



# HUNTER JO PROGRAM REPORT

October 2021

This publication was produced by the Hunter Joint Organisation.



#### **ENQUIRIES**

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# 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

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# REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

## MEDIA & ADVOCACY

FOCUS	RELEASE DATE
<p><b>HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION SECURES \$862,000 FOR ACCELERATING EVENTS ECONOMIES</b></p> <p>The Hunter JO has received a \$862,000 grant towards their Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) Project through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund run by the NSW Government. The Hunter Region already has fantastic event capability; however, there is potential for bigger and better events at a regional scale. This project is focused on unlocking that potential. A2E will focus on driving economic recovery through identifying systems and processes that will make regional coordination and collaboration simpler and more effective. These systems and processes will enable the Hunter JO and member councils to collaborate on the potential of creating and delivering a region-wide events.</p> <p>“By using a regional lens to focus on visitor economies and event attraction, we can enable economic stimulus across the whole of the Hunter, with positive benefits for all of our communities.”</p>	26 July 2021

## REGIONAL SUBMISSIONS

In recent months the Hunter JO, in collaboration with Member Councils has formulated regional submissions to the following NSW Government processes:

- NSW Regional Housing Taskforce
- Regulation Review – Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

### REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND NETWORKS

Over recent months Hunter JO staff have hosted or participated in the following regional networks, committees and forums.

NETWORK / COMMITTEE	CONVENER
Hunter Urban Development Program Committee	DPIE
Transition Hunter Central Coast (HCC) working group	DPIE
Coastal Practitioners Working Group	DPIE
Steering Committee: Hunter and Central Coast Regional Plan Review	DPIE
Local Government Climate Change Planning Toolkit Working Group	DPIE
NSW Housing Taskforce (Hunter) workshop	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
Metropolitan Regional Waste Coordinators Group	NSW EPA
NSW Waste Strategy Delivery Program Workshop	NSW EPA
RLE Human Services Sub-Committee	Regional NSW
Regional Leadership Executive	Regional NSW
Business Attraction Committee	Regional NSW
RLE Recovery & Resilience Sub-Committee	Regional NSW & resilience NSW
RLE Human Services Sub-Committee	Regional NSW
RLE Economic Development Sub-Committee	Regional 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
Resilience NSW Workshop for Council Communicators	Resilience NSW
Hunter Freight and Supply Chain Taskforce & Working Group	Committee for the Hunter
Regional Planning & Economic Development Forum	Hunter JO
Planning Industry Workshop – Port Stephens Council Rezoning Reform and Placemaking	Hunter JO and Port Stephens Council
Planet Ark Circular Councils Webinar	Australian Circular Economy Hub

# 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, as at October 2021. 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 sub region. The UDP Greater Newcastle Committee applies to the local government areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens.

**ACTIVITY:** The Hunter JO continues to participate in meetings of the Committee.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

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

#### **NSW HOUSING TASKFORCE SUBMISSION**

The Hunter JO participated in the Hunter region 'virtual roundtable' hosted by the NSW Housing Taskforce. While the Taskforce is focused on the 'barriers in the planning system' the JO took the opportunity to communicate about the need to improve integrated land use planning, particularly focused on the need to reform transport planning and delivery within the Hunter and the deficit of investment. A number of other roundtable participants endorsed the Hunter JO comments, leading to the taskforce asking the JO to provide a submission based on these issues.

A regional submission was subsequently lodged on behalf of member councils, which was a refresh of a previous Ministerial brief, sent to State Government in early 2020. The new submission reflected the improvement by TfNSW around resourcing and processing but highlighted the ongoing challenge presented by lack of integration, funding and delivery over many years.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Completed

## 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 adaptation strategies into emergency management systems
- Establishing regional networks focused on building Council and community resilience

#### **ACTIVITY:**

Resilience NSW is currently undergoing a significant transformation to establish itself as the Executive Agency that leads and coordinates disaster prevention, management and recovery. Core to these changes is the establishment of a dedicated Local Coordination and Service Delivery (LCSD) Division, which will connect with local government, community groups and Joint Organisations to support the development and implementation of resilience and emergency management activities. The LCSD Division will operate across 6 Regions:

- Greater & Metro Sydney
- Illawarra-Shoalhaven & South East
- Mid Coast & North Coast
- New England, North West & Hunter Central Coast
- Central West, Orana & Far West
- Riverina Murray

As a part of the implementation of Resilience NSW's new service delivery model under the LCSD Division, the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program will transition from a pilot program, to become part of the core business of the LCSD Division. This means all current programs and support being delivered through the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program, including funding of the Disaster Dashboards (until December 2022), will continue from within Resilience NSW.

This reflects early insights from the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program evaluation showing that Councils have valued having greater access to information and knowledge and have been able to strengthen their connection to other Councils and State Government agencies through the regional program. Resilience NSW is looking to continue and build upon the relationships formed with the Hunter JO and member Councils when developing further strategies and investment to reduce risk and strengthen the resilience of local communities.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Program delivery transferring to Resilience NSW

## 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 Councils the ability to allocate recurrent funds and commit to long term resourcing (financial and staff) for resilience projects.

**ACTIVITY:** Since receiving advice that the JO has received \$300,000 for this project through the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2, the focus of activity has included:

- Finalising administrative details (project plans, payment milestones & funding agreements) with Resilience NSW to facilitate the provision of funds to enable the project to commence.
- Stakeholder identification and mapping to identify Council staff and other stakeholder contacts to participate in project working and technical groups.
- Preparing recruitment documentation to facilitate employment of a project officer
- Drafting communication and engagement materials to raise awareness of and participation in the project

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In Progress

## 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:** Since receiving advice that the JO has received \$300,000 for this project through the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund Phase 2, the focus of activity has included:

- Finalising administrative details (project plans, payment milestones & funding agreements) with Resilience NSW to facilitate the provision of funds to enable the project to commence
- Preparing recruitment documentation to facilitate employment of a "Simtables for Community Empowerment" position
- Project planning meetings with the JO Project Group (Hunter, North Coast and Canberra Region JO's), all of whom are delivering regional Simtable projects
- Preparing documentation to support procurement of Simtables for all three JO's in the JO Project Group
- Drafting communication and engagement materials to raise awareness of and participation in the project by Councils and other stakeholder organisations

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In Progress.



## **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:**

1. Contaminated Land Asset Management Workshop

This workshop focused on building the awareness and capacity of council asset management staff to manage contaminated land issues. Initially delivered to Lake Macquarie City Council staff, the workshop will now be offered to other member Councils involved in the Regional Contaminated Land Program.

2. Asbestos in Soils Workshop

This workshop focused on how to manage asbestos in soils including how to ensure waste is appropriately classified and managed. Importantly, it sought to assist Councils effectively and efficiently manage contaminated land risks through the development application process. The workshop was attended by staff across a range of roles within Councils, helping to ensure the information provided transcends departmental boundaries and roles.

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

## CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

**PURPOSE:** To support regional collaborative efforts by Councils, the Hunter JO and Cities Power Partnership (CPP) in delivery of shared pledges on climate action 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) in April 2021. 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. Hunter JO staff are working with the CPP to formalise this partnership arrangement.
- Collaboration with CPP to deliver regional initiatives has been the focus of engagement since that time, including delivery of a CPP Regional Forum in June focusing on:
  - Climate change communication and strategies to help effectively communicate the case for urgent action on climate change to decision makers
  - Regional rollout of EV charging infrastructure.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

## HUNTER CENTRAL COAST RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY

**PURPOSE:** To develop a new Hunter Central Coast Resource Recovery Strategy for the period 2022-2027. The new Strategy will align with the recently released *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2021-2041* and associated funding streams, and provide improved alignment with the Regional Circular Economy program.

**ACTIVITY:**

The process and timeline for developing the new Strategy includes:

Phase 1: Review and assessment of current program (July–August 2021)

- Data analysis and evaluation report
- Interviews/workshop with Regional Waste Group

Phase 2: Develop strategic direction (August-Nov 2021)

- Options paper
- Regional Waste Group consultation
- EPA consultation
- General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) / HunterJO Board consultation

Phase 3: New Strategy and Action Plan

- Present draft strategy & action plan to Regional Waste Group
- Present draft strategy & action plan to GMAC/ Hunter JO Board
- Collate and integrate feedback

Phase 4: Finalise Strategy and Action Plan

- Present to GMAC / Hunter JO Board for endorsement

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress



## 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:** The purpose of the Roundtable is 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 meetings of the Roundtable.
- 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 Now on Coastal Adaptation" below.
- The Hunter JO is currently leading a regional advocacy effort on behalf of Councils that is seeking an extension to the end of transitional arrangements under the NSW Coastal Management Act for a 3-year period or until the completion of the Coastal Management Plans in our region.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### ACT NOW ON COASTAL ADAPTATION

**PURPOSE:**

The objectives of this project are to:

1. Develop an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Package which embeds resilience to Climate Change into Councils operations through incorporation into the overarching IP&R documents.
2. Provide a coastal adaptation communication framework, media templates and suite of practical resources to directly build the capacity of the coastal councils of the Hunter and Central Coast Councils.
3. Build capacity within Councils to reduce risks, increase resilience and reduce climate vulnerability by collaboratively building community understanding and literacy around coastal management and adaptation issues and bridging the gap between the IP&R framework and prioritisation of Climate Change resilience.

**ACTIVITY:**

- A draft Climate Change Package has been developed that provides 3 commitment level options for Councils to choose from, and accompanying resources for each. These resources include IP&R statements, objectives and actions, document text inserts and resources.
- A contact list of Council staff working on IP&R and Climate Change has been created. This will be utilised to engage Council staff, particularly in the review and refinement of the IP&R package
- On-line drop in sessions for staff have been scheduled for 30 September and 5 October, to provide Councils with an overview of the package. Further drop in sessions will be held when the working draft version of the package is distributed to Councils in mid-late October
- Two Project [Fact Sheets](#) have been developed and distributed to Council staff, to raise awareness of the project, facilitate and encourage participation and engagement in the project,

and provide the opportunity to provide feedback

**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 Subcommittee met 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021, where updates were provided and feedback facilitated across a range of Circular Economy projects being delivered by member Councils through the Hunter JO in collaboration with a range of project partners. These projects include the draft CE Roadmap, CE Procurement and City Scan projects.

**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

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

### 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 draft Roadmap has been developed. Its release is pending update of the Hunter Circular website (currently underway by website developers) to be able to host the Roadmap and facilitate engagement with the Roadmap by Circular Economy stakeholders, both within and beyond the region.

**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 communications plan has been developed and is now being implemented. This includes:
  - A CE newsletter with local content, events and case studies as well as stories from national and international sources. The release of the inaugural newsletter is pending an update of the Hunter Circular website (currently underway by website developers) through which the newsletter will be disseminated
  - A LinkedIn CE network group to help facilitate engagement. This was launched in August 2021
  - More regular updating and management of the [Huntercircular.com.au](http://Huntercircular.com.au) website content
  - Coordinating an annual CE event in the region (no funding at this stage)
- Work has been finalised on a collaborative project between the Hunter JO, Lake Macquarie City Council, Newcastle Council, Central Coast Council and the University of Newcastle, which has used the City Scan tool as method to analyse circular economy data for the Hunter. A communications strategy with all parties is now being developed to communicate outcomes and how to access the data.

**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:**

- Circular Economy Regional Procurement MoU was endorsed by Hunter JO Board with formal signing of MoU document completed February 2021 by General Managers.
- A consultant, Edge Environment, was engaged during August to deliver the project.
- A Council engagement plan has been developed and is now being implemented
- The initial stage of the project which is focused on data gathering is now underway.

**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:

#### Mini-lockdown series

The program recently delivered a mini-lockdown series highlighting some simple tips and tricks to help our communities reduce their waste while at home. This mini-series was comprised of five social media tiles covering problems such as food waste, textiles waste, and plastic waste. This delivers on the program’s thematic focuses.

Tips and tricks included:

- Boxing up charity shop donations while going through your wardrobe
- Reducing your food waste by learning new recipes instead of ordering in
- Reducing your food waste by writing a shopping list
- How to practice sustainable fashion when online shopping during lockdown
- Boxing up problem waste, such as batteries or oil bottles, for when community recycling centres reopen

#### Good for the Hood community environmental workshops

Due to continued COVID restrictions changes have been made to our upcoming “Good for the Hood” community environmental workshops. On the 30th of September (12:30-1:30pm), there will now be an online workshop hosted by Muswellbrook Shire Council that will be open to all Hunter region residents. This workshop will focus on what a more connected community could look like and how to tackle loneliness and improve social inclusion while helping the environment. The Upper Hunter, Cessnock, Maitland, and Port Stephens workshops are now being moved to February so they can be delivered in person.

**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 region in conjunction with the Small Acts Big Change campaign. This has included a focus on boxing up problem waste, such as batteries or oil bottles, for when community recycling centres reopen

**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 Caffein 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:

While the program is continuing, its delivery has been impacted by the COVID lockdowns across the Hunter and Central Coast regions. Further updates will be provided post lockdown.

**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:**

The Hunter JO has been hosting weekly sessions with Member Councils to share information and ideas around the public health order and its impacts on waste operations. The focus of this regular collaboration is to ensure the exchange of information across the region and to provide the opportunity for council staff during lockdown to discuss regional emergency management responses, as well as business continuity planning.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

## HUNTER REGIONAL ILLEGAL DUMPING (RID) SQUAD

**PURPOSE:** To determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the Hunter RID Squad, and the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were this to occur.

**ACTIVITY:**

Correspondence from the NSW EPA, on behalf of the Hunter Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping (HCCRID) Committee, has invited the Hunter JO to commence discussions regarding the potential support it could provide around hosting the Hunter RID Squad. The EPA and the HCCRID Committee have confirmed a strong commitment to continuing a regional approach to illegal dumping.

A report has been made to the General Managers Advisory Committee and Hunter JO Board recommending that, subject to adequate resourcing being provided by the NSW EPA to undertake, a due diligence assessment be initiated by the Hunter JO to:

- Review existing state-wide approaches to the management of RID Squads
- Determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the RID Squad
- Identify the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were it to be hosted by the Hunter JO.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress





### 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:**

Combined meetings of the Hunter JO Regional Planning and Economic Development Forums have continued during the COVID lockdown period, transitioning from a larger in person quarterly event to shorter on-line forums approximately 4 – 6 weeks apart. The most recent forum in August focused on providing Councils with an update on the status and directions of a number of important regional initiatives being delivered by the State Government, including the review of the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Plans, Hunter Regional Transport Plan and Hunter Identity and Positioning Project. Presentations from the Forum can be accessed on the [Past Events](#) page of the Hunter JO website.

**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 and the Local Government Reference Group for this initiative. Since the briefing provided to the August Hunter JO Board meeting, Regional NSW and HCCDC have determined to undertake further stakeholder / market

based research prior to undertaking targeted consultation sessions with each Council on the potential directions identified for the Region's branding.

**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:**

- A review and synthesis of State and Local Government Economic Development Strategies has been completed. This work has included:
  - Identifying core economic planning themes and the level of alignment between Councils across these
  - Mapping existing regional programs and initiatives being delivered against each of these themes
  - Identifying gaps and opportunities that have the potential to be addressed at a regional scale through the Hunter JO
- A workshop will be held with the Hunter JO Board to explore the outcomes and opportunities for the Hunter JO arising from this initial review work in September 2021

**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 STEERING COMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:**

The Terms of Reference for the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee identify its role as overseeing the development and implementation of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan with the Department of Planning and Environment, Department of Premier and Cabinet and Hunter Development Corporation.

**ACTIVITY:**

At its 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 meeting, the Hunter JO Board resolved to endorse:

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

During August and September individual consultation sessions have been held with each of the organisations represented on the Steering Committee. The purpose of these consultation sessions was to:

- Identify existing perceptions and expectations as to the role and functions of the GNMP Standing Committee in its current format;
- Understand the key benefits / outcomes for each organisation arising from the operation of the Standing Committee, including key achievements to date;
- Identify potential issues or limitations with the current structure and systems of the Standing Committee that are thought to be constraining its potential effectiveness; and
- Identify recommendations / opportunities for improving the Committee structure, systems or processes to provide enhanced support, coordination and monitoring to GNMP delivery.

The outcomes of the consultation will be presented for consideration to the next meeting of the GNMP Steering Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

**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:**

In April 2021 the Hunter JO Board resolved that an Options Paper be developed by the Hunter JO, in collaboration with GNMP Councils that:

- Reviews any existing analysis of the governance model for the GNMP as well as existing regional governance models and legislative mechanisms established to drive collaborative delivery of regional plans
- 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
- Provides recommendations on a preferred model and a process for progressing its establishment in collaboration with the NSW Government.

During August and September individual consultation sessions were held with each of the organisations represented on the Steering Committee. The purpose of these sessions was to:

- Identify / confirm and explore key issues being experienced by stakeholder organisations with existing governance arrangements surrounding implementation of the GNMP;
- Provide feedback on the potential advantages and disadvantages of alternative regional governance models and/or legislative mechanisms identified through the Options Paper drafting process;
- Identify the primary elements considered necessary for inclusion in any potential alternative governance model for driving delivery of the GNMP; and
- Identify potential additional governance models to those identified in drafting the Options Paper that could also be appropriate for delivering on the principles established within the MoU for GNMP delivery.

The outcomes of the consultation will be incorporated within a draft Options to be provided to the Steering Committee at its next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**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.
- An overview of the “bronze” version of the draft Hunter Regional Plan was presented by DPIE to the Steering Committee at its meeting on 10 August, followed by a one week period in which to provide feedback on the document.

**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:**

Combined meetings of the Hunter JO Regional Planning and Economic Development Forums have continued during the COVID lockdown period, , transitioning from a larger in person quarterly event to shorter on-line forums approximately 4 – 6 weeks apart. The most recent forum in August focused on providing Councils with an update on the status and directions of a number of important regional initiatives being delivered by the State Government, including the review of the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Plans, Hunter Regional Transport Plan and Hunter Identity and Positioning Project. Presentations from the Forum can be accessed on the [Past Events](#) page of the Hunter JO website.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Ongoing Role / Activity

## REGIONAL 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:**

The consultant working on this project has completed a draft regional population scenario planning report that will underpin consultation workshops with Councils, state agencies and key regional stakeholders to be delivered during October. Internal planning on workshop design is currently being finalised. Four workshops will be delivered in total:

- 3 x sub regional Council focused workshops (Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and Mid Coast)
- 1 x Agency / stakeholder workshop

**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, seeking to lead investment and redevelopment in the region as well as helping businesses and workers seize new opportunities. It represents an innovative model for economic leadership that is proactive, market driven, place-based and locally led.



**ACTIVITY:**

During August the Hunter JO Board resolved to repivot the focus of efforts surrounding the 2050 Foundation so that the Hunter JO will:

- Continue its advocacy and engagement on the regional transformation challenge as this remains an enduring strategic priority for the region
- Seek to support and constructively influence the implementation of the Expert Panel and Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund, the Renewable Energy Zone, Special Activation Precinct, Catalyst Areas in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and other relevant initiatives based on member assessments of key regional needs; and
- Retain a primary focus on advocacy and facilitation efforts aiming to:
  - secure significant private sector investment, including through the Hunter Venture Fund concept, into new industries that can reduce long term risk and create new jobs; and
  - maintain local leadership of solutions for the Hunter.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

**HUNTER VENTURE FUND**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of establishing a Hunter venture Fund is to fill funding, investment and capability shortfalls to 2050, that are required to help the Hunter Region plan for change that is accelerated by advancing energy technologies that will reduce the world's reliance on coal over time.

**ACTIVITY:**

The consultant Henshall Capital PL has been engaged to deliver:

- A Pitch Deck to enable the Hunter JO to approach government and the funds management industry about investing in the Hunter Venture Fund (HVF)
- A Structuring Report that provides recommendations on:
  - The structure, function and design of the HVF; and
  - Any further investigations that might be required to support the evidence base for the need for the fund.

The consultant is currently undertaking initial consultation with key contacts in the local investment ecosystem including: HunterIF, MELT, Hunter Angels, InvestNSW and potential investment parties. Next steps will involve continuing consultations across the ecosystem from supply of funds to demand for funds, and synthesising those discussions to create a draft straw man as to what the components of a potential regional fund may look like.

**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 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.
- The current focus of the group includes integrating priority outcomes from the Upper Hunter Futures project into the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project Action Plan

**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:**

A workshop was delivered 30<sup>th</sup> August with the Smart region Working Group to develop a data strategy for the Circular Economy program

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

### 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. 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.

**ACTIVITY:**

It was announced in July 2021 that funding of \$861,000 would be provided to the project from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF). Since that time the focus of project activity has been finalising administrative details (project plans, payment milestones & funding agreements) with Regional NSW to facilitate the provision of funds to enable the project to commence. Stakeholder identification and mapping against project processes and outputs is also currently underway.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** In progress

### 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:**

The Hunter JO has previously participated in initial stakeholder workshops around developing a Destination Management Plan for the DSSN area. It continues to await advice from DSSN on next stage of the Destination Plan development process.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Pending advice from DSSN on next stages

#### AIRPORT RUNWAY ADVOCACY AND SUMMIT

**PURPOSE:** Building upon the earlier 2021 announcement of the upgrade of the Newcastle Airport runway to Code E Status, the Hunter JO is leading a collaborative partnership between the Hunter JO, Newcastle Airport, Committee for the Hunter, Business Hunter and the University of Newcastle to:

- Build collaborative processes and systems within the region to collectively identify and actively pursue key international opportunities for expanding the Airport's economic contribution to the Region
- Directly support the expansion of international Airport related business and industry as a primary contributor to the Hunter Region's economic growth and diversification.

**ACTIVITY:**

Project planning is well underway with project partners to deliver:

- An online roundtable workshop (November 2021) to build interest, awareness and engagement by key regional stakeholder organisations in the design and planning of the Regional Airport summit to be delivered in 2022
- Regional Airport Summit (February 2022) – This major face to face event will identify and develop deeper understanding of the knowledge gaps for sectors that will be enabled through the runway upgrade, and identify and target specific and real outcomes for key industry, community and government sectors that can capitalise on the improved international connectivity that will result from the airport runway upgrade.
- Development of an Opportunities Report, which will document the opportunities and aligned priorities identified through the roundtable and summit, and the actions needed to progress their delivery.
- A suite of communication and advocacy collateral (print, social media, short videos) to provide an ongoing package of communication resources to support the JO and regional stakeholders continue to engage with and advocate to key decision makers at all levels of government and industry (domestically and internationally), of the importance and return to be realised from supporting or investing in the regional opportunities and investment priorities identified through the summit process.

**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.
- The application for grant funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) was unsuccessful.
- Next step is to redesign the project to be focused on identifying one trial site, develop an implementation gap analysis for that site and to seek new funding opportunities for the concept.

**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.**

#### **TRANSPORT FOR NSW ADVOCACY**

**PURPOSE:** To improve engagement with and outcomes from Transport for New South Wales within the region.

#### **ACTIVITY:**

The Hunter JO continues to be involved in a number of initiatives to improve engagement with, and outcomes from Transport for New South Wales within the region, including:

1. Engagement with the Deputy Secretary for Regional Outer Metropolitan to establish an ongoing conduit for local government to collectively engage with TfNSW, through the Hunter JO, at a level of management with the capacity to be more responsive to the need for reform and change.
2. Working with the TfNSW project team for Regional Transport Plan Review to:
  - improve process for local government to provide feedback (at operational and leadership levels) to the plan
  - enhance the integration of both local government input to the plan and ensure that the transport plan reflects the revised regional plan (including transparent governance and process commitments to get decisions on timing and funding of key projects)
3. Working with the Hunter region coalition with UDIA and Property Council to advocate in regard to TfNSW strategic planning and prioritisation processes and associated funding commitments not:
  - adequately supporting the land use strategic plans prepared by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and endorsed by Cabinet;
  - supporting transparent engagement and co-ordination with local government and industry.

**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.
- Briefing sessions have been provided by Transport for NSW on the combined outputs of the February council consultation sessions and on the progress of strategy development to meetings of the Hunter JO Regional Economic Development and Planning Forum held on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- A presentation on the focus and progress of the Regional Strategy was provided to the Hunter JO Board at its August 2021 meeting.

**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 sub regional 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:

The consulting firm Marsden Jacob Associates was engaged in June 2021 to deliver the key initial stages of this project, including:

- Research and assess existing infrastructure prioritisation methodologies currently in use in Australia and internationally.
- Make recommendations on the preferred methodology or methodologies for undertaking objective, evidence-based analysis and prioritisation of infrastructure projects at regional and sub regional scales in the Hunter Region.



Since that time:

- A draft prioritisation methodology framework has been developed and presented to Council and State Agency representatives for consideration via a workshop in August.
- Council and Agency representatives have provided detailed feedback on the draft methodology (August – September)
- A second workshop is scheduled for October to collectively review and consider the feedback that has been provided, and to conceptually test the draft methodology for different types of local and regional scale 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:**

- The application for grant funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) was unsuccessful.
- Next step is to redesign the project into the component parts and seek new funding opportunities.

**DELIVERY STATUS:** Funding required to progress

### 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)