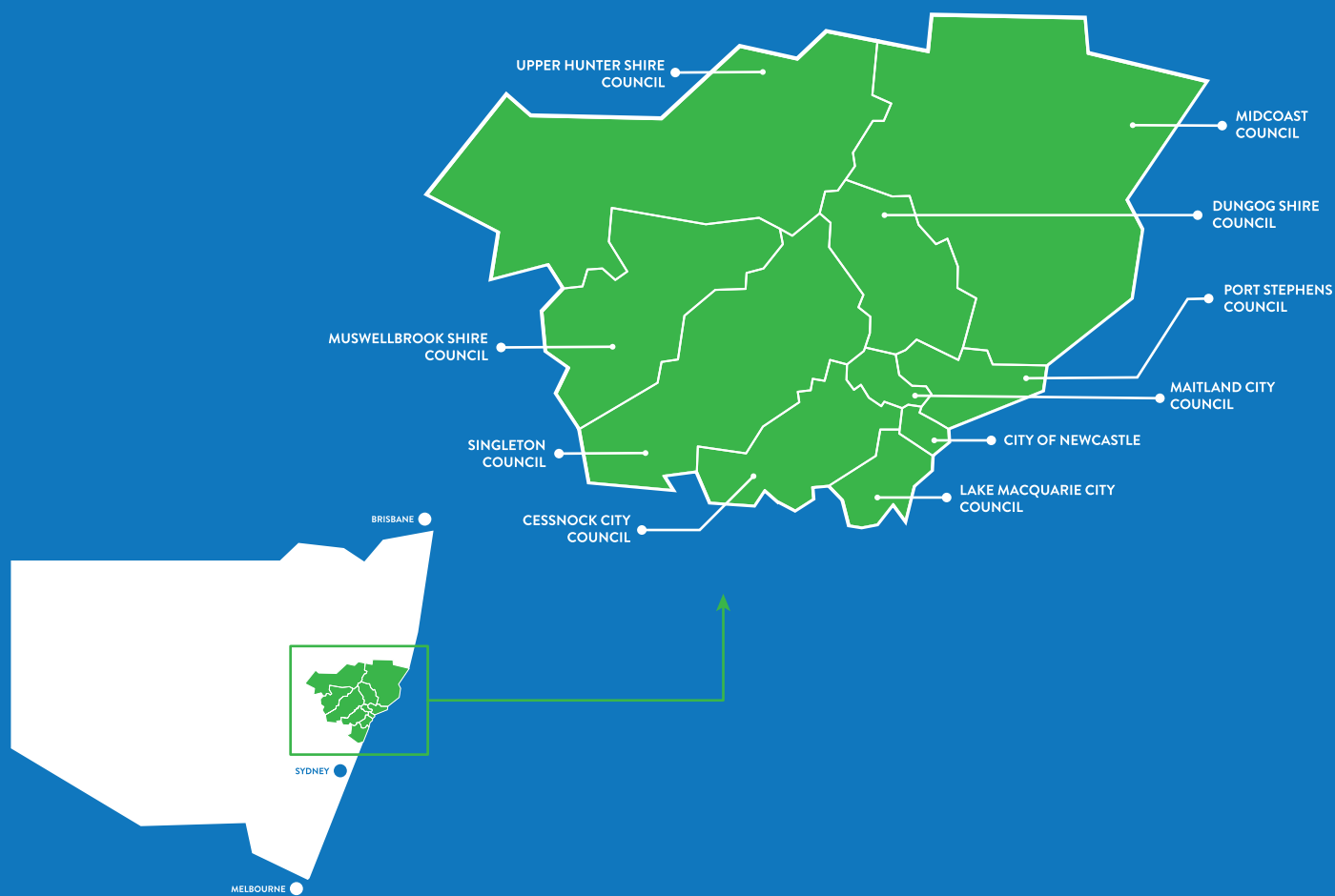
- Gather all existing cycle tourism experiences across the Hunter Region, including mountain biking, road and recreation cycling opportunities and package them up into a cohesive cycle tourism plan including a brand, marketing plan, product development, training and website.
- A build program to construct key sections of the Shiraz to Shore Trail, including the Richmond Vale Rail Trail.

## PROJECT PARTNERS



- Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association
- Richmond Vale Rail Trail Association
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Newcastle Cycleways Movement

# HUNTER JO MEMBER COUNCILS





## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEWCASTLE AIRPORT RUNWAY A COLLABORATIVE WIN FOR HUNTER**

**DISTRIBUTION DATE: FRIDAY 7 MAY 2021**

The Federal Government announcement of an investment of \$66 million in next Tuesday's budget towards the upgrade of Newcastle Airport's runway has been a welcome acknowledgement of the Hunter Region's potential and a reward for years of advocacy by local government and industry across the Hunter. Local leadership and collaboration have been key in bringing about the runway upgrade for Newcastle Airport.

"We should congratulate the Board, CEO Peter Cock and the management team of Newcastle Airport for this important win as we still navigate the challenges of COVID-19," said Cr Bob Pynsent, Chair of the Hunter JO and Mayor of Cessnock.

"This upgrade will be an encouraging boost to the Hunter's existing and future industries at a time when they need it most."

The runway upgrade has been a key advocacy initiative of the Hunter JO since its inception in 2018 when a delegation of mayors went to Canberra to champion the project to ministers and shadow-ministers. It will allow the airport to cater for larger international aircraft, including Boeing 787s and Airbus A330s, enabling significant freight loads and the ability to increase passenger loads through long-haul flights. This will deliver a whole-of-region benefit and new jobs to the region.

"I'm excited to see the project come to fruition almost three years after the Hunter JO sought Federal Government support for this project in Canberra. I am also grateful for the leadership and initiative shown by my fellow mayors from and since that first delegation in supporting the Airport's plan," Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Chair of the Hunter JO's Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee, Mayor of City of Newcastle and Board Member of Newcastle Airport.

Collaborative partnerships have been critical to supporting the Newcastle Airport's own advocacy, with support coming from the local government members of the



ABN 19 949 536 343

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322  
P (02) 4978 4040 | F (02) 4966 0588

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Hunter JO and the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee and, more recently, through the Hunter JO working with the Committee for the Hunter on the Ready to Rebuild campaign.

Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor of Port Stephens said of the announcement, “This outcome highlights the importance of partnership and perseverance in what has been a long campaign. As Mayor of Port Stephens, a member of the Newcastle Airport Board, and as a part of the Hunter JO, I can tell you it would not have been possible without acting together.”

### **Contact details**

Please direct media inquiries to Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter Joint Organisation.

M: +61 413 891 320 or email [comms@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:comms@hunterjo.com.au)





## **MEDIA RELEASE - LOCAL LEADERS TO GET THE CHANCE TO DEAL WITH HUNTER ENERGY INDUSTRY CHANGES**

**DISTRIBUTION DATE: Thursday 20 May 2021**

The NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro's announcement yesterday that the Government will establish an Expert Panel to assist the Hunter region's changing energy economy represents a welcome step towards dealing with the real risks to the region's economy and jobs as local industries change. This announcement once implemented will help to ensure that local leaders will guide the investment of the proposed \$25m annual Royalties for Rejuvenation fund.

"The whole Hunter will be impacted by changes to energy industries. A response that is guided by local leaders must begin immediately if we are to avoid a bad outcome for the community" said Cr Bob Pynsent, Chair of the Hunter JO and Mayor of Cessnock. "Through the Hunter JO, the Hunter's ten councils have prioritised working with the NSW Government and industry to make sure we deal with this challenge before it impacts our communities. This announcement is a great step towards a solution and we look forward to playing an active role in the Panel."

The immediate priorities for the panel will be to guide the Royalties for Rejuvenation funds into new industry development to further diversify the economy and to support local businesses and workers impacted by changes to move into new opportunities in the region.

"With the new fund and its locally led governance structure in place, we will also need to ensure the regions secures the substantial private sector investment needed to drive future jobs and industry growth for the region," said Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton. "I'm encouraged to see the State Government supporting the Hunter JO's push for action and investment, to ensure that we are planning for the future of our region."

The Hunter Joint Organisation is currently awaiting a State Government decision on an application for a Bushfire Local Economic Recovery funding to establish the Hunter 2050 Foundation, an initiative designed to drive the private sector investment needed in the region.

### **Contact details**

Please direct media inquiries to Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter Joint Organisation.

M: +61 413 891 320 or email [comms@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:comms@hunterjo.com.au)

**Report Author: Joe James, CEO and Graham Dean, Manager - Finance & Administration**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide financial results for the year to date (April 2021) for the Hunter Joint Organisation and other material items for the Board to be aware of in the operation of the Hunter JO.

A full copy of the P&Ls for April 2021 is included in the papers as Attachment 11.

The operational budget is forecast to run a small surplus of approximately \$4,000.

In terms of project funding we expect to fully expend remaining funds on each of the Hunter 2050 Foundation, Cruise Co-ordinator role and Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Tools by the end of financial year.

Comments on line items and any variances between forecasted and actual budget have been included within the report.

Resourcing Update:

Graham Dean has announced his retirement after 18 years with the organisation. Graham will finish at the end of July 2021, to see the organisation through the end of financial year processes and the financial audit. Graham's capacity during this time is slightly constrained due to some personal factors. Graham has played a defining role in the formation of Hunter Councils, and its transition into Strategic Services Australia, and now Arrow Collaborative Services, as well as in the formation of the Hunter Joint Organisation as a statutory body.

Since the announcement of Graham's retirement, the CEO and EO have undergone a recruitment process using GWG Recruitment, and have now offered the role to the preferred candidate, who will be starting with the organisation in mid- to late-June.

Jane Lantry, Finance & Administration Officer, will also be finishing up with the organisation in July, in order to take a career break and in time move to a less time-consuming role. The timing of Jane's decision will align with the transition to a new Finance Manager, with Jane wanting to enable the new Manager to staff their own team with her supporting this transition.

**Recommendation:**

- **That the Profit and Loss Statement for period ending April 2021 be received and noted**

**Hunter Joint Organisation**
**Profit & Loss Summary**
**1 July 20 to 30 April 21**

	<b>April Actual</b>	<b>April Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2020/21</b>	<b>Forecast 2020 / 21</b>
<b>Administration</b>								
Revenue	50,043	50,000	43	1,054,727	1,052,503	2,224	1,152,500	1,154,827
Expenditure	(88,583)	(89,764)	1,181	(927,461)	(951,036)	23,575	(1,152,500)	(1,150,188)
<b>Total Admin</b>	<b>(38,540)</b>	<b>(39,764)</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>127,266</b>	<b>101,468</b>	<b>25,798</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,639</b>
<b>Projects</b>								
Brought Forward				331,325	-	331,325	-	-
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure	(106,916)	-	(106,916)	(258,151)	-	(258,151)	-	-
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>(106,916)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(106,916)</b>	<b>73,174</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,174</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(145,456)</b>	<b>(39,764)</b>	<b>(105,692)</b>	<b>200,440</b>	<b>101,468</b>	<b>98,972</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,639</b>

Hunter Joint Organisation

Profit & Loss Summary  
1 July 20 to 30 April 21

Income

Joint Organisation Funding

Subscriptions	HJO Core Funding
SSA fee	to pursue strategic roles
Legal Services fee	to pursue strategic roles
Bank Interest	
Miscellaneous	

Total Income

Expenses

General & Administrative

Admin & O'heads - Internal
Audit & Assurance
Consultants - audit & finance
Insurance - PI & PL
Legal Services
Miscellaneous
Printing, Stationary & Postage
Subscriptions
Telephone - Landline & Fax
Telephone - Mobile
Website / Computing facilities

Employment

Salaries & Superannuation
Fringe Benefits Tax
Workers' Compensation
Staff Amenities & Misc.
Uniforms
Professional Development
Recruitment

Board Meetings & Annual Conference

Catering , Venue & Accomodation
---------------------------------

Communications and marketing

Buildings & Accommodation

Rent - SSA Admin - CEO office
Rent - JO Boardroom

Direct Project Costs

Regional Policy & Programs Division - Contribution
--

Travel & Accommodation - HJO Staff

Accommodation
Fares, Parking & Tolls
Meals/Sustenance
Motor Vehicle Costs

Depreciation & Amortisation

Computing equipment
Vehicles

Finance

Bank Charges
--------------

Total Expenses

Surplus / (Deficit)

April Actual	April Budget	Variance	%	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	%	Approved Budget 2020/21	Forecast 2020 / 21	Variance	Comment
-	-	0		552,500	552,500	0	0%	552,500	552,500	-	
41,667	41,667	0	0%	416,670	416,670	0	0%	500,000	500,000	-	
8,333	8,333	-0	0%	83,333	83,333	-0	0%	100,000	100,000	-	
43	-	43		597	-	597		-	700	700	Unspent funds earning interest
-	-	0		1,627	-	1,627		-	1,627	1,627	Proceeds from wind-up of Tourism Hunter
50,043	50,000	43	0%	1,054,727	1,052,503	2,224	0%	1,152,500	1,154,827	2,327	
7,575	7,575	0	0%	75,750	75,751	1	0%	90,901	90,901	-	
-	-	0		15,000	-	-15,000		19,000	15,000	(4,000)	Actual cost reduced subsequent to CEO representation
3,000	-	-3,000		3,000	-	-3,000		-	3,000	3,000	Related Parties Policy - per 20/21 audit
-	-	0		9,293	8,000	-1,293	16%	8,000	9,293	1,293	Premium increases across the board
-	-	0		5,279	-	-5,279		-	5,279	5,279	Review of Code of Conduct Panel
-	100	100	-100%	-	1,000	1,000	-100%	1,200	-	(1,200)	
-	50	50	-100%	1,201	500	-701	140%	600	1,500	900	Underbudgetted
873	50	-823	1646%	2,188	500	-1,688	338%	600	2,500	1,900	Underbudgetted
132	112	-20	18%	722	1,120	398	-36%	1,344	1,200	(144)	
91	80	-11	14%	872	800	-72	9%	960	960	-	
698	650	-48	7%	8,230	6,500	-1,730	27%	7,800	8,500	700	Underbudgetted
15,802	19,930	4,128	-21%	185,393	219,232	33,839	-15%	259,092	240,000	(19,092)	Comm's marketing resource not used in Oct - March
-	-	0		6,005	9,012	3,007	-33%	12,113	12,113	-	
-	100	100	-100%	7,466	1,096	-6,370	581%	1,295	7,467	6,172	Annual premium paid upfront plus premium increase
21	80	59	-74%	597	800	203	-25%	960	960	-	
-	-	0		-	400	400	-100%	400	400	-	
-	250	250	-100%	1,192	2,500	1,308	-52%	3,000	3,000	-	Underbudgetted
-	-	0		625	-	-625		-	355	355	Marketing Comms officer
912	600	-312	52%	4,817	12,400	7,583	-61%	13,000	15,000	2,000	
138	1,000	862	-86%	5,076	14,500	9,424	-65%	16,500	16,500	-	
1,450	1,450	-0	0%	14,500	14,497	-3	0%	17,396	17,396	-	
3,004	3,004	-0	0%	30,040	30,035	-5	0%	36,042	36,042	-	
52,494	52,494	0	0%	524,940	524,943	3	0%	629,931	629,931	-	
250	250	250	-100%	2,500	2,500	2,500	-100%	3,000	1,000	(2,000)	COVID
777	250	-527	211%	6,374	2,500	-3,874	155%	3,000	8,000	5,000	Underbudgetted
25	50	25	-50%	699	650	-49	8%	780	780	-	
587	675	88	-13%	8,130	11,650	3,520	-30%	13,350	11,000	(2,350)	Less travel - work from home
52	52	0	0%	521	520	-1	0%	624	624	-	
928	928	0	0%	9,284	9,280	-4	0%	11,136	11,136	-	
24	35	11	-31%	267	350	83	-24%	474	350	(124)	
88,583	89,764	-1,181	-1%	927,461	951,036	-23,575	-2%	1,152,500	1,150,188	(2,312)	
(38,540)	(39,764)	1,224	-3%	127,266	101,468	25,798	25%	0	4,639	4,639	

**Hunter Joint Organisation**
**Profit & Loss Summary**
**Projects**
**HJO Projects**
**Cruise Hunter**

Brought forward

Income

Expenditure

**Hunter 2050 Foundation**

Brought forward

Income

Expenditure

**DPCProject Funding**

Brought forward

Income

Expenditure

**Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Tools**

Brought forward

Income

Expenditure

**Total Projects**

Brought forward

Income

Expenditure

Balance Under/(Over) Spent

April Actual	April Budget	Under/(Over) Spent	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Under/(Over) Spent	Approved Budget 2020/21
-			26,475			-
-			-			-
(3,077)			(19,879)			-
<b>(3,077)</b>	-	(3,077)	<b>6,596</b>	-	6,596	-
-			113,333			-
-			-			-
(52,255)			(103,333)			-
<b>(52,255)</b>	-	(52,255)	<b>10,000</b>	-	10,000	-
-			124,850			-
-			-			-
-			(75,272)			-
-	-	-	<b>49,578</b>	-	49,578	-
-			66,667			-
-			-			-
(51,584)			(59,667)			-
<b>(51,584)</b>	-	(51,584)	<b>7,000</b>	-	7,000	-
-			<b>331,325</b>			-
-			-			-
<b>(106,916)</b>			<b>(258,151)</b>			-
<b>(106,916)</b>	-	(106,916)	<b>73,174</b>	-	73,174	-

**Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director – Policy and Programs Division**

**Responsible Officer: Steve Wilson, Director – Policy and Programs Division**

**PROGRAM DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Action Area 1. Our communities stay inclusive, proud and safe and celebrate diversity**

*1.4. 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*

Project / Program Name	Regional Disaster Resilience Program
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis
<p>The Hunter JO has been successful with both of its funding applications submitted to the Bushfire Community Recovery &amp; Resilience Fund Phase 2 (Resilience NSW). Totalling \$600,000 these grants will commence during June and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Transforming Resilience with the Integrated Planning &amp; Reporting Framework (\$300,000)</i></li> </ul> <p>This project will work with Councils to embed resilience principles and projects into their IP&amp;R which in turn will provide Council the ability to allocate recurrent funds and commit to long term resourcing (financial and staff) for resilience projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Simtables for Community Empowerment (\$300,000)</i></li> </ul> <p>Simtables provide a “State of the Art” tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place- based emergency information sessions. This project will purchase a Simtable for the collective use of member Councils and to provide direct support to Councils in undertaking the extensive community engagement associated with their use.</p>	

**Action Area 2. Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently**

*2.1 Continue to work together to deliver the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy.*

Project / Program Name	Contaminated Land Capacity Building Program
Program / Project Lead	Peter Brennan
<p><b>Regional Contaminated Land Information Management System Pilot Project</b></p> <p>Preliminary outputs from a project being piloted with Cessnock and Maitland Councils to design and develop (prior to broader regional roll out) a Contaminated Land Information database have been delivered and are currently being evaluated, with positive feedback being provided by the pilot Councils to date. The project is seeking to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop regionally consistent classification categories for contaminated land</li> <li>• Source information on a regional basis to populate new and/or update existing Council Contaminated Land Information Systems</li> </ul> <p><b>Template Conditions of Development Consent</b></p> <p>The Hunter JO recently participated in a workshop facilitated by NSW DPIE to develop standardised conditions of development consent for Councils across NSW relating to</p>	

contaminated land. The Hunter JO will continue to be involved in this process as both a stakeholder and key knowledge holder, having previously developed a Register of Contaminated Land Consent Conditions for the Hunter and Central Coast Region, which are now widely used not only throughout the region but across NSW.

### 2.3 Work together to find an effective recycling solution for the region.

Project / Program Name	Circular Economy Program
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
<p><b>Circular Economy Roadmap Workshop</b></p> <p>A Circular Economy Strategic Roadmap Workshop delivered on 13<sup>th</sup> April attracted 40 plus leaders from industry, academia, government and not for profit organisations, who worked together to define the Circular Economy Strategic Roadmap for the Hunter and Central Coast Region. Participants collaborated to develop a vision, focus areas and action plans for the Strategic Roadmap, with a range of initiatives being identified to support the local economy, create jobs, reuse resources and lower greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Councillor Kay Fraser, Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy SubCommittee and Mayor of Lake Macquarie City Council opened the event, followed by keynote speakers including Lisa McLean (NSW Circular) and Paul Klymenko (CEO of Planet Ark), who provided overviews of the circular economy from a State and Federal perspective.</p> <p>Information from the workshop is currently being collated for reporting to the wider Circular Economy network within the region; to gather feedback in order to finalise the Circular Economy Strategic Roadmap for the Hunter and Central Coast.</p> <p><b>Circular Economy Think Tank</b></p> <p>The Circular Economy Facilitators Group recently organised and delivered the Circular Economy Think Tank on 10<sup>th</sup> May, to develop ideas for the Region's circular economy. The event was attended by over 100 people.</p>	

## Action Area 3. Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading regional economy

*3.3 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.*

Project / Program Name	Population Scenario Planning
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
<p>Engagement of a preferred consultant is currently being negotiated to deliver key elements of this project. Based on work currently underway, a collaboration with the NSW Government has been identified to assist with the development of baseline information for the project. Savings derived from the collaboration will facilitate additional workshops being delivered with Councils and key stakeholders that are currently being planned for July – Sep 2021.</p>	

#### Action Area 4. Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading regional economy

4.5 Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare Hunter JO agreed priority list of infrastructure, system and service improvements which will make the greatest difference to communities and businesses across the region. This will include expansion and connectivity between cycleways.

Project / Program Name	Regional Infrastructure Priority List
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
<p>The consulting company Marsden Jacob Associates have been contracted to research and provide recommendations on an appropriate infrastructure prioritisation methodology for the region. This work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Researching and assessing existing infrastructure prioritisation methodologies currently in use in Australia and internationally</li><li>• Participating in a workshop process with key regional stakeholders to examine the research findings and needs of the Hunter JO and stakeholders, to inform recommendations for refining the focus, scope and outputs of the project.</li><li>• Making recommendations on the preferred methodology or methodologies for undertaking objective, evidence-based analysis and prioritisation of infrastructure projects at regional and subregional scales in the Hunter Region, both at an overall level and for specific infrastructure categories.</li></ul>	

#### Full Hunter JO Program Delivery Report

Refer Attachment 12 "Hunter JO Program Activity Report" for information on the full range of programs being delivered.

#### Recommendation:

- That the report be received and noted.



# HUNTER JO PROGRAM REPORT

APRIL - JUNE 2021

This publication was produced by the Hunter Joint Organisation.



#### ENQUIRIES

Hunter Joint Organisation  
Phone: 02 4978 4020  
Email: [rppd@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:rppd@hunterjo.com.au)

© Hunter Joint Organisation

#### SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

Hunter JO Program Report (June 2021), Hunter Joint Organisation, Thornton NSW.

## CONTENTS

<b>The Hunter Joint Organisation .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Who We Are.....	4
Mission Statement.....	4
Hunter JO Board .....	4
Our Member Councils.....	4
Our Team.....	5
 <b>Program Activity Report.....</b>	 <b>11</b>
<b>Action Area 1 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Our communities stay inclusive, proud and safe and celebrate diversity</i>	
<b>Action Area 2 .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently</i>	
<b>Action Area 3 .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading smart regional economy</i>	
<b>Action Area 4 .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Our people and products move across the region easily on integrated and accessible transport networks</i>	
<b>Action Area 5 .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Our educational facilities support and encourage our young people and foster lifelong learning and encourage our young people</i>	
<b>Action Area 6 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<i>Our people have access to the full range of health care fostering active and healthy communities</i>	

# THE HUNTER JO

## WHO ARE WE

The Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) is a collaborative body that brings together the ten councils in the region to provide a united and local voice for our communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, our statutory mandate includes identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities, and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, industry and community.

## OUR STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

Our statutory functions defined by the NSW Local Government Amendment (Regional Joint Organisations) Act 2017 comprise:

- Regional Strategic planning and priority setting
- Regional leadership and advocacy
- Intergovernmental collaboration

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, we strengthen our communities by being the local voice on strategic issues in the Region.

## HUNTER JO BOARD

Our Board is made up of members from each of our member councils, with each Mayor as a voting representative, and the General Managers of each of the councils in a non-voting capacity. Our Board also includes a representative from NSW Government.



## OUR TEAM

NAME	ROLE	CONTACT
Joe James	CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation	0405 217 249 ceo@hunterjo.com.au
Louisa Bulley	Executive Officer	0413 891 320 louisab@hunterjo.com.au
Steve Wilson	Director Regional Policy and Programs	0448 401 436 steve@hunterjo.com.au
Tim Askew	Regional Policy and Program Manager	0436 420 623 tima@hunterjo.com.au
Melinda Curtis	Regional Policy and Program Manager - Environment	0428 981 012 melindac@hunterjo.com.au
Boyd Blackwell	Regional Policy and Program Manager	0448 490 656 boydb@hunterjo.com.au
Siobhan Isherwood	Regional Waste Program Coordinator	0429 564 111 siobhani@hunterjo.com.au
Peter Brennan	Regional Program Manager - Contaminated Land	0427 754 703 peterb@hunterjo.com.au
Eloise Lobsey	Regional Environmental Education Officer - Waste, Resource Recovery & Circular Economy	0448 160 800 eloisel@hunterjo.com.au
Skye Moore	Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer - Resilience NSW	0467 279 005 skye.moore@justice.nsw.gov.au
Barbora Michalidesova	Coordinator – Executive Support & Projects	02 4978 4020 barboram@hunterjo.com.au
Carissa Norton	Graphic Designer	0457 049 878 carissan@hunterjo.com.au

## REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

### MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS

MINISTER	DATE	FOCUS OF ENGAGEMENT
Paul Scully MP, Shadow Minister for Natural Resources	14 April 2021	Hunter 2050 Foundation

### POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	DATE	FOCUS OF ENGAGEMENT
<p>State Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member for Maitland – Jenny Aitchison</li> <li>Member for Cessnock – Clayton Barr</li> <li>Member for Myall Lakes – Stephen Bromhead</li> <li>Member for Swansea – Yasmin Catley</li> <li>Member for Newcastle – Tim Crakanthorp</li> <li>Member for Charlestown – Jodie Harrison</li> <li>Member for Wallsend – Sonia Hornery</li> <li>Member for Lake Macquarie – Greg Piper</li> <li>Member for Port Stephens – Kate Washington</li> </ul> <p>Federal Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member for Newcastle – Sharon Claydon</li> <li>Member for Lyne – David Gillespie</li> <li>Member for Hunter – Joel Fitzgibbon</li> <li>Member for New England – Barnaby Joyce</li> <li>Member for Shortland – Pat Conroy</li> <li>Member for Paterson – Meryl Swanson</li> </ul> <p>Candidates running for the seat of Upper Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Layzell</li> <li>Jeff Drayton</li> <li>Sue Gilroy</li> <li>Dale McNamara</li> <li>Sue Abbott</li> <li>Eva Pears</li> <li>Kate Fraser</li> <li>Tracy Norman</li> <li>Kirsty O’Connell</li> </ul>	4 May 2021	<p>Support requested for funding applications lodged by the Hunter JO under the Stage 2 – Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerating Event Economics (Regional Event Attraction)</li> <li>Hunter 2050 Foundation</li> <li>Hunter BioCircular</li> <li>Shiraz to Shore</li> </ul> <p>This communication was in response to advice from Resilience NSW that the grants program is significantly oversubscribed and that State and Commonwealth Members of Parliament would be provided the opportunity to comment on the value of local project applications.</p>

## REGIONAL SUBMISSIONS

SUBMISSION FOCUS	CLOSING DATE	STATUS
Technical submission provided to NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) around the role of certified consultants and the implication on Council's contaminated land management approach.	31 March 2021	Completed

## MEDIA

FOCUS	RELEASE DATE
<b>NEWCASTLE AIRPORT RUNWAY A COLLABORATIVE WIN FOR HUNTER</b> Focus: Acknowledgement of the Federal Government's announcement to invest \$66 million in the 2021 budget towards the upgrade of Newcastle Airport's runway, and of the importance of local leadership and collaboration in contributing to this outcome, which has been a key advocacy priority for the Hunter JO since its inception. Full media release: <a href="https://www.hunterjo.com.au/news/media-statements/">https://www.hunterjo.com.au/news/media-statements/</a>	Friday 7th May 2021

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

### REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND NETWORKS

During the reporting period (April – June 2021) Hunter JO staff have hosted or participated in the following regional networks and committees.

MINISTER	DATE
Urban Development Program Committee	DPIE
Transition Hunter Central Coast (HCC) working group	DPIE
Metropolitan Regional Waste Coordinators Group	DPIE (EPA)
Coastal Practitioners Working Group	DPIE
Hunter RMS Reference Group (Project)	Lake Macquarie City Council
Regional Contaminated Land Working Group	Hunter JO
Hunter Regional Waste Strategy Group	Hunter JO
Hunter JO Circular Economy Sub-Committee	Hunter JO
Hunter Circular Facilitators Group	Hunter JO/DPIE
NSW JO Chairs Forum	JO Network
JO Network EOs Meetings	JO Network
Climate Action Professional Officers Group NSW	LG NSW
EPA Local Government Advisory Group	NSW EPA
RLE Human Services Sub-Committee	Regional NSW
Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Working Group	Regional NSW
Upper Hunter Futures Working Group (Project CG)	Regional NSW
Business Attraction Committee	Regional NSW
RLE Recovery & Resilience Sub-Committee	Regional NSW
Hunter Central Coast Regional Recovery Committee	Resilience NSW
Project Control Group Hunter Identity and Positioning	Regional NSW
Hunter Identity and Positioning Local Government Reference Group	Regional NSW
RLE Economic Development Sub-Committee	Regional NSW
Australasian Land and Groundwater Association Newcastle Branch Committee	ALGA
Local Government Special Interest Group – Contaminated Land	ALGA
Local Government Climate Change Planning Toolkit Working Group	DPIE
Hunter Freight and Supply Chain Taskforce & Working Group	Committee for the Hunter
Hunter Regional Transport Plan Sub regional workshops (Upper Hunter, Hunter North and Lower Hunter)	Transport for NSW
Hunter Venture Fund Sub-Committee	Hunter JO

## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PRIORITY SETTING

### STATUS OF REGIONAL GRANTS AND FUNDING SUBMISSIONS

FUNDING PROGRAM	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT	STATUS
Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Grant (Round 3) LG NSW	<b>ACT NOW ON ADAPTATION: COASTAL WISE COMMUNITIES</b> This project aims to develop a communication framework and supporting resources around coastal hazards across the region's coastal councils.	\$120,000	Successful
Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2 (Resilience NSW)	<b>TRANSFORMING RESILIENCE WITH THE INTEGRATED PLANNING &amp; REPORTING FRAMEWORK</b> This project would provide an innovative approach to support our bush fire affected Councils to embed resilience principles and projects into their IP&R which in turn will provide Council the ability to allocate recurrent funds and commit to long term resourcing (financial and staff) for resilience projects.	\$300,000	Successful
	<b>SIMTABLES FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT</b> Simtables provide a "State of the Art" tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions. This project seeks to purchase a Simtable for the collective use of member Councils and to provide direct support to Councils in undertaking the extensive community engagement associated with their use.	\$300,000	Successful
Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (Regional NSW)	<b>HUNTER 2050 FOUNDATION</b> Establishment of the 2050 Foundation aims to manage industrial change in the region, by leading investment and redevelopment as well as helping businesses and workers seize new opportunities. Funding has been sought to: Support initial cost of design and feasibility work, at both the organisational and project level, for new energy, agribusiness and SME transformation and growth in the region, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver supply chain transition support to 30 highly vulnerable businesses in the region; and</li> <li>• Support up to 2000 workers in making critical career transitions, as the economy recovers and begins to transform.</li> </ul>	\$4,000,000	Pending

Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (Regional NSW) Cont.	<b>ACCELERATING EVENT ECONOMIES</b> This project seeks to strengthen the region's collective voice and the capacity of Councils to collaboratively pitch for major events for the region. It includes undertaking an events and opportunity audit, and identifying, preparing and implementing shared destination and event management resources including an event managers toolkit, prospectus, website and integrated council shared services, approvals and event data.	\$861,476	Pending
	<b>HUNTER BIOCIRCULAR</b> This focuses on delivering concept plans for 4 multi-element circular economy waste processing precincts in the region. Each precinct would represent a key part of the Hunter and outline the potential for circular processing, green energy and value-added businesses delivering diversified employment opportunities and new industries to the Hunter.	\$300,000	Pending
	<b>SHIRAZ TO SHORE</b> Significant opportunity exists to link existing and planned cycleway infrastructure across member Councils; to create an integrated region wide network. This would provide both a valuable region wide recreational resource for residents, and the foundation upon which to generate economic and business development by holistically promoting the region as a key cycling destination. This project would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather all existing cycle tourism experiences across the Hunter Region, including mountain biking, road and recreation cycling opportunities and package them up into a cohesive cycle tourism plan; and</li> <li>• Develop the concept and planning for a connected cycling trail called "Shiraz to Shore" extending over 100km among the vineyards of the Hunter Valley, through heritage towns and rail trails to the beach and lake experiences of the Hunter. Funding will also be sought for a build program that could construct all sections of the Shiraz to Shore Trail, including the Richmond Vale Rail Trail section.</li> </ul>	\$19,515,600	Pending

# PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT

The following Activity Report provides an update on the status and nature of current programs and activities being undertaken by the Hunter JO, covering the period July 2020 to present. Reporting is provided against each of the priority Action Areas included in the Hunter Joint Organisation’s Strategic Plan 2018-21.

## ASPIRE. ACT. ACHIEVE.





## ACTION AREA 1:

**Our communities stay inclusive, proud and safe and celebrate diversity**

### 1.1 Develop an engaging online presence which tells the stories of the diverse places and people which make up the Hunter Region

#### HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION WEBSITE

**PURPOSE:** The Hunter Joint Organisation website (<https://www.hunterjo.com.au/>) aims to actively, regularly and effectively engage member Councils, partner organisations and the broader community on the activities and progress of the Hunter JO.

**ACTIVITY:** Ongoing review and updating of website news and content

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### 1.2 Work with the Department of Planning and Environment, Hunter Valley Research Foundation and other partners to closely monitor housing affordability in the region and identify key areas of concern

#### URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GREATER NEWCASTLE COMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:** The Urban Development Program Greater Newcastle Committee's primary objective is to provide advice to State Government on matters relating to the supply and servicing of land for residential development, to meet short and longer-term demand across the Greater Newcastle subregion. The UDP Greater Newcastle Committee applies to the local government areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens.

**ACTIVITY:** Commencing November 2020, the Hunter JO continues to participate in meetings of the Committee. The Hunter JO will also nominate staff representatives to participate in two subcommittees to be established, which will focus on infrastructure prioritisation and progressing the establishment of the Blue Green Grid at a regional scale.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### 1.3 Develop and implement a targeted program to advocate for measures to improve housing affordability in the region

#### URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GREATER NEWCASTLE COMMITTEE

There are currently no active programs for this action.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

#### 1.4 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

##### REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS OFFICER PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** To support Councils increase their capacity and capability to prepare, respond to and recover from disasters through:

- 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

##### ACTIVITY:

- At a state-wide level, Resilience NSW's Strategic Directions project is underway, a proposed agency-wide transformation that will allow resilience NSW to re-profile its workforce to become more sustainable over the longer term. This aims to deliver an increase in ongoing roles and reduction in temporary and contract roles to ensure it has enduring capability and capacity to deliver their 2020-2023 Strategy, deliver State outcomes and support disaster affected people. Phase 1 and 2 are now complete and recruitment for role vacancies will commence in June 2021. To support disaster resilience activities across NSW, Resilience NSW will have regionally based Local Coordination teams
- The Regional Disaster Preparedness Office Skye Moore has been operational since 23rd March, providing support to Councils with flood recovery activities
- Hunter JO staff and the Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer are represented on the Hunter-Central Coast RLE Resilience and Recovery Subcommittee, which is jointly convened by Regional NSW and Resilience NSW. The JO is leading a committee task group to:
  - Confirm the specific issues / opportunities to improve sharing of best practice, and to build connections across Councils; and
  - Identify specific priority actions that agencies can jointly deliver on to support / drive more regional approaches (and avoid duplication).
- Disaster Dashboards have been prepared for all Hunter JO member Councils and Central Coast Council. These websites provide a consistent platform across Council areas that consolidate emergency information and alerts, utility outages, basic preparedness advice and local recovery information into one location. At this point in time Councils who have activated their Disaster Dashboard include Central Coast, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, MidCoast, City of Newcastle, Port Stephens. The Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer will continue to work with councils to support them to release their dashboards. Two training online forums were delivered in March/April 2021 to assist Council communication and IT staff become dashboard "superusers".
- Two forums delivered December 2020 focused on building awareness of Local Government Emergency Management Arrangements.
- Get Ready branding and resources prepared for all Councils in the Hunter JO and Central Coast Council. A "Get Ready" for Summer social media resource pack was provided to Councils in December 2020.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress (funded until March 2022)

## REGIONAL COMMUNITY DISASTER VULNERABILITY MAPPING

**PURPOSE:** To integrate and analyse 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:** Spatial datasets and mapping.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Complete

## DISASTER READY COUNCILS PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To develop a suite of guideline resources to raise awareness and build the capacity of Councils to become "Disaster Ready" (i.e. to anticipate the risks posed by natural disasters; regularly identify and review strategies to address risks; and actively implement and test these strategies across the range of functions and services Council provides).

**ACTIVITY:** Draft documents currently under review to look at required updates to reflect changing environment around disasters and to incorporate the linkages with Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework and core service requirements.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In Progress

## TRANSFORMING RESILIENCE WITH THE INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To provide an innovative approach to support bush fire affected member Councils embed resilience principles and projects into their IP&R, which in turn will provide Council the ability to allocate recurrent funds and commit to long term resourcing (financial and staff) for resilience projects.

**ACTIVITY:** The Hunter JO's has been advised that its \$300,000 funding application lodged under the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2 to deliver the project has been successful. HJO staff are currently finalising the funding agreement with Resilience NSW, including updating project activities and project plans to meet amended grant delivery timeframes.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Scheduled to commence June 2021.

## SIMTABLES FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

**PURPOSE:** Simtables provide a "State of the Art" tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions. This project seeks to purchase a Simtable for the collective use of member Councils and to provide direct support to Councils in undertaking the extensive community engagement associated with their use.

**ACTIVITY:** The Hunter JO's has been advised that its \$300,000 funding application lodged under the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2 to deliver the project has been successful. HJO staff are currently finalising the funding agreement with Resilience NSW, including updating project activities and project plans to meet amended grant delivery timeframes.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Scheduled to commence June 2021.



## ACTION AREA 2:

**Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently**

### 2.1 Continue to work together to deliver the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy

#### REGIONAL CONTAMINATED LAND PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** To build capacity and capability of Councils to manage contaminated sites on private and Council managed land, and to support councils transition to their new role as regulator of the Underground Petroleum Storage System (UPSS) Regulation.

#### ACTIVITY:

- Preliminary outputs from a project being piloted with Cessnock and Maitland Councils to design and develop (prior to broader regional roll out) a Contaminated Land Information database are now being evaluated. This pilot project is seeking to:
  - Develop regionally consistent classification categories for contaminated land
  - Source information on a regional basis to populate new and/or upgraded information systems of Councils
- The Hunter JO recently participated in a workshop facilitated by NSW DPIE to develop standardised conditions of development consent relating to contaminated land. NSW DPIE have reviewed the Hunter Joint Organisations Register of Consent Conditions in this process, which are widely used by Councils throughout NSW, as evidenced by them being accessed on the Hunter JO website over 100 times during the past 12 months.
- Continuing to convene and facilitate regular meetings of Regional Contaminated Land Working Group (encompassing the former UPSS Transition Working Group) comprising representatives from all HJO member Councils
- Ongoing provision of technical advice to Councils (i.e. a Helpdesk) on issues involving contaminated land management (land use planning, UPSS and public land management)
- Delivering supporting documentation to build capacity of Council staff and raise the level of compliance of UPSS sites handed over to Councils by NSW EPA. These include:
  - Standard conditions of development consent
  - Template Fuel System Operation Plan (FSOP) Guide
  - UPSS Procedures
  - UPSS Risk Assessment Template
  - Conducting an Initial Review of the Potential for Contamination in Planning Approvals Processes
  - Initiating the Investigation, Remediation and Site Audit Process.
  - Sourcing information on a regional basis to populate new and/or upgraded information systems
- Raising issues and queries identified by Councils to the attention of relevant NSW government agencies and Industry bodies, particularly on matters that lack implementation guidance (e.g. UPSS regulation)
- Co-ordinating and facilitating joint regional responses from Councils to influence NSW statutory guidelines, including:
  - EPA practice note providing opportunity for Councils to propose amendments or changes and reviewed and contributed to other regions submission to guidance on the preparation of environmental management plans for management of contaminated land.
  - Draft Guidelines for consultants reporting on contaminated land
  - Draft Guidelines for Implementing the Protection of the Environment Operations (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulation 2019.

- Delivered on-site UPSS Inspection training program to all HJO member and Central Coast Councils.
- Facilitation of online sessions exploring the role of laboratories in contaminated land, as well as the prevalence of fraudulent reporting
- Workshops and New Guideline Released - Conducting an Initial Review by Council and Initiating the Investigation, Remediation and Site Audit Process to determine whether contamination needs to be addressed during the assessment of a Planning Application (as required by SEPP 55).
- An online technical Q&A Session delivered between 45 staff from all Member Councils and an Engineering/ Construction company SPEL Stormwater on the on-site capture and treatment of hydrocarbons, specifically focusing on the stormwater quality issues associated with service stations.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress (funded until August 2022)

## CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

### PURPOSE:

- To facilitate Hunter JO member Councils joining the Cities Power Partnership (CPP)
- To support regional collaborative efforts by Councils, the Hunter JO and CPP in delivery of shared pledges made by Councils:

### ACTIVITY:

- The Hunter JO Board endorsed exploring a “Regional Collaboration Pledges Partnership” with CCP (the first region in Australia to do so) at its April 2021 meeting. This recognises that all 10 of the Hunter JO’s member councils and Central Coast Council are now members of CPP or have endorsed becoming a member of CPP, making the Hunter JO region the first region nationally to have achieved all Councils becoming CPP members.
- A Regional forum is being planned for the 24 June 2021 focusing on:
  - Session 1 - presentations on the latest climate science training and a case study of “Charging the Regions Program”.
  - Session 2 - workshopping the areas of shared regional interest / opportunities for collaboration identified by Councils in November 2020. This session will drill down further into each of these areas and identify specific actions/projects for collaboration moving forward. The aim of the session is not to say that all councils have to share the same priorities for their CPP pledges and actions but to identify where these overlap, so that collaboration areas can be identified and supported moving forward. The regional priorities previously identified by Councils include:
    - 1) Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and provision of fast-charging infrastructure throughout key locations
    - 2) Ensuring Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric vehicles.
    - 3) Supporting and encouraging Community based Renewable Energy
    - 4) Supporting and encouraging Council based Renewable Energy
    - 5) Supporting and facilitating amendments to planning laws and controls to encourage community and industry to adopt renewable energy.
    - 6) Facilitating advocacy and coordinating business cases that address tensions and reluctance around initiatives.
    - 7) Regional Education and behaviour-change programs to support residents and business tackle climate change through, clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

## REGIONAL LITTER GOVERNANCE PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To support participating Councils review and improve overall corporate governance and management of litter related issues. Elements of review include: litter management costs, litter policies and monitoring systems; staff engagement in litter management and reporting; location and number of public litter bins; and efficacy of current Council litter clean-up practices. The project will also produce localised litter educational materials to support community education and internal staff campaigns.

### PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- Development of a Litter Communications Toolkit including library of photos and video clips for future use in community campaigns
- Development of a Litter Engagement Toolkit for Council staff
- Comprehensive audits of public place waste and recycling bins in Port Stephens and Muswellbrook Shire Council areas including recommendations for improvements to bin condition, types and placement
- Case study of public place bin auditing developed to encourage and assist other Councils to undertake this important task, and share key findings from the two audits completed

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Complete

## RECREATIONAL PARKS AND SPORTS FIELD LITTER REDUCTION PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To support participating Councils reduce litter at selected recreational parks and sports fields to meet objectives set in the Hunter Region Litter Plan. This involves identifying key recurring litter items at each site and delivering community awareness strategies to eliminate these items at their source.

### PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- Litter surveys completed at six parks across the region. Surveys identified better than anticipated results (i.e. minimal litter), leading to a further six sites now being investigated
- Litter Information signage deployed at 12 target locations across the Central Coast, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Port Stephens Council areas

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Complete

## 2.2 Establish a Coastal Resilience Sub Committee, made up of representatives from relevant Hunter JO councils, to increase collaboration in planning for climate change

### HUNTER CENTRAL COAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PRACTITIONERS ROUNDTABLE

**PURPOSE:** Jointly established by the Hunter JO and Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (who now facilitate the working group) to:

- 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.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Continued participation by Hunter JO staff in quarterly meetings of the Working Group
- In response to issues being experienced by coastal councils, the Hunter JO has been successful in leading a funding application to the NSW Government's Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program – see "Act on Adaptation" below.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### ACT NOW ON ADAPTATION

**PURPOSE:** To support coastal councils consistently and effectively engage with coastal communities and stakeholders through development of a communication framework on coastal hazards, including coastal erosion and inundation, sea level rise and coastal storms. Key deliverables will include:

- Capacity building through development of an evidence based approach to community engagement and communication around coastal adaptation across the coastal councils of the Hunter and Central Coast;
- Communication and media protocol;
- Communication resources; and
- Integrated Planning and Reporting package to integrate the approach into Councils key strategic documents.

**ACTIVITY:** A pre-project "Act on Adaptation" Survey, has been launched by project partner the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Social Research Unit and regional office. The purpose of the research is to better understand residents' experience of living, working in and visiting our coastal communities, and the impact of various coastal hazards (erosion, sea level rise, inundation, storms) people may have experienced. Results from this survey will contribute to the evidence base that will inform the focus and format of Communication Resources to be developed under the project.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## 2.3 Work together to find an effective recycling solution for the region

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUBCOMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:** To provide oversight and guidance to the delivery of HJO Circular Economy Initiatives

**ACTIVITY:**

- The Hunter JO convenes quarterly meetings of the Subcommittee to facilitate input and oversight of the various Circular Economy initiatives being implemented by the JO – see following projects
- The next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for Wednesday 19th May 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### HUNTER CIRCULAR FACILITATORS GROUP

**PURPOSE:** Jointly convened by the Hunter JO and Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, to provide a network of committed, knowledgeable and capable people with the potential to drive the circular economy program forward in the Hunter. The role of the group is to:

- Share information
- Harness, drive and coordinate cross stakeholder efforts toward a circular economy.
- Avoid duplication in progressing the circular economy in the region.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Facilitators group continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis
- The group organised and delivered the Circular Economy Think Tank 10 May, with over 100 people attending to develop ideas for our Region's circular economy.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST CIRCULAR ECONOMY HUB

**PURPOSE:** To drive and facilitate development of the Circular Economy (CE) across the Hunter and Central Coast by Councils, government agencies, business and industry groups and the community. The CE Hub would focus on:

- Providing leadership and planning to establish a common vision and plan for the region's move to a CE
- Facilitate the acquisition and sharing of research and information among stakeholders in the CE, including the provision of a "problem concierge" (i.e. a regional broker to link stakeholders with issues to those who can provide solutions)
- Continuing to curate and grow the CE ecosystem (website, industry networking, collaboration and development)
- Facilitating and delivering joint projects and initiatives across organisations
- Coordinating and advocating an agreed regional voice on CE for the region to State and Federal Governments
- Consistent and coordinated promotion of the region to researchers, innovators and investors
- Building knowledge in the region to capture and translate innovation and best practice into day to day operations, and to enact sustained change in organisational culture and systems required to progress the Circular Economy.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Workshop delivered January 2021 to refine the project scope with key stakeholder organisations.
- Other CE projects currently being delivered by the Hunter JO and partner organisations (e.g. Circular Economy Roadmap) are providing valuable inputs and justification for the design and establishment of the Circular Economy Hub.
- Circular Economy Hub to be co-designed alongside Lake Macquarie City Council's Living Lab proposal for the circular economy.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Design and Development

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROADMAP

### PURPOSE:

- To develop a common understanding and definition for the circular economy of the region relevant to all stakeholders – government, business and academia.
- Gain broad regional support and engagement for the development of a circular economy in the Hunter and Central Coast region.
- Develop a strategic roadmap for the region that is:
  - aspirational and helps partners and stakeholders understand roles and measures of success
  - practical in that it manages and objectively prioritises the range of ideas and initiatives being put forward by stakeholders
- To create an identity for the region as a leader in the transition to a circular economy and as a place to do circular economy activities, providing business attraction and local support for the circular economy
- To provide leverage and connect with other key circular economy frameworks and strategies at all levels of government

### ACTIVITY:

- A Circular Economy Strategic Roadmap Workshop was delivered on 13 April 2021. Over 40 leaders in the Circular Economy field representing industry, academia, government and Not for Profit organisations worked collaboratively to define a Circular Economy strategic roadmap for the Hunter and Central Coast Region. This included developing a vision, focus areas and action plans for the strategic roadmap. The day was launched by Mayor Kay Fraser from Lake Macquarie City Council, and featured keynote speakers including Lisa McLean from NSW Circular and Paul Klymenko, CEO of Planet Ark.
- Workshop outputs are now being collated and refined prior to reporting to and inviting feedback from the wider circular economy eco-system in the region prior to finalising the Circular Economy Strategic Roadmap.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY ECO-SYSTEM PROJECT STAGE 2

### PURPOSE:

- Provide and improve circular economy communication for all circular economy eco-system participants in the Hunter and Central Coast
- Build circular economy knowledge through education and capacity building opportunities for Hunter JO member councils and Central Coast Council
- Develop and improve circular economy data and analytics systems for use by all circular economy eco-system participants in the Hunter and Central Coast

### ACTIVITY:

- A Circular Economy executive education session for Councils was delivered on Thursday 18 March 2021. Fourteen participants including Directors, Managers and a General Manager from across 8 different Councils in the Hunter JO region received information on how to activate, incubate and accelerate the circular economy within their individual local government areas and as a collective through the Hunter JO.
- Work has commenced on a collaborative project between the Hunter JO, Lake Macquarie City Council, Newcastle Council, Central Coast Council and the University of Newcastle, which is exploring the city scan tool as method to analyse circular economy data for the benefit of the Hunter and Central Coast eco-system.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROCUREMENT PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To support Councils to prioritise recycled materials and circular economy services in their procurement systems and processes, and to collaborate with the Hunter JO and other participating councils to develop a common framework for a joint regional procurement of recycled materials.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Consultant brief developed to design and deliver procurement project. Request for Quotation to be issued during May 2021.
- Circular Economy Regional Procurement MoU was endorsed by Hunter JO Board with formal signing of MoU document completed February 2021 by Council General Managers.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## "SMALL ACTS BIG CHANGE" REGIONAL COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

**PURPOSE:** To deliver a regional communication campaign to improve community waste avoidance behaviours at the top end of the waste management hierarchy, along with reuse and recycling habits.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Ongoing development and maintenance of the "Small Acts Big Change" campaign website
- Ongoing design and delivery of the Small Acts Big Change social media and television advertising campaign, which build upon the series of short videos produced by the campaign focusing on community champions across the region.
- Ongoing delivery of marketing through social media platforms

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

**PURPOSE:** To deliver a regionally coordinated approach to promoting community awareness of Community Recycling Centres (CRC's).

**ACTIVITY:**

- Continued regional delivery of CRC advertising across the Upper and Lower Hunter region in conjunction with the Small Acts Big Change campaign.
- Review of the program is currently underway to ensure advertising is still fit for purpose and as part of the normal end of year grant reporting process.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## HUNTER RECIRCULAR PROJECT (REGIONAL RECYCLING SOLUTION - YELLOW BINS)

**PURPOSE:** To investigate preferred options for development of a new regional materials recovery facility

**ACTIVITY:** The focus of this project is to identify and implement a collaborative regional approach by Hunter JO member Councils to maximise the value and circularity of recyclables (yellow bin), by taking a circular economy approach to the processing of these materials.

A regional response to this issue is currently being led by Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) and Hunter Resource Recovery (HRR), which is aiming to develop an EOI process to find market based solutions for the recycling of the yellow bin materials. Hunter JO staff are participating in (but not leading) this regional process.

The role of the Hunter JO's participation in the regional investigations process is to:

1. Continue to contribute regional information and perspectives to the investigations of preferred options for development of a new regional materials recovery facility being led by LMCC and HRR
2. Assist with identifying and facilitating opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration arising from the regional investigations process
3. To assess regional alignment of the solutions identified through the investigations process with the region's broader Circular Economy Agenda, including the potential to integrate recyclables within more broadly focused circular economy innovation precincts (including recycling, energy and associated industries)

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## GREEN CAFFEEN SWAP-AND-GO COFFEE CUP SCHEME

**PURPOSE:** The Hunter JO, seven-member councils and Central Coast Council are partnering with Green Caffeine to deliver a Swap-and-Go Coffee Cup scheme. The scheme aims to eliminate distribution of disposable cups by providing participating cafes and coffee outlets with reusable cups which are available for scheme members to use when buying their coffee. Councils participating in the initiative are Maitland, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter and Central Coast Council.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Program officially launched in Hunter Region in March 2021, with café's and customer participants growing steadily with over 4,000 single use coffee cups avoided at last review. Updated statistics on usage and landfill avoidance to be provided at the 6 monthly review.
- Central Coast Council have recently confirmed they will now join the regional program, to be launched in July 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## STATE AND REGIONAL WASTE MANAGERS NETWORK

**PURPOSE:** To facilitate information sharing and collaboration between Councils and waste regions that contribute to the achievement of local and regional waste reduction targets.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Coordination and facilitation by the Hunter JO of quarterly meetings of the Regional Council Waste Managers Network (next meeting 16 June 2021)
- HJO staff continue to represent the Hunter and Central Coast in the NSW Regional Waste Coordinators Network convened by the NSW Environment Protection Authority

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity



### ACTION AREA 3:

**Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading smart regional economy**

#### **3.1 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.**

##### **HUNTER JO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this regional network to be convened by the Hunter JO involving Council and Agency staff representatives is to:

- Capture regional expertise and knowledge to identify, design and deliver regional economic development initiatives in areas of shared regional interest.
- Facilitate operational alignment and collaborative design and resourcing between organisations to deliver these initiatives
- Facilitate ongoing networking, linkages, knowledge and resource sharing between Councils, government agencies and other key stakeholders involved in economic development programs across the region
- Provide a consultative forum to facilitate input to the Hunter JO, to assist it represent member Council interests and viewpoints to the various regional committees and networks on which it sits as a representative of local government.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Terms of Reference endorsed by the Hunter JO Board at its February 2021 meeting, following which General Managers nominated staff representatives to participate in the Forum.
- First meeting of the Forum held on 30 March 2021, which was held as a joint session with the Regional Planning Forum (refer Action 3.3). Outputs from the 30 March meeting are available on the "Past Events" section of the Hunter JO website.
- The next quarterly joint meeting of the Regional Economic Development Forum and Regional Planning Forum is scheduled for 17 June 2021

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

#### **3.2 Work with the Hunter Research Foundation, University of Newcastle and other research partners to gather and analyse economic data and develop a regional attraction plan based on regional strengths in research, education, transport and logistics, aerospace, agribusiness and tourism.**

##### **HUNTER IDENTITY AND POSITIONING STRATEGY**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this project being coordinated by the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation, is to establish the identity and brand of Greater Newcastle and the region to:

- Establish a unified brand platform for the Hunter
- Define and promote the region's competitive advantages
- Support the region to compete in the global marketplace, to capture the movement of talent and investment

**ACTIVITY:** The Hunter JO is represented on both the Project Control Group (PCG) and the Local Government Reference Group (CRG). The PCG meets fortnightly throughout the project and the CRG meets as required – having met in Dec 2020 and April 2021. Further meetings are proposed for June and July 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## REGIONAL STRATEGY REVIEW: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE HUNTER

**PURPOSE:** There are currently a range of strategies and initiatives being prepared and/or implemented across the region at various scales (local to federal), and by various agencies that are targeting economic development and investment attraction. The purpose of this project is to identify and review the focus and activities of the many initiatives currently in play in the region, to identify those priority areas of shared interest and/or gaps that the Hunter JO needs to be actively involved in addressing. This seeks to avoid duplication with existing programs, improve alignment between them, and ensure the shared interests of Councils are being considered. The outcome of this work will be a priority list of clear actions for the Hunter JO to pursue that are consistent with its statutory functions and strategic plan.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Summary project brief endorsed by the Hunter JO Board at its April meeting.
- Initial project literature review underway.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

### 3.3 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.

## GREATER NEWCASTLE METROPOLITAN PLAN – REVIEW OF REGIONAL GOVERNANCE OPTIONS

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this project is to identify and explore potential regional governance models and/or legislative change that would ensure integrated, collaborative and effective delivery of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.

**ACTIVITY:** A briefing paper was prepared for and endorsed by the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee (GNMPSC) at its meeting on 4th March 2021, and a summary project brief derived from this paper endorsed by the Hunter JO Board at its April 2021 meeting. Consistent with these resolutions, Hunter JO staff are currently formulating an options paper that:

1. Ideally, considers the governance review undertaken by ARUP on the delivery of the GNMP
2. Reviews existing regional governance models and legislative mechanisms established to drive collaborative delivery of regional plans (including the Delivery, Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee role in other regions)
3. Identifies potential alternative governance models and legislative mechanisms that could also be appropriate for delivering on the principles established within the MoU for GNMP delivery
4. Provides recommendations on a preferred model and a process for progressing its establishment in collaboration with the NSW Government.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW STEERING COMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:** The primary objective of the Steering Committee is to provide advice to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on matters relating to the review of both the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 and Hunter Regional Plan 2036. This review is being undertaken during 2021.

**ACTIVITY:**

- The Hunter JO is represented on the Steering Committee.
- The most recent meeting of the Committee occurred 29th February 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## HUNTER JO REGIONAL PLANNING FORUM

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this regional network to be convened by the Hunter JO involving Council and Agency staff representatives is to:

- Facilitate operational alignment and collaborative design, delivery and resourcing of regional land use planning strategies and initiatives
- Facilitate networking & knowledge sharing between Councils, agencies and other key stakeholders involved in regional planning initiatives
- Provide a consultative forum to assist the JO represent member Council interests and viewpoints to the various regional committees and networks on which it sits, including (but not limited to) the Hunter Regional Plan Review Steering Committee and Urban Development Program.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Terms of Reference endorsed by the Hunter JO Board at its February 2021 meeting, following which General Managers nominated staff representatives to participate in the Forum.
- First meeting of the Forum held on 30 March 2021, which was held as a joint session with the Regional Economic Development Forum (refer Action 3.1). Outputs from the 30 March meeting are available on the "Past Events" section of the Hunter JO website.
- The next quarterly joint meeting of the Regional Planning Forum and Regional Economic Development Forum is scheduled for 17 June 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

## POPULATION SCENARIO PLANNING

**PURPOSE:** To prepare population scenarios as a platform for informing an agreed long-term vision for regional population growth, and to influence strategic regional planning processes, delivery programs and regional migration strategies by all levels of government for the Hunter Region.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Engagement of a preferred consultant is currently being negotiated to deliver key elements of this project.
- Based on work currently underway, a collaboration with the NSW Government has been identified to assist with the development of baseline information for the project. Savings derived from the collaboration will facilitate additional workshops being delivered with Councils and key stakeholders that are currently being planned for July – Sep 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

### 3.4 Work with the Hunter Regional Leadership Executive to deliver the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project Action Plan, monitor its success and review as needed.

#### HUNTER 2050 FOUNDATION

**PURPOSE:** The Hunter 2050 Foundation is an innovative approach to manage industrial change. It will lead investment and redevelopment in the region as well as helping businesses and workers seize new opportunities. The 2050 Foundation represents an innovative model for economic leadership that is proactive, market driven and locally led. It draws on the best models in Australia, whilst moving beyond the typical suite of government-led structural adjustment policies of the past by focusing on engaging in key markets to accelerate investment and redevelopment. In its first three years of operation the Foundation would aim to:

- Establish impact investment funds to invest in energy, industrial development and business innovation projects in the Hunter, building a pipeline of capital for new economic activity and local jobs
- Create a business innovation program supporting 300 local SME's to grow and an annual new industry capability program to grow industries including Defence
- Build a career transition program to provide support to 6000 workers in the region looking to pursue new opportunities
- Establish the organisation, its Board and management including the creation of 15 local jobs in the organisation itself

#### ACTIVITY:

- A Request for Quotation process is underway to secure a consultant to assist with designing the structure and form of the Hunter Venture Fund, a central feature of the 2050 Foundation. This work will:
  - Review and provide recommendations on potential corporate entity options for housing the Hunter Venture Fund
  - Provide recommendations on the structure & design of the Venture Fund
- A range of funding opportunities continue to be identified and investigated as to their relevance for funding the Foundation. These include:
  1. Advocating for funding to establish the Foundation to be allocated from the joint Commonwealth and State Regional Recovery Partnership Program. This follows a workshop on 9th March 2021 convened by the Commonwealth that explored regional priority projects with the potential to be funded through the Program. A decision on the allocation of funding is expected to be made by the end of March.
  2. A grant application was submitted to the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF). Approximately \$4 million has been sought over two years to:
    - Develop regional capability in funds management
    - Develop regional capability in industrial land redevelopment through feasibility studies; and
    - Develop regional capability and undertaking in workforce transition and small & medium business diversification
- A media, communication and engagement strategy was completed in February 2021, including a focus on promoting the Foundation through social media channels.
- A media campaign was launched 8th December 2020 on the Hunter 2050 Foundation project. Coverage received was positive, with the story being covered in an exclusive in The Australian, and the media release also being picked up in newspaper (local and national), radio (local) and television (SkyNews). Engagement beyond media coverage has continued, with enquiries being received through the Hunter 2050 website (<https://www.hunter2050.org.au/>) and social media channels.
- An internal working group of the HJO continue to meet weekly to progress the work program of the Foundation, including a focus on:
  - Organisational development of the Foundation
  - Stakeholder communications and consultation
  - Funding Opportunities and Relationships
  - Project Planning and Management

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## UPPER HUNTER REGION WEBSITE

**PURPOSE:** The delivery of this website was a key action in the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Action Plan. It was developed in partnership between Regional NSW and the Hunter JO, to provide a central location for resources for investors, local business and community for the Upper Hunter.

**ACTIVITY:**

- The Hunter JO is now managing the website and associated Facebook, in collaboration with the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Working Group, the four Upper Hunter Councils, and Regional NSW.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

## UPPER HUNTER FUTURES PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** Convened by Department of Regional NSW, this project aims to:

- Consider the current economic, planning and social landscape
- Provide a robust analysis of plausible scenarios for the future
- Develop a set of actions that guide a transition towards achieving economic diversification and resilience.

**ACTIVITY:**

- The Hunter JO is represented on the Project Control Group for this initiative
- A review has been completed and analysed by the Project Control Group. Actions arising will be incorporated into the updated Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project Action Plan
- A stakeholder workshop was delivered early 2021 to facilitate broader input to the review and its recommendations
- Priority areas have been identified by the sub working group and these are being progressed along with a plan for governance and community engagement.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## UPPER HUNTER ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION WORKING GROUP

**PURPOSE:** The Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Working Group and Action Plan is responsible for articulating the Upper Hunter region's priorities for delivering a sustainable and secure economic future – leveraging existing regional advantages and expanding into new growth areas of agribusiness, renewable energy and the export of expertise in mining, advanced manufacturing and professional services to global markets.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Hunter JO representatives continue to participate in the Working Group, to develop an integrated suite of policies to help the Upper Hunter's unique communities prosper over the long term.
- Workshop held in February that helped identify priority actions for the next 1-2 years and 3-5 years for the Upper Hunter. These will be collated by the Department of Regional NSW and reported back to the Working Group at the next meeting.
- Priority areas have been identified by the sub working group and these are being progressed along with a plan for governance and community engagement.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### 3.5 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 livability and sustainability for our region

#### SMART REGION PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** The Smart Region Project will be an overarching collation of smart region activities and projects across the region placed within an annual review document produced to market the progress of our region. Initially the project will review the existing state of smart city thinking and activity across the region to get a baseline of progress. This program will then outline the priorities of the region in the smart region context and develop a suite of priority actions and templates for regional use.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Summary project brief for the project endorsed by the Hunter JO Board in August 2020.
- An initial workshop was delivered 25 November 2020 to gain an understanding of where each council is at with smart projects and to workshop draft objectives developed for the Smart Region project.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Design and Development

### 3.6 Develop a sustainable model to coordinate council-run events across the region and showcase the Hunter and attract local, national and international visitors.

#### REGIONAL EVENTS STRATEGY (ACCELERATING EVENT ECONOMIES)

**PURPOSE:** To strengthen the region's collective voice and the capacity of Councils to collaboratively pitch for major events for the region.

**ACTIVITY:**

A Request for Quotation process is currently being initiated to seek the services of a consultant to support the Hunter JO progress:

- The initial facilitation of a Regional Events Strategy Working Group
- Delivery of an initial suite of practical activities to pilot collaborative action between Councils around regional events. For example, initial development of a regional events calendar or coordinating a regional facilities audit across participating Councils
- Scoping up the process and scope of activity that would be required for the region to bid for a World Masters Games event.

This is consistent with the Hunter JO Board resolution from April 2021 to:

- Establish a Regional Events Strategy Working Group
- Undertake a review of opportunities and costs associated with hosting a World Masters Games; and
- Review existing strategies and develop a roadmap for the implementation of key actions to attract major events to the region.

An application for grant funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) was submitted January 2021 to deliver this initiative. Funding has been requested to focus on:

- 1) Establishing a partner task group
- 2) Undertaking an events and opportunity audit
- 3) Identifying, preparing and implementing destination and event management resources including event managers toolkit, prospectus, website and integrated council shared services, approvals and event data.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Design and Development

### 3.7 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.

#### DESTINATION SYDNEY SURROUNDS NORTH (DSSN) DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

**PURPOSE:** To prepare a Destination Management Plan for the DSSN area, which includes the Hunter Region.

**ACTIVITY:** Future stakeholder engagement sessions are yet to be scheduled by DSSN. Next steps will be presentation of the draft DMP to Councils and the Hunter JO for review.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

### 3.8 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.

#### CITY DEAL ADVOCACY

There is currently no active advocacy occurring around a City Deal, based on advice from the Commonwealth Government that there are no plans for Commonwealth Investment in City Deal initiatives at the current time. However other projects being initiated by the Hunter JO including the Population Scenario Planning and Regional Infrastructure Priority List initiatives will provide important foundations for future planning and advocacy work around a City Deal.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not progressing

### 3.9 Explore and act on smart ways to transform local and global disruptions, such as the disruption of recycling services, into economic opportunities for the Hunter. ination. Develop a regional destination management plan.

#### HUNTER BIOCIRCULAR

**PURPOSE:** To embrace world-leading innovations to develop a flagship community resources recovery model. By demonstrating a Circular Economy approach, Hunter BioCircular seeks to move the region toward zero waste to landfill, and in doing so provide long term economic, social and environmental benefits from processing waste locally, which will help transition the regional economy, deliver new local jobs and reduce carbon emissions.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Ongoing stakeholder engagement to develop the next steps for developing the concept plan and feasibility analysis.
- An application for grant funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) was submitted January 2021 to support with progressing the Hunter BioCircular concept. This would focus on delivering concept plans for 4 multi-element circular economy waste processing precincts in the Hunter region. Each precinct will represent a key part of the Hunter and outline the potential for circular processing, green energy and value-added businesses delivering diversified employment opportunities and new industries to the Hunter.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress



## ACTION AREA 4:

**Our people and products move across the region easily on integrated and accessible transport networks**

### 4.1 Establish a Transport Connectivity Sub Committee, made up representatives from member councils, to coordinate the transport and associated infrastructure planning activity of the JO and report to the Board.

There are currently no active programs in this area.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

### 4.2 Coordinate and prepare submissions on regional planning initiatives such as the 2056 Freight and Ports Plan.

#### HUNTER RMS PROJECT DELAYS - INDUSTRY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFERENCE GROUP

**PURPOSE:** Comprising representatives from the Hunter JO, Lake Macquarie City Council, Urban Development Institute of Australia, NSW (UDIA), the NSW Property Council and Dantia, the functions of this reference group are to:

- Contribute to the internal review of Transport for NSW (TfNSW) operations relating to land use planning
- Support the triaging of projects delayed by the former Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
- Support the development of, and the implementation of, a strategic plan identifying actions and outputs aimed at reducing delays within the Hunter region
- Provide feedback on policy initiatives arising from the work of the Reference Group

#### **ACTIVITY:**

Key outcomes arising from the reference group's work includes:

- Improvements to the security deposit requirements for Works Authorisation Deeds in Regional and Outer Metropolitan NSW.
- The creation of a new corporate structure within Transport for NSW, including a Director-level role within Transport for NSW's Regional and Outer Metropolitan team to focus on land use and development opportunities.

A briefing by Damien Pfeiffer - Director Development Services, Transport for NSW on the changes that have resulted directly from this regional collaboration is scheduled for the June 2021 Hunter JO Board meeting.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### 4.3 Work with the Transport for NSW and other partners to access and analyse detailed transport data across the region and understand gaps in infrastructure and services.

There are currently no active programs in this area.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

#### 4.4 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.

##### HUNTER REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

**PURPOSE:** Transport for NSW are in the initial stages of developing a Hunter Regional Transport Plan. Its development is occurring in collaboration with DPIE's current process to review the Hunter Regional Plan to ensure these key documents are complementary. The Regional Transport Plan will aim to

- Enable Transport for NSW to respond proactively to anticipated changes in land use, demographics and travel demand
- Establish a transport vision for the region
- Details short, medium and long-term initiatives that in combination, support the transport vision

##### ACTIVITY:

- Following joint consultation sessions held by Transport for NSW and DPIE staff with individual Councils in February 2021, Transport for NSW delivered three further sub regional workshops (Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and Hunter) during April & May 2021. The purpose of these included:
  - Sharing the collective findings of the February consultation sessions
  - Improving understanding of the key transport links within each sub-region, between sub-regions and beyond the Hunter.
  - Starting a sub-regional priority list for further consideration.
- A briefing session was also provided by Transport for NSW on the combined outputs of the February council consultation sessions to the joint session of the Hunter JO Regional Economic Development and Planning Forums held on 30 March 2021.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

#### 4.5 Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare Hunter JO agreed priority list of infrastructure, system and service improvements which will make the greatest difference to communities and businesses across the region. This will include expansion and connectivity between cycleways.

##### REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY LIST

**PURPOSE:** To prepare an agreed list of regional and subregional infrastructure priorities to:

- Build and advocate a stronger case for investment in infrastructure priorities across the region
- Identify the potential for shared interests and collaboration between Councils and other stakeholders in delivering local and regional scale infrastructure initiatives.
- Identify a longer-term infrastructure investment pipeline, to provide transparency and confidence for potential investors, professional services and contractors to build their presence in the Hunter

##### ACTIVITY:

- A Request for Quotation process has been completed and a preferred consultant contracted to research and provide recommendations on an appropriate infrastructure prioritisation methodology for the region. This work will include:
  - Researching and assessing existing infrastructure prioritisation methodologies currently in use in Australia and internationally
  - Participating in a workshop process with key regional stakeholders to examine the research findings and needs of the Hunter JO and stakeholders, to inform recommendations for refining the focus, scope and outputs of the project.
  - Making recommendations on the preferred methodology or methodologies for undertaking objective, evidence-based analysis and prioritisation of infrastructure projects at regional and subregional scales in the Hunter Region, both at an overall level and for specific infrastructure categories.
- Regional "Ready to Rebuild" advocacy campaign delivered in collaboration with Committee for the Hunter July 2020, focusing on influencing Commonwealth Government economic stimulus investment toward shovel ready local government infrastructure projects.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

## REGIONAL CYCLE TOURISM MASTERPLAN

**PURPOSE:** Significant opportunity exists to link existing and planned cycleway infrastructure across Hunter JO member Councils; to create an integrated region wide network. This would provide both a valuable region wide recreational resource for residents, and the foundation upon which to generate economic and business development by holistically promoting the region as a key cycling destination. The purpose of this project is to prepare and implement a cycle tourism masterplan / Destination Management Plan for the region.

### ACTIVITY:

An application for grant funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) was submitted January 2021 to deliver the "Shiraz to Shore" project. The focus of this project would include:

- Gathering all existing cycle tourism experiences across the Hunter Region, including mountain biking, road and recreation cycling opportunities and package them up into a cohesive cycle tourism plan including a brand, marketing plan, product development, training and website; and
- Developing the concept and planning for a connected cycling trail called "Shiraz to Shore" extending over 100km among the vineyards of the Hunter Valley, through heritage towns and rail trails to the beach and lake experiences of the Hunter. Funding has also been sought for a build program that could construct all sections of the Shiraz to Shore Trail, including the Richmond Vale Rail Trail section.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Delivery Subject to External Approval and/or Funding - Advice Pending

### 4.6 Develop and implement a targeted advocacy program to gain commitments from infrastructure and service delivery agencies, including the Australian Government, to deliver agreed priorities.

There are currently no active programs in this area.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not yet started (pending completion of Action 4.5)



### **ACTION AREA 5:**

**Our educational facilities support and encourage our young people and foster lifelong learning and encourage our young people**

- 5.1. Establish a Social Sustainability Sub Committee, made up representatives from member councils, to coordinate the education, health and related policy and planning activities of the JO and report to the Board.**
- 5.2 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.**
- 5.3 Work with the NSW Department of Education to better understand and test their projections for growth in student numbers throughout the Hunter.**
- 5.4 Use the in depth evidence base to prepare a Hunter JO agreed priority list of school infrastructure improvements which will make the greatest difference to communities across the region.**
- 5.5 Advocate to Schools Infrastructure NSW and the Minister for Education to gain commitments to deliver agreed schools infrastructure improvements.**
- 5.6 Work with TAFE NSW to expand access to training and vocational services across the region, including through innovative models such as Connected Learning Centres, Specialist Centres and Mobile Training Units.**
- 5.7 Work with the University of Newcastle and TAFE NSW to help raise awareness, aspiration and achievement of tertiary education opportunities for primary and secondary school students in the region.**
- 5.8 Work with Indigenous educational and community groups to support and encourage young Indigenous people into tertiary education.**
- 5.9 Work with local Libraries and education providers to develop and implement technology for life learning schemes to ensure all generations take advantage of new technology to improve quality of life.**

There are currently no active programs in this area.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not yet started (subject to resourcing)



## **ACTION AREA 6:**

**Our people have access to the full range of health care fostering active and healthy communities**

- 6.1 Work with the Hunter New England Local Health District and other key partners to audit health services across the region, identify accessibility gaps and prioritise actions.**
- 6.2 Hold regional stakeholder workshops to gain input from community members and health professionals to better understand the priority health needs of local communities.**
- 6.3 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.**
- 6.4 Explore innovative models of housing to enable older people to age in place in Hunter towns and villages.**

There are currently no active programs in these areas.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

**Report Authors: Alison McGaffin, Director Regional NSW, Hunter and Central Coast**

**Responsible Officer: Alison McGaffin, Director Regional NSW, Hunter and Central Coast**

**Purpose:**

To provide an update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW, specifically focussing on the outcomes of the most recent Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive meeting on 25 May 2021.

**Report:**

**Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive (RLE)**

The Hunter Central Coast RLE met most recently on Tuesday 25 May 2021.

The outcomes of greatest relevance to the Hunter Joint Organisation Board relate to the items on:

- The annual refresh of the Statement of Intent (Sol), including the endorsement of the Statement of Outcome for 2020/21
- The decision to establish a Task Group to explore and scope opportunities for collaborative action to address housing availability, affordability, access to emergency housing and homelessness in the region
- The opportunity raised by Central Coast Council to explore opportunities for coordinated engagement with Agencies to support preparation of new/refreshed Community Strategic Plans over the coming year
- Sub-Committee activities reflected in the summary of highlights below.

***Statement of Outcomes to 30 June 2021***

The RLE noted and endorsed a Statement of Outcomes, reflecting outcomes achieved on key RLE initiatives for the 12-month period to 30 June 2021.

Significant outcomes have been achieved on a number of RLE initiatives including:

- Accord negotiations between Barang Alliance and the NSW Government. Agencies and Barang have agreed on 21 Accord commitments.
- Hunter Drought Task Group – supported evidence-based decision making on programs and assistance across government on drought impacts.
- Established the Hunter Central Coast Recovery and Resilience committee – enabling rapid assistance and coordination during recent flood events.
- Cessnock Place Based project – providing a coordinated response through YAMS in response to challenges being faced by individual young people.
- Central Coast Commuter Initiative – baseline data established, promotional video with the case for remote working prepared, key state agencies engaged.
- Upper Hunter – the Upper Hunter Futures report was delivered by Deloitte in Dec 2020 to inform the review of the 2018 Economic Diversification Action Plan. Significant progress made against the 2018 Action Plan and key priority actions identified by the Working Group moving forward.

The Statement of Outcome will be shared within Government to inform senior executives across the sector of the collaborative work Clusters/Agencies are engaged in at a regional level to deliver outcomes for regional communities.

### ***Refresh of the Statement of Intent (Sol)***

The RLE explored known areas of priority for the NSW Government in the coming year and emerging regional issues (based on evidence) in a workshop session intended to inform the refresh of the Statement of Intent (Sol).

These focus areas included:

- Implications for resourcing and implementation of key actions under the Greater Sydney Commission's Central Coast Strategy (yet to be released)
- Continued momentum on planning and delivery of the Williamstown SAP, including investment attraction
- Housing affordability, supply and demand for social housing, and homelessness
- Communities in Transition (ie. Upper Hunter Economic Diversification)
- Role of Resilience NSW and future focus on regional recovery and resilience activities.

DRNSW provided a significant briefing on the trends and data emerging around housing in the Hunter and Central Coast, and key pressure points. This built on the research presented by the Department of Premier and Cabinet at the February RLE to inform effective interventions to mitigate the social impacts of COVID-19, highlighted the potential need for housing assistance in the Hunter and Central Coast.

As a consequence, the RLE has agreed to reframe a number of current initiatives to provide stronger specificity around the action required by key Agency partners.

This discussion also resulted in agreement to:

- Establish a Working Group to explore the housing issues in further detail to identify specific actions that the RLE may consider piloting or how the experience in the Hunter and Central Coast may inform the broader policy work occurring within Government on this issue.
- Establish a Working Group (led by Training Services) to explore opportunities for skills development and employment pathway initiatives focussed on the Construction sector.

Based on a discussion prompted by Central Coast Council, the RLE will include a new initiative to reflect their commitment to work with Councils in a coordinated way to support preparation of new/refreshed Community Strategic Plans over the coming 12 months.

The outcomes of the Hunter JO Board strategic planning workshop held the week before are yet to be considered in context of the Statement of Intent, given that the workshop did not result in identification of specific priority actions. Once these are known, there is opportunity for further discussion with the RLE to explore opportunities for collaborative work with the Hunter JO.

### ***Sub-Committee Highlights***

#### **Economic Development:**

- Economic development of Liddell Power Station - Hunter DRNSW office and AGL hosted DRNSW Deputy Secretary, for a site visit to the Liddell power station. Discussion centred around post-closure uses of the site and current initiatives to support impacted employees.
- Investment Attraction - Department of Regional NSW hosted 15 European Ambassadors in the Hunter and showcased the region. The focus of the initiative was Defence and Clean Energy. Ambassadors visited: BAE Systems, Astra Aerolab, Bohemia Interactive, Ampcontrol, CSIRO and Newcastle Institute of Energy and Resources.
- Roll out of NSW Government Economic Stimulus programs - Regional Job Creation Fund - 71 applications submitted for the Hunter Central Coast. 17 through to detailed application. \$100,000 announced for Magpie Distillery in Upper Hunter. \$75m Resources for Regions program now live. \$100m Stronger Country Communities Fund now live. \$70m announced for Hydrogen Hub in the Hunter and Illawarra. Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund Round 6 announced - 11 projects funded, totalling \$1.15m.

#### Human Services:

- The Smoking Cessation Project has commenced with Hunter New England Health, with agencies providing nominated staff to be representatives on the project group to look at how Government agencies can complement the work of Health with; the need for consistent smoking cessation messaging, and support from across multiple sources in the community.
- The Maitland Youth Cross-Sector Training Conference was held on 28 April 2021 with presentations on child protection, health and mental health, youth justice and education. The event was attended by over 60 representatives from the youth sector and enabled sharing of information on services, eligibility, and referral to ensure young people in the Maitland area are receiving relevant services and supports.
- Second annual street count currently being conducted to ascertain the number of people living on streets. The Newcastle LGA count has been completed, with 51 people recorded as sleeping rough in 2020, compared to 19 in the recent 2021 count. Similarly, in the Lake Macquarie LGA the number of people sleeping rough has fallen, with 33 people recorded in 2020, and 18 in 2021.

#### Recovery and Resilience:

- Networks established via the RLE and the Regional Recovery and Resilience Sub-Committee enabled the rapid stand up of a whole of Government Regional Flood Recovery Committee following the Flood event in early April. This event also clarified new arrangements and the purpose and focus of the more strategically focused and ongoing RRR committee versus the establishment of event specific Recovery committees.
- Led by Resilience NSW, the Hunter and Central Coast Flood Recovery Committee held 2 meetings to review regional impacts and response actions being undertaken by multiple agencies and immediate recovery needs. Fortunately, impacts in our region (which excluded the MidCoast LGA for emergency response and recovery purposes) were localised and recovery actions were able to be effectively delivered by individual agencies.
- The Hunter Drought Task Group has completed the 22-priority drought recovery and resilience building actions identified in March 2020 when it was formed. With ongoing support now focused on longer term recovery needs and no new coordination arrangements required, the DTG group was wound up following its final meeting on 31 March.
  - Three actions to monitor and evaluate the adequacy of drought support programs are expected to be included in the draft NSW Future Ready Regions Strategy.
  - Actions are also expected to relate to ongoing primary producer training and small business support to be collaboratively delivered by the cross-agency partnerships that were renewed and strengthened as a result of the Drought Task Group.

#### Regional Planning Steering Committee:

- The Steering Committee met for the second time in February 2021 and endorsed its Terms of Reference. At this meeting the Committee noted outcomes of an evaluation of the Regional Plan program and areas for focus of the Hunter and Central Coast review.
- A working group for the Upper Hunter was established in April 2021.
- Workshops for the Hunter Transport Plan were undertaken with local government in April and May 2021.
- Data analysis is underway and will be subject to stakeholder engagement in June and July 2021.
- Next Steering Committee meeting to be held July 2021.

#### **Recommendation:**

- **That the Board note the outcomes of the meeting of the Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) on 25 May 2021.**

**Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy and Programs**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's endorsement for transfer of the secretariat of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Steering Committee (GNMP) to the Hunter JO, and of undertaking an evaluation process to identify strategies and systems for supporting the Standing Committee to more effectively meet its objectives.

**Link to Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2018-21 (Aspire.Act.Achieve).**

<b>Action Area</b>	Action Area 3. Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading smart regional economy
<b>Action</b>	3.3 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.

### **Background**

Hunter JO staff have been working recently with the City of Newcastle to transfer the Secretariat Function for the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Standing Committee to the Hunter JO.

The change was requested by the Chair of the Standing Committee. Reasons underpinning this change include:

- Consistency – following this change the Hunter JO will provide the secretariat function to all Hunter JO Board subcommittees (i.e. Economic Development, Circular Economy and GNMP)
- Additional resources now available to the Hunter JO.

No changes to the position of Chair, Committee membership or general frequency of meetings will be affected by the change.

### **Report**

As part of the transfer process, it is recommended that Hunter JO staff implement an evaluation process, in consultation with member Councils and key stakeholder organisations, to identify strategies and systems for improving the effectiveness of the Committee in achieving its objectives. This addresses concerns regarding the effectiveness of the current Committee structure, systems and processes that have been raised by the current Chair of the Standing Committee and more broadly by other Committee members and stakeholders.

It is recommended that the evaluation process include:

1. Individual consultation meetings (maximum 1-hour duration) with each member council and with key stakeholder organisations to identify and capture:
  - Experiences / perceptions regarding the key benefits (realised or potential) of the Standing Committee, including key achievements to date
  - Issues or concerns with the current structure and systems of the Standing Committee perceived to be limiting its effectiveness
  - Recommendations / opportunities for improving Committee structure, systems or processes to improve effectiveness

It is proposed that these consultation sessions would be delivered by the Hunter JO CEO and Director Regional Policy and Programs with the following organisations:

Organisation	Representatives
City of Newcastle	Lord Mayor and CEO
Lake Macquarie City Council	Mayor and CEO
Port Stephens Council	Mayor and General Manager
Maitland City Council	Mayor and General Manager
Cessnock City Council	Mayor and General Manager
Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation	Anna Chubb, Director, Strategy
Regional NSW	Alison McGaffin, Director
Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment	David Simpkins, Director - Central Coast and Hunter
Paul McLachlan	Senior Manager Regional Planning

2. Preparation of a summary evaluation report documenting overall findings of the consultation process and recommendations for the consideration of the Standing Committee and Hunter JO Board.
3. Presenting the report to a meeting / workshop of the Sub Committee and/or full Hunter JO Board for consideration and determination of any changes to the structure, systems or processes of the Standing Committee.

#### Timeframe for Delivery

The following timeframe for implementation is proposed, noting that the evaluation process will be undertaken in parallel with development of the “Regional Governance Options Paper” that was endorsed by the Hunter JO Board at its meeting in April 2021.

Timing	Activity
Conduct interviews with member Councils and agencies	Late July
Synthesise findings, draft summary evaluation report	August
Meeting of Standing Committee to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings and recommendations of evaluation</li> <li>Draft Options Paper – review of regional governance options</li> </ul>	September
Drafting of “Regional Governance Options Paper”	June & August

#### **Recommendation:**

- That the Board endorse the Hunter JO assuming responsibility for the secretariat of the GNMP Subcommittee.
- That the Board endorse the proposed process and time frame for completing an evaluation of the GNMP Subcommittee

**Report Author: Melinda Curtis, Regional Policy and Program Manager**

**Responsible Officer: Steve Wilson, Director Policy and Programs**

**Purpose:** To provide the Board with an update on the Strategic Directions project being undertaken by Resilience NSW

**Background**

The Strategic Directions project currently being undertaken by Resilience NSW is seeking to achieve an agency-wide transformation to enable Resilience NSW to re-profile its workforce to become more sustainable over the longer term. This includes delivering an increase in ongoing roles and a reduction in temporary and contract roles to ensure the organisation has enduring capability and capacity to deliver their 2020-2023 Strategy (refer Attachment 13 – Resilience NSW Strategy on a Page), deliver State outcomes and support disaster affected people. Phase 1 and 2 of the project is now complete, with recruitment for role vacancies commencing in June 2021.

Of note to the Board, is that the changes being made include the establishment regionally based Local Coordination Teams. Under these changes the Hunter JO is captured within the New England/North West/Hunter region (refer Attachment 14 – Resilience NSW Regional Map).

**Recommendation:**

- **That the report be received and noted.**

Ambition

**Our Mandate:** A new Agency established in May 2020 to transform the whole of government approach to disaster management. We want NSW communities to be prepared for and supported during the recovery from any disaster or event.

**Our Vision:** *Resilience NSW - From disaster prevention to recovery, giving confidence to our communities to live, work and invest*

- Lead and coordinate disaster management and recovery, learning from experience to drive strategies and investment to reduce risk and build resilience of NSW communities.

Our role: Keeping people and communities at the heart of all we do, we lead, prioritise and assure activities across the State to:

PREVENT

PREPARE

RESPOND

RECOVER & LEARN

Develop an integrated view of state-wide risk and vulnerability to disasters, key shocks and stresses and champion resilience investment.

Channel and validate the case for collective activities and investment to build awareness and reduce risk to our communities, our critical and essential infrastructure and our natural, social and economic assets.

Assure that the State, delivery partners, local governments and communities are equipped and ready to mobilise and scale quickly, in a practiced and confident way, to respond to and recover from disasters.

Coordinate continuity planning to minimise disruption to, or rapidly restore, mobility and access to government and other essential services.

Support the lead combat agency to ensure a coherent and consistent whole of government leadership and rapid and confident mobilisation to crises of all kinds.

Ensure the rapid provision of emergency relief and welfare support. Partner with local governments and communities to understand and manage immediate impacts and support the restoration of social and economic activity.

Empower and support communities with comprehensive recovery over the long term. Deploy recovery and rebuild programs using effective plans and contracts.

Broker support from the State and from federal, private, volunteer and not-for-profit partners - aligning strategies, decluttering the operating environment and enabling innovation. Ensure rapid and assured flows of financial support and donations. Capture local and global learnings and leading practice to adjust and make NSW stronger in the future.

Guiding principles

**CONNECT THE ECOSYSTEM**

- Remain efficient and agile - harness, without always owning, capabilities across the government network to deliver outcomes
- Make coherent, joined up and community first decisions that are mutually understood across Federal, State and Local Government
- Systematically marshal private organisations, not for profits and infrastructure to leverage and build capability
- Engage the right people, at the right times to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and information

**STRATEGIC POLICY CHAMPION**

- Be a strategic, trusted and consistent source of advice on resilience strategies (across PPRR), policy and regulation
- Have an integrated point of view on investment and the cost benefit of disaster risk reduction and adaptation
- Set and assure minimum standards for resilience and business continuity for essential government and other services
- Assure that responding agencies have the capital, capabilities and supply chains they need to manage response and recovery for our communities, and the safety and wellbeing of their staff

**SUPPORTED DELIVERY**

- Understand local context, build targeted capability and enabling infrastructure
- Establish clear escalation points and 'guard rails' that are underpinned by a common intelligence picture
- Provide advice in a practical and tangible way
- Innovate using data, digital platforms and customer sentiment

Outcomes

PEOPLE

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRY

STATE GOVERNMENT

**Are empowered to manage their risk and supported to recover, have clear, consistent information on risks and warnings, what to do and how to get help**

- Feel confident and are prepared
- Are empowered through practical and personalised information, tools and warnings to take appropriate action to reduce their risk and minimise harm
- Have easy access to recovery and healing services, from all levels of government, not-for-profit and community organisations, when and where its needed, in an equitable way
- Have transparency and ability to influence community planning and recovery decisions

**Are enabled to manage delivery with the right support, in local context**

- Understand their strengths and vulnerabilities and are equipped and prepared to support disaster responses and recovery
- Have access to integrated technical and regulatory advice and investment to understand risk and build resilience
- Key voices and perspectives are embedded in governance before the crisis, aligned to existing social and community structures
- Aboriginal communities are empowered in decisions around planning, recovery and healing
- Recovery assistance from governments, private and not-for-profit sector flows quickly in a targeted and trusted way
- Are supported in clearing barriers to innovation, escalating issues and decisions and working through trade-offs

**Collaborate to minimise risk of disruption and quickly resume social and economic activity**

- Have shared situational awareness and intelligence on risk and exposure to shocks and stresses, including dependencies
- Have robust and assured plans in place to minimise scale and duration of disruption to critical infrastructure
- Work collaboratively with government to rapidly restore utilities, telecommunications, transport and essential services when a crisis hits
- NSW seen as an investment destination of choice, including for green, social and sustainability bonds
- Businesses feel confident to invest and operate
- Are engaged in medium to long term recovery planning and priorities

**Acts in a joined-up way to build resilience, flex to crises and minimise risk to NSW outcomes**

- Have the capabilities they need to support emergency management outcomes and to protect and care for the mental and physical wellbeing of staff and communities
- Have clarity of roles across prevention, response and recovery, can surge and seamlessly integrate external support, leveraging strengths and sharing capabilities
- Embed risk reduction and resilience in major environment, planning and infrastructure decisions and can balance development and sustainability in recovery
- Can recognise and respond to evolving and emergent needs of people, communities and business in response and recovery
- Assured business and supply chain continuity across government to minimise risk of disruption to delivery of broader essential public services and goods

Mindsets

**COMMUNITY FIRST**

Creating resilient communities that carefully consider the relevant context, complexities and vulnerabilities of each group.

Providing appropriate and timely support, advice and resources.

Being outcomes-focused and providing the right mitigations and response for our communities.

Empowering our communities to embed resilient strategies and innovate.

**BE READY**

Being ready for what can be anticipated - while also prepared to expect the unexpected.

Consistently embed lessons learned to enhance outcomes and a willingness to continuously learn and improve.

Bring the human dimensions of a crisis into the centre of planning - for staff, EM partners and impacted communities.

Be digital - to enable trusted, repeatable, reliable responses.

Knowing your disruption thresholds and when additional support should be triggered.

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

Be data driven and human-centred - responses are driven by insights, alert to emerging issues amid the noise, not tradition.

Being empowered to act with speed and confidence with clear accountabilities and effective prioritisation of activities.

Able to gather information, develop solutions, put them into practice and refine - and do all of this fast.

Remain open to change and innovation.

Able to transition from an incident management focus to leading sustained recovery.

**COLLABORATE**

Harnessing existing capability and actively partnering with government, co-delivery partners, local councils, businesses and NfPs to build coherent responses.

Supporting the visibility of the organisation across the EM ecosystem to enable joined up and respected decision making.

Creating an environment in which everyone can contribute, expertise is leveraged and knowledge and information flow seamlessly.

**TRUSTED LEADERSHIP**

Having a point of view and a willingness to champion the resilience vision and shape policy decisions - including during a crisis.

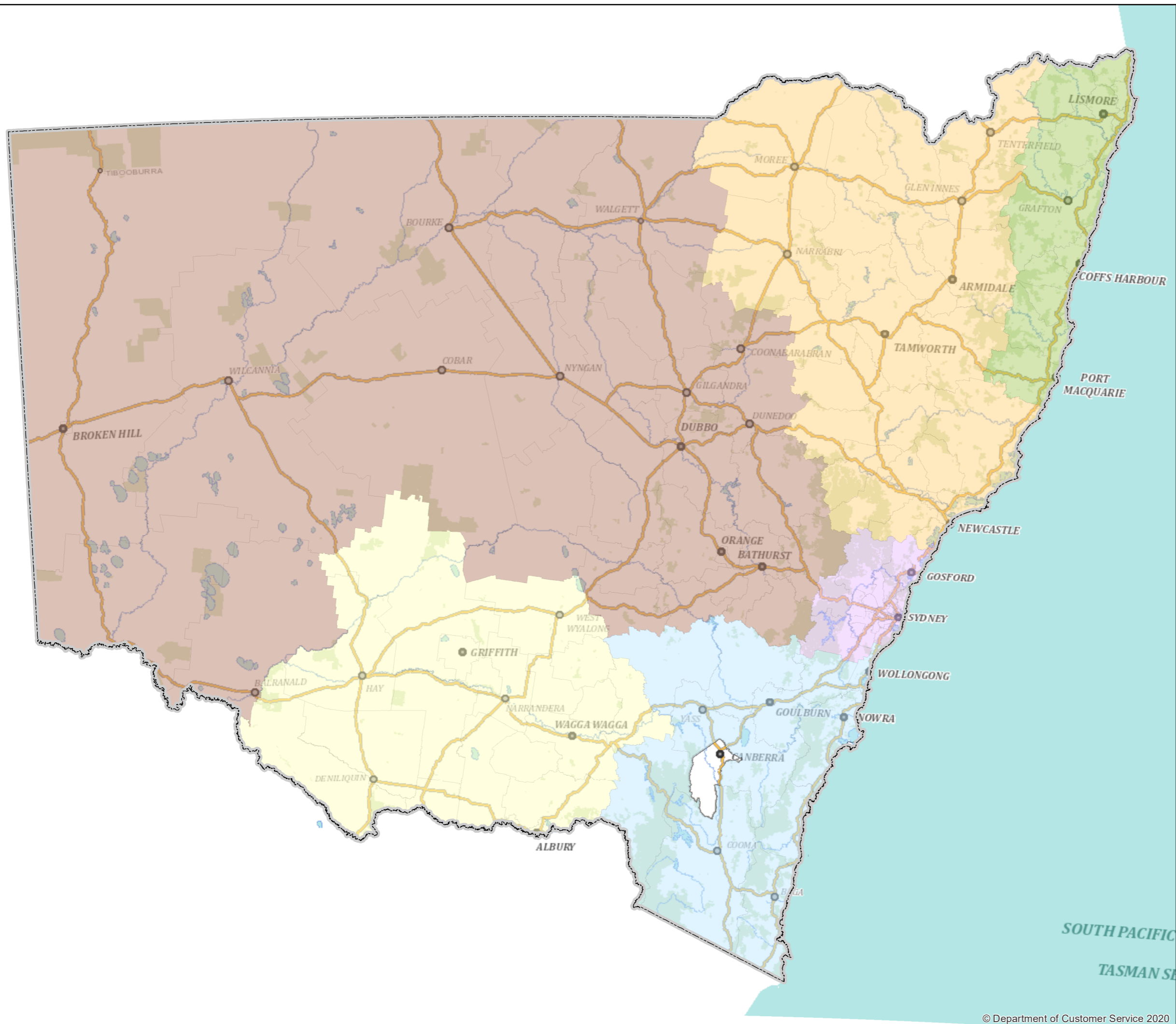
Remaining focussed on where Resilience NSW adds value.

Building 'investment grade' relationships that can withstand challenge and testing.

Being a connected, reliable and trusted source of knowledge and reputable advice.

Communicating with purpose - internally and externally - to build trust and invoke confident responses.

Page 115 of 127



Resilience  
NSW

## Resilience NSW Regional Branches

Flood Impacts

1:4,000,000

### LEGEND

#### Legend

- NSW Boundary
- Local Government Areas

#### Resilience NSW Boundaries

##### Regional Branches

- ACT
- North Coast
- New England/North West/Hunter
- Metropolitan Sydney/Central Coast
- Illawarra/Shoalhaven/South East
- Central West/Orana/Far West
- Riverina/Murray

### PRODUCTION INFORMATION

#### Map Details:

Base Data: © Spatial Services  
Map Projection: NSW Lambert's GDA94  
Print Date / Time: 24/3/2021  
Produced by: GIS RFS



### WARNING INFORMATION

- This map has been prepared by a NSW Government Agency ("the Agency") using data supplied to it by other agencies and entities.
- The Agency has not verified or checked the data used to prepare this map. The map may contain errors and omissions. The Agency has not made any attempt to ground truth the map.
- There will be a margin of error in relation to the location of features recorded on the map. The Agency is unable to specify the extent or magnitude of that margin of error.
- Significant changes may have occurred:
  - in the time between which the data was originally collected and the map produced; and
  - since the map was produced.
- Users must, wherever possible, ground truth the map before relying on it or the accuracy of the map or the information recorded on the map for any purpose.
- The Agency accepts no responsibility for any injury loss or damage arising from the use of this map or any errors or omissions in the information recorded on the map.

### KEY MAP



**Report Author: Joe James, CEO**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to outline the options for future ownership and management of the property and buildings at 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton (the Sandringham Property). The options should be considered in the context of the strategic, collaborative objectives of member councils, which are delivered through each of:

- the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO); and
- Arrow Collaborative Services (SSA/Arrow).

**Background**

*Current use of the Sandringham Property*

In relation to the collaborative group enterprise of member councils, the Sandringham Property functions as follows:

- **Arrow Collaborative Services** – is the lessee of the Sandringham Property and is the base of operations for two of its business units (Local Government Legal and LGTI) and the newly formed 'Business Growth' corporate unit.
- **Hunter Joint Organisation** – licenses space (the boardroom) in the Sandringham Property (under the Service Level Agreement). In addition, the rental return from Sandringham Avenue contributes to the funding of the Hunter JO.

It is currently proposed, subject to further investigation, that, at the expiry of the Bonville Avenue lease, all existing enterprise operations at that site will relocate to the Sandringham Property. A redesign and fit out of the Sandringham Property will be required. This has been anticipated in the Master Business Plan and the associated financial forecast.

*Historical consideration*

The Sandringham Property is currently owned by Hunter Councils Inc.

At the Hunter JO meeting on 28 June 2018 a budget for the newly formed JO was considered. It was noted in the budget report that the ownership of the Sandringham Property will transfer "in due course" to the Hunter Joint Organisation. The report also noted:

- the property is valued (8 June 2018 valuation report) at \$1.5 million and is free of debt apart from an internal loan from Strategic Services Australia Ltd.
- This internal loan was originally \$1.3 million and is being progressively paid down.
- The Hunter JO has no debt.

Other than noting that the property has likely increased in value since 2018, the above bullet points all remain accurate.

At the Hunter Councils Inc Board AGM on 18 Oct 2018 there was a report that addressed "The Future of Hunter Councils Inc". An extract is below:

*The establishment of the Hunter Joint Organisation as a statutory body under the Local Government Act has essentially removed the need for Hunter Councils Inc to operate and, to some degree, its continuing existence is a management complication and an ongoing expense of uncertain strategic value.*

*At the present, Hunter Councils Inc exists as the owner of 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton. It is also the custodian of residual funding derived from a series of grants applied for in previous years (and which are progressively being expended).*

*Hunter Councils Inc employs no staff and grant applications are now being lodged under the Joint Organisation banner.*

*It would seem prudent, therefore, to at some stage consider – given cost, duplication of administrative processes and increasing marginalisation – termination of the operations of the Association.*

*This report outlines that options that might be available should such action be undertaken.*

The 'options' in that report all relate to the methods for winding up the entity and did not otherwise consider the options for the transfer of the Sandringham Property or the potential to retain Hunter Councils Inc as an operational entity. This may be because the proposal to transfer the property to the Hunter JO was the preferred option in light of the stamp duty exemption enjoyed by the Hunter JO (although that rationale is not explored in any detail).

The resolution passed at the AGM was:

*THAT the Board receive and note the options in relation to the potential winding up of Hunter Councils Inc.*

Since that time, and within the budget for FY20-21, the internal financial arrangements have been restructured such that Hunter Councils Inc is projecting a healthy profit through an increase in rental income. This is principally due to the revision of overhead costs across the business divisions to reflect an approximate market rent. While this internal change does not impact the net financial position of the enterprise group, it does better reflect where the underlying financial performance is being generated at any given time. In this context, and in addition to its current and proposed operational function, the Sandringham Property should be considered a revenue generating asset for the enterprise, discrete from the revenue generating role of the businesses that utilise the site.

## **Report**

Three options for the ownership and management of the Sandringham Property have been considered:

1. Ownership maintained in Hunter Councils Inc, property management maintained with SSA/Arrow by way the existing lease.
2. Ownership transferred to Hunter JO, property management maintained with SSA/Arrow by way of novation of the lease.
3. Ownership transferred to SSA/Arrow.

All options assume that the use of the Sandringham Property by the Hunter JO (ie use of the boardroom) will be covered by the Service Level Agreement between SSA/Arrow and the Hunter JO.

## **Options**

The options have been analysed below in light of the following considerations:

### **1. Governance considerations**

- A. Legislative framework and enterprise control
- B. Management of compliance and legal liability

### **2. Financial considerations**

- A. Transaction costs (incl stamp duty)
- B. Operational costs

### **1. Governance considerations**

#### A. *Legislative framework and enterprise control*

The regulatory framework relevant to each option should be considered in relation to how it limits or enhances decision-making flexibility in pursuit of the strategic, collaborative interests of members.

The three regulatory frameworks are:

- Hunter Councils Inc – *Associations Incorporation Act (NSW)*.

This Act provides for the registration of associations engaged in small-scale, non-profit and non-commercial activities and to provide for corporate governance and financial accountability of associations registered under the legislation. It is regulated by Fair Trading.

Generally speaking, the need for the Act to cover an extremely wide range of activities conducted by all manner of Associations means that the nature of the regulation is focused on managing risks to parties that deal with the Association (typically members). Fair Trading had previously expressed concern regarding the size of turnover and the assets held by Hunter Councils Inc, however, since the transfer of businesses to SSA/Arrow (approximately 5 years ago), the annual lodgements with Fair Trading have proceeded without any issues being raised.

The governance responsibility of Hunter Councils Inc sits with the mayors.

- Hunter JO – *Local Government Act (NSW)*.

The board is familiar with the *Local Government Act* and its regulator, the Office of Local Government. The principal observation to be made is that the regulatory framework, by design, has a more targeted, sector specific, objective - the oversight, by the State, of local government activity.

The lived experience of the Hunter Joint Organisation, in shifting from the 'Regional Organisation of Council' model, has been that the benefits of the statutory mandate provided by the LG Act also comes with increased levels of regulatory compliance (and cost) and evolving expectations as JO's become a better understood feature of the local government sector.

The LG Act might be considered less flexible, and still evolving, in terms of strategic decision-making with respect to a revenue generating asset such as the Sandringham Property.

The principal governance responsibility of Hunter Joint Organisation sits with the mayors (by virtue of mayors being the voting members of the Board). In this respect there is no substantive change in who would be making the decisions when compared to Hunter Councils Inc.

- SSA/Arrow – *Corporations Act (Cth)*.

This Act is the principal legislation regulating companies in Australia. It regulates matters such as the formation and operation of companies (in conjunction with a constitution that may be adopted by a company), corporate governance and fundraising (equity and debt) and financial accountability. It is regulated by ASIC.

Generally speaking, given that corporations are the predominant legal structure for all manner of commercial and not-for-profit activity, the Act focuses on regulation of the relationship between members and the dealings of corporations with third parties. The

regulation does vary depending on the type of corporation. SSA / Arrow is a public company, limited by guarantee.

This is probably the regulatory framework that provides the most decision making flexibility and independence for member councils. Its broad policy flexibility, compared with the Associations Incorporation Act, is reflected in the decision to shift the business operations from Hunter Councils Inc into SSA/Arrow previously (to address the concerns of Fair Trading regarding the turnover and asset value of Hunter Councils Inc).

The governance responsibility of SSA/Arrow sits with the authorised member representatives, which, under the Constitution, are the General Managers of the member councils. Alternate representatives are not currently permitted under the Constitution.

**B. *Risk management (strategic and operational), compliance and legal liability***

The ownership and management of corporate real estate requires the management of associated risks, including, but not limited to, compliance and other forms of legal liability.

Where a specific site is not being used by the organisation who owns it, the primary risk management instrument of all landlords is a lease. Hunter Councils Inc currently has a lease in place with SSA/Arrow. If a transfer was to occur to Hunter JO, that lease would remain in place (a lease not being necessary if the transfer was to SSA/Arrow).

Notwithstanding having a lease in place, there remains residual risks on and decisions required by the landlord (the landlord being represented by its 'directors and authorised officers' (or equivalent)). Some of these risks can be covered by insurance, others through the use of internal compliance processes. Other decisions relate to the investment risk of the underlying asset (ie is the landlord getting the necessary and appropriate return from the asset, in line with their strategic objectives).

A principal of risk management is that the risk 'owner' is the person or organisation that is best placed to give effect to risk elimination or risk mitigation.

In respect of all residual risks on and decisions required by the landlord (both compliance and investment related), these are better managed by SSA/Arrow in the context of both its current and proposed operational use of the site and its fundamental purpose being to generate funding for the Hunter JO. In this context, there would appear to be little benefit from a transfer to the Hunter JO.

There could be an argument made that transfer of the Sandringham Property to the Hunter JO improves management of reputational risk given that the Local Government Act (and all supporting regulations and guidelines) is designed to support trust and confidence in government decision making. The reality of the current collaborative enterprise is that ten mayors and ten general managers from ten unrelated councils are privy to the strategic and financial management of the Sandringham Property, significantly mitigating (if not eliminating) the risk that decisions are not being made in line within the strategic objectives of the enterprise group.

**2. *Financial considerations***

**A. *Transaction costs (incl stamp duty)***

Transfer of real property incurs stamp duty in NSW (subject to some exemptions). By virtue of the operation of the *Local Government Act (NSW)* transfer of property to the Hunter Joint Organisation would be stamp duty exempt.

Notwithstanding its not-for-profit status, SSA/Arrow does not appear to have any stamp duty exemption available to it. The CEO has examined the relevant legislation and Revenue Rulings and does not consider it worthwhile seeking formal advice at this point.

The CEO has also been in correspondence with the Office of Local Government to see if they can assist in making the case for stamp duty costs to be waived for the transfer of the building to SSA/Arrow. OLG have indicated this is not something they can assist with.

Based on the last valuation of the Sandringham Ave property at \$1.5M, the stamp duty for transfer of the building to Strategic Services Australia has been calculated at least \$67,802. The transfer of the building would also incur associated legal costs and disbursements estimated to be no more than \$2,000.

*B. Operational costs*

Aside from accounting (audit) costs and costs associated with additional regulatory lodgements, the operational costs are assumed to be equivalent in each option.

Of the additional costs, the cost of the audit of Hunter Councils Inc in the order of \$4,000 per year with additional regulatory costs negligible.

If the property was transferred to either SSA/Arrow or the Hunter JO it is assumed that the audit fee for that entity would increase by \$2,000 per year.

So the net benefit, in terms of operational costs, for transferring ownership of the Sandringham Property would be \$2,000 per year.

## **Analysis and Conclusion**

In the context of the existing governance arrangements within the enterprise group, and on the basis of both its status as a revenue generating asset and its current operational use, the ownership and management of the Sandringham Property is best aligned with the governance and function of SSA/Arrow.

However, transfer to SSA/Arrow will incur, at minimum, transaction costs circa \$70,000 (likely to even higher based on the assumed increased in value of the property, since the last valuation, and, therefore, additional stamp duty).

This upfront cost seems excessive in the context of an annual cost saving of only (circa) \$2,000.

While transfer of the Sandringham Property to the Hunter JO would be stamp duty exempt, it would have the effect of moving a revenue generating and operational asset into the less flexible regulatory setting of the Local Government Act. A future transfer to the Hunter JO remains a possibility if the above analysis proves incorrect or the context changes.

Given the above, and in the absence of any legal requirement to change ownership or there being no significant net cost of maintaining ownership, there is no need to change ownership of the Sandringham Property from Hunter Councils Inc. At this point in time, this remains, on balance, the better ownership option to support the strategic and collaborative objectives of member councils.

## **Recommendation:**

- **That the Hunter JO Board note the advice that the ownership of the Sandringham Property by Hunter Councils Inc remain unchanged.**

## 7. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision

### 7.1 Hunter JO Budget 2021-22

---

**Report Author:** Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer

**Responsible Officer:** Joe James, CEO

#### **Background**

There will be a delay in delivery of the Hunter JO Budget for 2021-22, due to constrained capacity within the Finance & Administration Team. As per the resourcing update within the Profit & Loss Paper, there are some staffing changes underway within the team that have put them beyond their capacity, particularly in the context of also completing the Arrow Collaborative Services Audit.

With current capacity, it is proposed that the Hunter JO Budget be provided to the Board out of session for review and endorsement in mid-June at the latest.

#### **Recommendation:**

- **That the Board endorse delivery of the Hunter JO Budget for financial year 2021-22 out of session, with formal endorsement of the budget to be given via circular resolution.**

### 7.2 Request for Statement of Support - Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct Project

---

**Report Author:** Steve Wilson, Director Policy and Programs

**Responsible Officer:** Joe James, CEO

**Purpose:** To seek endorsement from the Board to provide a Statement of Support to Beyond Zero Emissions for their Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct (REIP) project.

**Link to Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2018-21 (Aspire.Act.Achieve).**

<b>Action Area</b>	Action Area 2. Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently  Action Area 3. Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading smart regional economy
<b>Action</b>	2.1. Continue to work together to deliver the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy  3.9. Explore and act on smart ways to transform local and global disruptions, such as the disruption of recycling services, into economic opportunities for the Hunter

#### **Background**

Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) have contacted the Hunter JO in recent months requesting a Statement of Support for their Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct (REIP) project. BZE are currently collecting Expressions of Interest and/or Statements of Support from companies and other stakeholder organisations to demonstrate there exists strong demand for Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts in both the Hunter and Gladstone regions.

BZE have advised that a letter of support has been provided for the REIP project by the City of Newcastle, and that they have made similar requests to Lake Macquarie City Council and Port Stephens Council. To date BZE have received over 20 statements of support and expressions of interest, including approval to use company logos, and the provision of video statements of support from local businesses including [Ampcontrol](#).

## Report

Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts support clusters of manufacturers powered by 100% renewable energy. The Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct (REIP) project being pursued by BZE aims to provide Australian manufacturers a global edge in growing zero-emissions markets by providing them access to low-cost, reliable energy.

The proposed precincts would be located either within Renewable Energy Zones or connected to renewable energy generation through high voltage transmission lines. They would also have access to clean heat and renewable hydrogen production and infrastructure. The precincts would be in existing industrial zones, benefiting from skilled workforces and infrastructure including roads, rail freight and seaports. The overall aims of the REIP project is to:

- Establish five Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts across Australia – including one in the Hunter
- Create and secure thousands of jobs in manufacturing
- Ensure Australia capitalises on growing global demand for zero-carbon products
- Position Australia as a global leader in zero-carbon sustainable manufacturing.

Key benefits arising from the establishment of REIP's include:

- Providing an environment and supporting infrastructure to attract new skills and new business and/or business diversification opportunities
- Development of new competencies and skills, and supporting enhanced regional collaboration in emerging high value renewable energy and manufacturing (e.g. hydrogen, carbon accounting, green steel, circular economy, battery technology)
- Value adding (via collaboration and synergies) to existing regional initiatives including Special Activation Precincts
- Supporting sovereign manufacturing and sovereign supply chains.

In relation to the programs and priorities of the Hunter JO, the REIP project demonstrates alignment with the following key initiatives currently being delivered by the Hunter JO:

Hunter JO Program / Project	Focus
Circular Economy Program	Development of Circular Economy Precincts across the region that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate inputs, technologies and outputs of a fully circular system</li> <li>• Create the establishment of new industries and jobs</li> <li>• Achieve a net zero emissions outcome for each site</li> </ul>
2050 Foundation	Support the region plan for advancing energy technologies that will reduce the world's reliance on coal over time, by building investment and redevelopment capabilities to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business diversification</li> <li>• Workforce transformation</li> </ul>

Hunter JO Program / Project	Focus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land redevelopment</li> </ul>
Cities Power Partnership	<p>Shared regional opportunities identified by member Councils on which to work collaboratively include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting and encouraging community based renewable energy</li> <li>Supporting and encouraging Council based renewable energy</li> <li>Supporting and facilitating amendments to planning to encourage community and industry to adopt renewable energy</li> </ul>

More information on the REIP and its current focus on the Hunter Region is available on the BZE website at <https://bze.org.au/repowering-australian-manufacturing/>

**Recommendation:**

- That the Board endorse providing a Statement of Support to Beyond Zero Emissions for their Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct (REIP) project

7.3 CEO Performance Review Endorsement – Confidential Item

---

**A confidential report on this item will be sent out to the Hunter JO Board separately.**

## 8. Matters Raised by Members

---

## 9. General Business

### 9.1 ALGA Conference Update

---

**Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

#### **Background**

The Hunter JO will be organising a dinner for all Hunter delegates attending the Annual General Assembly for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in Canberra in June 2021. In previous years Lake Macquarie City Council have hosted a dinner for delegates from member councils, and the Hunter JO have taken on the logistics of this dinner for the 2021 conference.

We are also planning to hold a meeting of delegates from Member Councils during the conference, likely on the Tuesday, for an opportunity to network within our membership, and to give a short overview of the role of the Hunter JO for any Councillors attending.

#### **Recommendation:**

- **That the Board note the update**

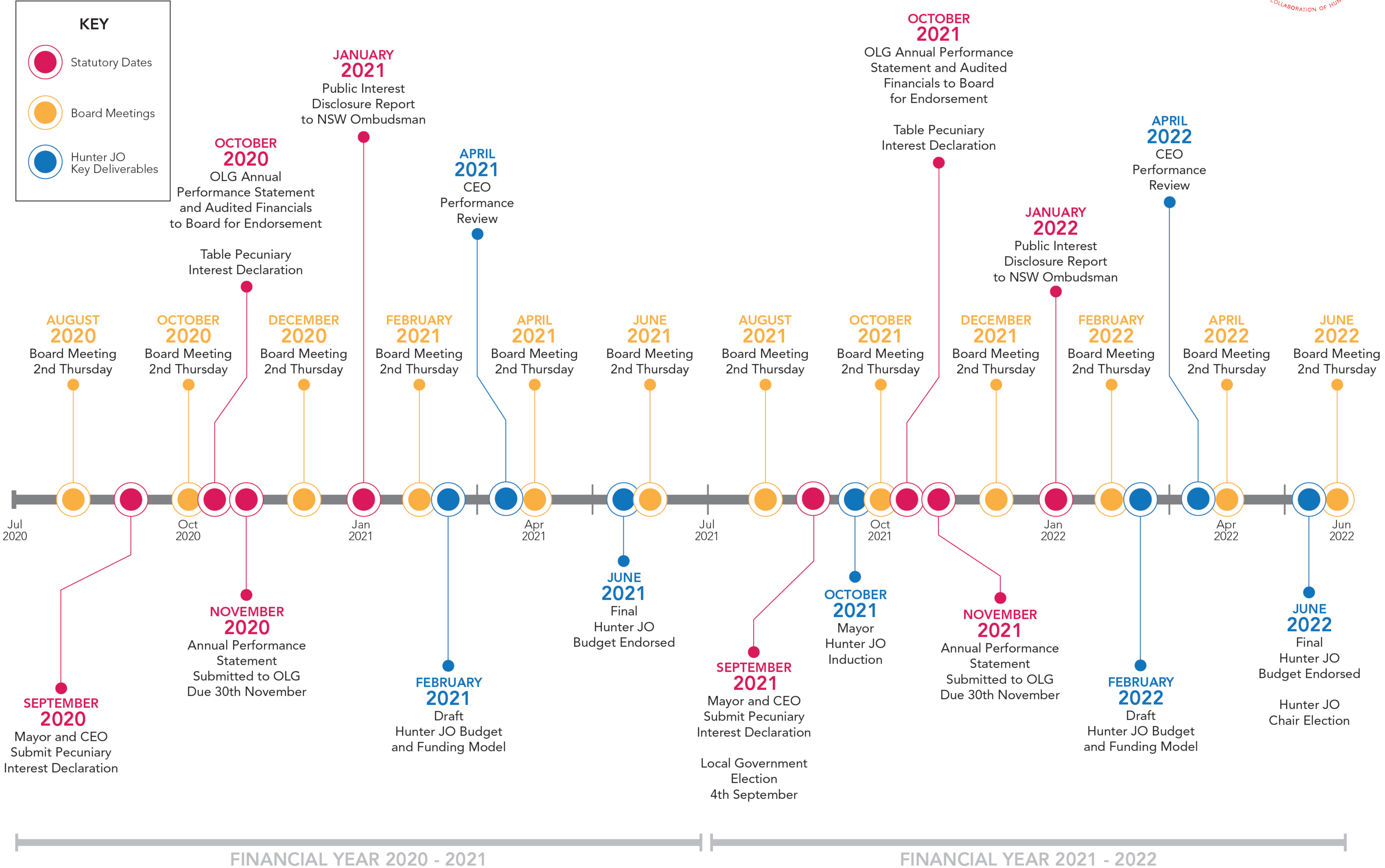
### 9.2 Compliance & Governance Calendars

---

#### Standing Attachments Included:

- Attachment 15 - HJO Board Forward Planner and Governance Calendar
- Attachment 16 - JO-Calendar-of-Compliance-and-Reporting-Requirements-2020-2021

# HUNTER JO BOARD FORWARD PLANNER & GOVERNANCE CALENDAR



# JOINT ORGANISATION CALENDAR OF COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 2020-21

	JULY 2020	AUGUST 2020	SEPTEMBER 2020	OCTOBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020	JANUARY 2021	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021	APRIL 2021	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021
FINANCE	1 Annual Performance Statement to be prepared within 5 months [LGReg cl 397J(1)]	7 Proposed loan borrowings return to be submitted to TCorp					4 Last day for meeting to be held to present audited financial statements [LGA s418(2); LGReg cl 413G]					
	1 Financial Statements to be audited within five (5) months [LGA s416(1); LGReg cl 413G]				16 Request for extension to lodge financial statements to be submitted in writing to OLG [LGA s416(2); Code pgA-6]							
	31 GST Certificate to be submitted to OLG [Commonwealth Constitution s114]				30 Audited Financial Statements to be lodged with OLG [LGA s417(5); Code pgA-5]	28 Last day for annual performance statement to be published [LGReg cl 397J(2)]						
					30 Annual Performance Statement due [LGReg cl 397J(1)]	31 Last day to provide report detailing delivery progress of the Capacity Building project						
Joint Organisations to notify OLG throughout the year when loans are drawn down and/or new loans are established.												
GOVERNANCE	1 Reminder: written returns of interest due 30 September for voting representatives and designated persons who held office at 30 June [MCC cl 4.21(b)]											
	31 Last day to adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget [LGReg cl 397I]			30 Annual Report of obligations under PIDA to the Minister and the Ombudsman [PIDA s31]			30 Public interest disclosures report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]					
	31 Public interest disclosures report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]		30 Lodge completed written returns of interest for voting representatives and designated persons [MCC cl 4.21(b)]. Executive Officer to table returns at next JO Board meeting [MCC cl 4.25]	30 Annual Report of obligations under GIPA to the Minister and the Information Commissioner [GIPA s125]		31 Report to JO Board [MCCP cl 11.2] and OLG [MCCP cl 11.2] on complaint statistics						30 Last day to adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget [LGReg cl 397I]
GENERAL	Local Government Directory - Joint Organisations should notify the OLG (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au) of any senior staff or address changes via email to enable updating of the directory											
	Joint Organisations must review its publication guide in relation to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and adopt a new publication guide at intervals of not more than 12 months; An agency may update and amend its publication guide at any time											
	Joint Organisation Circulars are emailed to Joint Organisations. Please advise OLG (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au) of any change of JO email address. Joint Organisation Circulars can be downloaded from OLG webpage at www.olg.nsw.gov.au											
	OLG = Office of Local Government. LGA = Local Government Act 1993. LGReg = Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. Code = Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting, Update No. 28, March 2020. MCC = Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, 2018. MCCP = Procedures for the Administration of The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, 2018. PIDA = Public Interests Dislosures Act 1994. GIPA = Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.											