



# Hunter JO Board Meeting

9.40am, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (198 Vincent Street,  
Cessnock NSW 2325)

To join online:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>                   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>2. Welcome &amp; Apologies .....</b>                      | <b>3</b>  |
| 2.1 Apologies.....   | 3         |
| 2.2 Conflicts of Interest.....                               | 3         |
| <b>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting .....</b>                  | <b>5</b>  |
| 3.1 Minutes of Meeting 13 February 2025 .....                | 5         |
| <b>4. Actions Arising from Minutes .....</b>                 | <b>8</b>  |
| 4.1 Hunter JO Board Action Register .....                    | 8         |
| <b>5. Presentations.....</b>                                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>6. Correspondence.....</b>                                | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>7. Items for the Hunter JO Board: For Decision .....</b>  | <b>11</b> |
| 7.1 Expenses and Facilities Policy .....                     | 11        |
| 7.2 Statement of Revenue Policy 2025/26 .....                | 13        |
| <b>8. Items for the Hunter JO Board: For Noting .....</b>    | <b>16</b> |
| 8.1 Hunter JO Financial Report .....                         | 16        |
| 8.2 National General Assembly of Local Government 2025 ..... | 18        |
| 8.3 Hunter JO Funding & Grant Opportunities .....            | 21        |
| 8.4 Hunter JO Program Status Report.....                     | 23        |
| 8.5 Hunter JO Six Monthly Delivery Report .....              | 25        |
| 8.6 Hunter JO Risk Register .....                            | 26        |
| 8.7 Annual Hunter JO Compliance Calendar Checklist .....     | 27        |
| 8.8 Premier's Department Update .....                        | 29        |
| 8.9 Office of Local Government (OLG) Update .....            | 30        |
| <b>9. Matters Raised by Members.....</b>                     | <b>31</b> |
| <b>10 General Business.....</b>                              | <b>31</b> |

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

---

*We acknowledge 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.*

## 2. Welcome and Apologies

### 2.1 Apologies

---

Apologies for the meeting to be received.

### 2.2 Conflicts of Interest

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Bonnie Gradwell, Administration and Events Officer, Hunter JO |
|-----------------------|---|

#### **Recommendation:**

- **That any Conflicts of Interest be declared and noted**

#### **Executive Summary:**

This report calls for any conflicts of interest to be declared and noted by the Hunter JO Board.

#### **Background**

The following process was endorsed by the Hunter JO Board at its December 2023 meeting, for declarations of any conflicts:

- At the start of each meeting, the Chair will call for any conflicts from Board Members
- If any conflicts are declared within the meeting:
  - The Board Member making the declaration will complete the [Hunter JO Conflict of Interest Form](#) within 10 business days of the meeting, for record-keeping (on submission, a copy of the completed form is provided to the Secretariat and the Chair)
  - The declaration will be added to the register, included at Appendix 2.2-A to be kept as a record for the course of the financial year within which the declaration was made.
- The Conflict of Interest Register will be noted at each meeting of the Hunter JO Board.

#### **Discussion:**

If discussion is required for any conflicts of interest declared, the Chair will lead this discussion.

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:** Nil

**Next steps:** Nil

#### **Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Appendix 2.2-A: Hunter JO Conflict of Interest Register

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

## Appendix 2.2-A: Hunter JO Conflict of Interest Register

Any potential conflicts of interest declared are to be included in the below Register and the Board Member in question is to also complete the [Hunter JO Disclosure of Interest Form](#).

| Name of Board Member | Description of interest | Has the Board been notified? | Date of disclosure | Steps taken by Board for dealing with the conflict | Board Member actions to address the conflict |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
|                      |                         |                              |                    |  |  |
|                      |                         |                              |                    |  |  |



### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

#### 3.1 Minutes of Meeting 13 February 2025

---

##### **Recommendation:**

- **That the minutes of the Hunter JO Board Meeting held on 13 February 2025 be received and noted.**

##### **Hunter JO Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 13th February 2025**

**Hosted by Dungog Shire Council (Doug Walters Pavilion – 40 MacKay Street, Dungog)**

##### **Voting Members Present**

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cr Digby Rayward    | Dungog Shire Council                 |
| Cr Adam Shultz      | Lake Macquarie City Council          |
| Cr Philip Penfold   | Maitland City Council                |
| Cr Claire Pontin    | MidCoast Council (Online)            |
| Cr Jeffrey Drayton  | Muswellbrook Shire Council           |
| Cr Ross Kerridge    | City of Newcastle                    |
| Cr Leah Anderson    | Port Stephens Council (Deputy Chair) |
| Cr Sue Moore        | Singleton Council (Chair)            |
| Cr Maurice Collison | Upper Hunter Shire Council           |

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

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ken Liddell             | General Manager, Cessnock City Council (Online)        |
| Gareth Curtis           | General Manager, Dungog Shire Council                  |
| Morven Cameron          | CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council                       |
| Jeff Smith              | General Manager, Maitland City Council                 |
| Adrian Panuccio         | General Manager, MidCoast Council (Online)             |
| Derek Finnigan          | General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council            |
| Tim Crosdale            | General Manager, Port Stephens Council                 |
| Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr | General Manager, Singleton Council                     |
| Greg McDonald           | General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council            |
| Virginia Errington      | Council Engagement Manager, Office of Local Government |

##### **Apologies**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Cr Daniel Watton | Cessnock City Council   |
| Jeremy Bath      | CEO, City of Newcastle  |
| Shaun O'Sullivan | Director North - Regional Coordination, Delivery & Engagement<br>Group – Premier's Department |

##### **Staff in attendance**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Steve Wilson    | Director, Hunter JO (Executive Officer)                    |
| Tim Askew       | Director of Programs, Hunter JO                            |
| Lisa Lord       | Chief Operating Officer, Arrow                             |
| Bonnie Gradwell | Administration and Events Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat) |

The formal meeting opened at 9.42am.

**Item 1 Acknowledgement of Country**

*The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Board with an Acknowledgement of Country.*

**Item 2 Welcome and Apologies**

**2.1 Apologies**

Apologies for the meeting were received.

**2.2 Conflicts of Interest**

***Resolved: That any Conflicts of Interest be declared and noted.***

***Moved: Cr Claire Pontin, Seconded: Cr Adam Shultz, Carried.***

**Item 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**3.1 Minutes of Meeting 24 October 2024 Hunter JO Board Meeting**

***Resolved: That the minutes of the Hunter JO Board Meeting held on 24 October 2024 be received and noted.***

***Moved: Cr Claire Pontin, Seconded: Cr Adam Shultz, Carried.***

**3.2 Minutes of Meeting 20 October 2023 Hunter JO Extraordinary Board Meeting**

***Resolved: That the minutes of the Hunter JO Extraordinary Board Meeting held on 20 October 2023 be received and noted.***

***Moved: Cr Claire Pontin, Seconded: Cr Maurice Collison, Carried.***

**Item 4 Actions Arising from Minutes**

**4.1 Hunter JO Board Action Register**

***Resolved: That the status of actions included in the register be noted.***

***Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Ross Kerridge, Carried.***

**Item 5 Presentations**

*Nil.*

**Item 6 Correspondence**

***Resolved: That the correspondence be received and noted.***

***Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.***

**Item 7 Items for the Hunter JO Board: For Decision**

**7.1 Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests – New Board Members**

***Resolved: That the Pecuniary and Other Interests Disclosures provided by new Hunter JO Board Voting Members be tabled and noted.***

***Moved: Cr Maurice Collison, Seconded: Cr Leah Anderson, Carried.***

**7.2 Hunter Joint Organisation Charter**

***Resolved: That the Board endorse the Hunter Joint Organisation Charter.***

***Moved: Cr Ross Kerridge, Seconded: Cr Leah Anderson, Carried.***

**7.3 2024/25 six month budget review**

***Resolved: That the Board endorse the six month 2024/25 budget review.***

***Moved: Cr Philip Penfold, Seconded: Cr Maurice Collison, Carried.***

**Item 8 Items for the Hunter JO Board: For Noting**

**8.1 Hunter JO Financial Report**

***Resolved:***

- ***That the Income Statement for period ending December 2024 be received and noted.***

- *That the summary of Credit Card expenditure for Hunter JO for YTD December 2024 be received and noted.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.2 Hunter JO Risk Register**

*Resolved:*

- *That the Hunter JO Board note the Hunter JO Risk Register.*
- *That the Hunter JO Board identify any new risks for inclusion on the Risk Register.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.3 Annual Hunter JO Compliance Calendar Checklist**

*Resolved: That the Hunter JO Board note the status of the Compliance Calendar Checklist.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.4 Shared ARIC Workplan**

*Resolved: That the Board note the project plan and timeline for moving the Hunter JO toward a shared ARIC model.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.5 Annual Report – Code of Conduct Statistics**

*Resolved: That the Board note the annual report on code of conduct statistics has been provided to the NSW Department of Local Government for the 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024 reporting period.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.6 Hunter JO Funding & Grant Opportunities**

*Resolved: That the Board note the update on funding and grant opportunities.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.7 Hunter JO Program Status Report**

*Resolved: That the report be received and noted.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.8 Premier's Department Update**

*Resolved: That the Board note the Premier's Department update.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **8.9 Office of Local Government (OLG) Update**

*Resolved: That the Board note the OLG update.*

*Moved: Cr Leah Anderson, Seconded: Cr Philip Penfold, Carried.*

## **Item 9 Matters Raised by Members**

*Nil.*

## **Item 10 General Business**

*Nil.*

*Meeting closed 9.54am.*

---

## 4. Actions Arising from Minutes

### 4.1 Hunter JO Board Action Register

#### Recommendation:

- That the status of actions included in the Register be noted.

| I.D        | Action   | Mtg Date  |             | Due         | Notes   |
|------------|--|-----------|-------------|-------------|---|
| HJO-24-001 | That the Hunter JO host a Hunter Region Ministerial Roundtable that broadens the list of Ministerial invitations to include the Hon. Tara Moriarty, MLC Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional New South Wales, and other Ministers holding portfolios that link directly to the Hunter JOs core advocacy priorities is delivered in place of an existing scheduled Hunter JO Board meeting. | 15 Feb 24 | In progress | August 2024 | <p><b>April 2025:</b> As per October 2024 update.</p> <p><b>October 2024:</b> The preferred delivery model for the Ministerial Roundtable, based on recent consultation with the Board, is to arrange a full day at Parliament House in both Sydney and Canberra, and invite Ministers to meet with the Board throughout the scheduled day. Further details to be developed in the Hunter JO Strategic Advocacy Plan.</p> <p><b>August 2024:</b> No change from June 2024 update.</p> <p><b>June 2024:</b> Initial discussions held with City of Newcastle staff. Planning to be included within strategic advocacy planning work currently underway with the Board.</p> <p><b>April 2024:</b> No action to date. Recommendation to be formally endorsed during 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Board meeting. Initial planning / focus to be incorporated within Board workshop session on “Strategic Advocacy Planning”.</p> |
| HJO-24-020 | That the Board endorse collaborating with other Joint Organisations to develop a shared ARIC model for implementation  | 24 Oct 24 | In progress | June 2025   | <p><b>April 2025:</b> Report on proposed shared ARIC model will be presented to NSW JO Chairs Forum meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for consideration.</p> <p><b>February 2025.</b> Hunter JO is leading collaboration with broader joint organisation network.</p>  |

Key: Complete In progress Incomplete

## 5. Presentations

---

*Nil.*

## 6. Correspondence

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Bonnie Gradwell, Administration and Events Officer - Hunter JO |
|-----------------------|--|

### **Recommendation:**

- That the correspondence be received and noted.

### **Executive Summary:**

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

**Background:** Nil

**Discussion:** Nil

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:** Nil

**Next steps:** Nil

### **Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

#### Correspondence Sent:

- Attachment 6-1: Correspondence to DSSN re Letter of Support – Hunter Global Tourism Project, 7 February 2025
- Attachment 6-2: Correspondence template to NSW Ministers re Accelerating the reactivation of current and former mining lands to create jobs in the Hunter Region, 17 February 2025

| <b>Sent to:</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hon Barnaby Joyce MP</li><li>• Hon Countney Houssos, MLC</li><li>• Hon Emily Suvaal MLC</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hon Paul Scully MP</li><li>• Hon Yasmin Catley MP</li></ul> |

- Attachment 6-3: Correspondence to Tim Browne, Chief Executive Officer Dantia re Letter of Support – Black Rock Motor Park REDCIP Funding Application, 17 February 2025
- Attachment 6-4: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support – MidCoast Regional Organics Processing Solution (MCROPS), 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-5: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support – HealthPulse: Connecting Upper Hunter Communities to Health and Wellbeing Services in Place, 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-6: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support – Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC): super yacht facility, 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-7: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support - Rocky Point Road Pond Ash Trial Project, 18 February 2025

- Attachment 6-8: Correspondence template re Hunter region post mining land use - detailed \$20m budget breakdown and scope, 5 March 2025

| Sent to:   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of the Advisor to Prime Minister</li> <li>• Office of the Assistant Minister Climate Change and Energy</li> <li>• Office of the Assistant Minister Future Made in Australia</li> <li>• Federal Hunter Labor Caucus</li> <li>• Office of the Leader of Nationals and Nationals Whip in the Senate</li> <li>• Office of the Leader of the Opposition</li> <li>• Office of the Minister for Local Government</li> <li>• Office of the Minister for Resources</li> <li>• Office of Hon Barnaby Joyce MP</li> <li>• Office of the Shadow Minister for Local Government</li> </ul> |

- Attachment 6-9: Correspondence to Tony Chappel CEO NSW EPA re Letter of Support – EPA/LGNSW Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together, 28 March 2025

#### Correspondence Received:

- Attachment 6-10: Correspondence from LGNSW providing copy of Hunter JO Excellence in the Environment Awards 2024, 4 December 2024
- Attachment 6-11: Correspondence from Hon Barnaby Joyce MP re Post Mining Land Advocacy, 13 February 2025
- Attachment 6-12: Correspondence from Tim Crakanthorp MP re support for Hunter Global Tourism Business Case, 25 February 2025
- Attachment 6-13: Correspondence from Tim Crakanthorp MP re support for Newcastle Airport Air-Cargo Terminal Business Case, 25 February 2025
- Attachment 6-14: Correspondence from Hon Barnaby Joyce MP re Post Mining Land Advocacy, 10 March 2025
- Attachment 6-15: Correspondence from the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP re Letter received on shared priorities, 11 March 2025

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

## 7. Items for the Hunter JO Board: For Decision

### 7.1 Expenses and Facilities Policy

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Steve Wilson, Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer) |
|-----------------------|--|

#### **Recommendation:**

- **That the Board endorse the draft Expenses and Facilities Policy**

#### **Executive Summary:**

In line with the review and adoption of a range of organisational policies required by the Hunter JO within 12 months of the local government elections, this paper is providing an updated Expenses and Facilities policy (refer Appendix 7.1-A) for the Board's consideration.

#### **Background:**

All joint organisations, in consultation with their member councils, are required to adopt a policy for payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to board members who are voting representatives on the Joint Organisation Board. A new Board is required to review its Expenses and Facilities Policy within 12-months of the local government elections. The adopted policy must comply with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for mayors and councillors in NSW and should be designed to complement and supplement the expenses and facilities policies of Member Councils.

Because membership of the board of a Joint Organisation arises from a board member's role as Mayor, the exercise of functions as board members in effect forms part of the exercise of the function which gave rise to the Board membership. This means that many of the expenses incurred by board members (e.g. travel expenses incurred to attend board meetings) may be recoverable under member council expenses and facilities policies.

As such, the policy should be designed to cover any needs associated with the exercise by board members and chairpersons of their joint organisation functions that are not otherwise covered under their member councils' expenses and facilities policies. It should also ensure that that board members are not entitled to make a claim under a joint organisation's expenses and facilities policy where the claim has been covered under a member council's policy and vice versa.

#### **Discussion:**

The updated policy is substantively similar to that in place during the previous Board's term. Changes that are recommended predominantly reflect:

- the new organisational structure and more constrained budget that commenced 1 July 2024 following a substantial leadership and governance review process by the previous Board
- changes to board meeting processes (i.e. rotating Board meeting days around the region).

Key amendments included in the updated policy include:

1. In addition to requiring Board approval to fund attendance by Board Members at seminars and conferences, the updated policy additionally requires that for this to occur:
  - the costs can't otherwise be met by the Board Member's council; and
  - funding is allocated in the joint organisation budget.
2. Costs of additional accommodation expenses associated with the attendance of a Board Members spouse/partner at a Conference, Seminar or other activity will not be funded.
3. Including acknowledgement of the the meals, refreshments and meeting facilities provided by the Hunter JO member councils in the course of hosting Joint Organisation Board meetings and workshops.

4. Clarifying that costs incurred by the Joint Organisation in coordinating delivery of additional or ancillary activities and events involving the Board (e.g. pre Board meeting / ALGA dinners) will be proportionally invoiced back to member council and stakeholder participants.
5. Updating terminology to reflect current practice and processes.

Key changes from the previous policy are identified as:

- Red underlined text for additions
- ~~Red strikethrough~~ text for deletions.

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:**

Adoption of the Expenses and Facilities Policy will provide clarity around the nature and allocation of financial costs linked to the JO related activities undertaken by Board Members. The changes made to the policy reflect the constraints of the Hunter JO budget.

**Next steps:** Nil

**Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Appendix 7.1-A: Draft Expenses and Facilities Policy.

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.





# DRAFT Expenses and Facilities Policy

Version 2 – 10 April 2025

## Controlled Document Information

### Authorisation Details

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Policy Name           | Expenses & Facilities Policy                              |
| Responsible Officer   | Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)                    |
| Review timeframe      | 4 yearly (within 12 months of local government elections) |
| Next Scheduled Review | April 2029  |
| Authorisation         | Hunter JO Board   |
| Authorisation Date    | 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025                               |

### Related Document Information

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Relation Legislation          | Local Government Act 1993<br>Local Government (General) Amendment (Joint Organisations) Regulation 2018 (CI 397M) |
| Related Policies / Procedures | N/A   |

### Definitions

| Term / Abbreviation | Definition |
|---------------------|------------|
|                     |            |

### Consultation

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Consulted with: | General Managers Advisory Committee (28 March 2025) |
|-----------------|---|

### Version History

| Version No. | Date Changed | Modified by                      | Details and Comments |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2           | 10/4/2025    | Steve Wilson (Executive Officer) | N/A                  |
| 1           | 28/6/2018    | Joe James (CEO)                  | N/A                  |

## Preamble

This policy has been developed in accordance with the requirement for joint organisations to make, in consultation with their member councils, a policy for payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to board members who are voting representatives on the Joint Organisation Board.

The policy complies with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for mayors and councillors in NSW and is designed to complement and supplement the expenses and facilities policies of Member Councils.

## Provisions

### 1. EXPENSES

#### (a) Conferences, Seminars and other Board approved activities:

The Joint Organisation will only fund costs associated with attendance by Board Members at conferences, seminars and other activities when:

- such attendance has received the prior approval of the Board;
- the costs cannot be met by the Board Member's council; and
- funding is allocated in the joint organisation budget.

Subject to the above, costs that can be met by the Joint Organisation include:

- (i) Conference / Seminar Registration fees including costs associated with official luncheons, dinners and tours relevant to the conference.
- (ii) Accommodation costs including breakfast, lunch and dinner unless such costs are included in any activity registration fee.
- (iii) Reasonable land line telephone costs during the duration of a Conference / Seminar / other approved activity.
- (iv) Accommodation, where necessary, for the night before or after a Conference / Seminar or other approved activity.

~~(v) Accommodation expenses associated with the attendance of a spouse/partner at a Conference / Seminar / other approved activity when such attendance has been approved by the Board and generates a fee over and above a single room rate. Accommodation expenses will include breakfast and attendance in Conference Dinners and other such events where such events are an integral part of the Conference / Seminar / other approved activity.~~

Accommodation, conference, seminar and other approved activities bookings / registrations will be made by the Joint Organisation and in the name of the Joint Organisation. Payments will be made by corporate credit card or direct deposit.

**Costs not met by the Joint Organisation during attendance at Conferences, Seminars and other Board approved activities will include:**

- (i) **Mini bar expenses and other, one-off personal purchases.**
- (ii) **Costs of additional accommodation expenses associated with the attendance of a spouse/partner at a Conference / Seminar / other activity.**

**(b) Travel Expenses**

- (i) Board Members must cover their own costs for accommodation and travel to and from meetings of the Joint Organisation Board and its Committees.
- (ii) Board Members must cover their own travel costs to a Conference / Seminar or other approved activity unless approved by the Board.
- (iii) Board approved travel by air to a conference, seminar and other approved activity will be booked and paid for by the Joint Organisation and will be by economy class.

**2. FACILITIES**

**(a) Voting Members**

Voting Members of the Board of the Joint Organisation are to receive the benefit of the following Joint Organisation facilities:

- (i) Meals and refreshments associated with Joint Organisation ~~Committee / Special Committee~~ Board meetings and workshops, committee and working parties.
- (ii) Meeting facilities for Joint Organisation ~~Committee / Special Committee~~ Board meetings and workshops, committee and working parties.
- ~~(iii) Photocopying facilities at the Joint Organisation's offices for official purposes.~~
- (iv) Meals, refreshments and meeting facilities provided by other Hunter JO member councils in the course of hosting Joint Organisation Board meetings and workshops, committee and working parties.

**Costs not to be met**

- (i) **Costs incurred by the Joint Organisation in coordinating delivery of additional or ancillary activities and events involving the Board, committees and working groups. In these circumstances the costs of the activity will be proportionally invoiced back to member council and stakeholder participants.**

(b) Chairperson

In addition to those facilities provided to Board Members, the Chairperson is to receive the benefit of:

- (i) ~~Word processing and~~ Administrative support provided by the ~~Chief Executive Officer~~ Hunter JO necessary to support the Chair's functions.
  - (ii) Assistance with functions, organisation, meetings and the like for official purposes.
- (c) In addition to those facilities provided to the Members, a Deputy Chairperson (if appointed) is to receive the benefits of the Chairperson when acting in the office of Joint Organisation Chairperson

**3. EXPENDITURE COVERED BY A MEMBER COUNCIL EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY**

The Hunter Joint Organisation Expenses and Facilities Policy does not cover items already addressed by a Member Council Expenses and Facilities Policy. No double payment of claims (either at a council or Joint Organisation level) should be sought or will be made.

**4. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson (if one is appointed and when a claim is made by the Chairperson) and the Executive Officer will be responsible for determining whether any claims in relation to the Policy are reasonable and within the guidelines set. Any Board Member dissatisfied with a determination received can request the matter be submitted to the Joint Organisation Board for consideration.

**5. NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

The Hunter Joint Organisation Expenses and Facilities Policy will apply to non-voting members of the Board as if they are voting members.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Tim Askew, Director of Programs<br>Steve Wilson, Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer) |
|-----------------------|---|

**Recommendation:**

- **That the Board endorse the 2025/26 Statement of Revenue Policy**

**Executive Summary:**

This paper provides the draft 2025/26 Hunter JO Statement of Revenue Policy for the Board's consideration (Refer Appendix 7.2-A). The draft policy identifies:

1. Estimated revenue
  - Proposed financial contributions by the Member Councils
  - Proposed annual fees to participate in the Hunter and Central Coast Environment Program
  - Grant funding
2. Estimated Expenditure (Indicative 2025/26 Budget)

**Background:**

In accordance with section 3971 of the *NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* joint organisations are required to have an annual statement of revenue policy that includes:

- a) a statement containing a detailed estimate of the joint organisation's income and expenditure,
- b) a statement of the types of fees proposed to be charged by the joint organisation,
- c) the amount of any proposed fees,
- d) a statement of the amounts of any proposed borrowings (other than internal borrowing). A joint organisation must adopt its revenue policy statement for the year on or before 30 June in the preceding year.

The Regulation also identifies that:

- Each member council of the joint organisation is to make an annual financial contribution to the joint organisation.
- The joint organisation is to determine the amount of the annual contribution in accordance with the methodology adopted by the board.
- A joint organisation must consult with the member councils about proposed financial contributions.

**Discussion:**

A briefing paper and workshop session was held with the Board at its February 2025 meeting. This provided:

- An overview of the historic approaches for funding the Hunter JO
- An overview of the methodologies underpinning current (2024/25) financial year contributions and fees (Refer Appendix 7.2-B)
- The opportunity for discussion and queries regarding the assumptions and methodology through which annual contributions and fees are calculated.

Since the February workshop:

- A range of alternative funding scenarios and calculators were developed to support the Board understand and compare the implications of potentially changing the methodology for determining financial contributions
- Meetings were held with General Managers to review and discuss the scenarios and calculators provided

- General Managers have individually discussed with their Mayors the range of scenarios provided and their implications
- Feedback from individual discussions was reported and discussed at the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC). Arising from that discussion it was recommended that:
  - (i) Financial contributions for the 2025/26 year be calculated using the same methodology as 2024/25.
  - (ii) The Statement of Revenue Policy (based on this approach) be provided to the Board for consideration at its 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Board meeting.

#### **Financial / Resourcing Implications:**

- The annual contributions proposed for each member council are included in the draft Statement of Revenue Policy. There has been no change to the method for calculating annual fees.
- Indexed increases from 2024/25 (refer draft policy for detail) include:
  - IPART approved rate increase (for Hunter JO financial contributions)
  - CPI increase (for Environment Program participation)
- Adopting the Statement of Revenue Policy will enable the Hunter JO team to finalise the detailed 2025/26 budget for Board consideration at its 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 meeting.

#### **Next steps:**

1. Preparation of the detailed 2025/26 Hunter JO budget based on adopted Statement of Revenue Policy.
2. The annual review of the Statement of Revenue policy will provide the opportunity for the Board to regularly consider the method for determining financial contributions based on:
  - Prevailing fiscal environment of the member councils
  - Hunter JO organisational structure, priorities and expenditure
  - Alternative revenue opportunities and/or savings that may become available to the Hunter JO.

#### **Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Appendix 7.2-A. Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2025/26
- Appendix 7.2-B. Current method for calculating annual council contributions and fees

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.



# **DRAFT Statement of Revenue Policy 2025/26**

**Version 1 – 10 April 2025**



## Controlled Document Information

### Authorisation Details

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Policy Name           | Statement of Revenue Policy 2025-26    |
| Responsible Officer   | Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer) |
| Review timeframe      | Annually (no later than 30 June)       |
| Next Scheduled Review | April 2026                             |
| Authorisation         | Hunter JO Board                        |
| Authorisation Date    | 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025            |

### Related Document Information

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Relation Legislation          | Local Government Act 1993<br>Local Government Regulation 2021 (CI 397I) Annual statement of revenue policy |
| Related Policies / Procedures | N/A  |

### Definitions

| Term / Abbreviation | Definition |
|---------------------|------------|
|                     |            |

### Consultation

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Consulted with: | Hunter JO Board (13 February 2025)<br>Hunter JO Board (10 April 2025)<br>General Managers Advisory Committee (27 March 2025) |
|-----------------|--|

### Version History

| Version No. | Date Changed | Modified by  | Details and Comments |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1           | June 2025    | Steve Wilson | N/A                  |

## Background

Section 3971 of the *NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires that joint organisations have an annual statement of revenue policy that includes:

- a) a statement containing a detailed estimate of the joint organisation's income and expenditure,
- b) a statement of the types of fees proposed to be charged by the joint organisation,
- c) the amount of any proposed fees,
- d) a statement of the amounts of any proposed borrowings (other than internal borrowing).

A joint organisation must adopt its revenue policy statement for the year on or before 30 June in the preceding year.

The Regulation also identifies that:

- Each member council of the joint organisation is to make an annual financial contribution to the joint organisation.
- The joint organisation is to determine the amount of the annual contribution in accordance with the methodology adopted by the board.
- A joint organisation must consult with the member councils about proposed financial contributions.

## Estimated Revenue (2025/26)

### 1. Financial Contributions by the Member Councils

Financial contributions by the member Councils support delivery of the Hunter JO's principle functions of identifying strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and advocacy and intergovernmental collaboration.

The determination of each council's contribution comprises:

- (i) an equal fixed base rate across all Councils (ie \$27,934 per Council)
- (ii) a variable component based on population & rate base.

Annual contributions are indexed by the annual IPART approved rate increase for each member Council.

Financial contributions for 2025/26 include:

| Council        | Amount     |
|----------------|------------|
| Cessnock       | 56,486.64  |
| Dungog         | 33,893.10  |
| Lake Macquarie | 118,457.74 |

| Council                                   | Amount            |
|---|-------------------|
| Maitland                                  | 73,169.38         |
| MidCoast                                  | 73,889.49         |
| Muswellbrook                              | 38,269.21         |
| Newcastle                                 | 115,092.24        |
| Port Stephens                             | 59,902.51         |
| Singleton                                 | 41,200.12         |
| Upper Hunter                              | 35,455.00         |
| <b>Total Member Councils Contribution</b> | <b>645,815.43</b> |

## 2. Fees and Charges

Fees and charges for 2025/26 include:

### 1. Hunter and Central Coast Environment Program

The 2025/26 fee for participating Councils includes:

| Council        | Amount   |
|----------------|----------|
| Cessnock       | \$36,611 |
| Dungog         | \$17,422 |
| Lake Macquarie | \$36,611 |
| Maitland       | \$36,611 |
| MidCoast       | \$36,611 |
| Muswellbrook   | \$22,398 |
| Newcastle      | \$36,611 |
| Port Stephens  | \$36,611 |
| Singleton      | \$24,887 |
| Upper Hunter   | \$19,910 |

| Council                               | Amount           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Central Coast                         | \$36,611         |
| <b>Total Environment Program Fees</b> | <b>\$340,894</b> |

These fees have been determined by applying the December 2024 annual CPI increase (2.4%) to the previous year's fees. This approach retains the proportionality of fees relative to the original funding model which comprises:

- (i) An equal fee across founding Councils (Newcastle, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland, Central Coast) and MidCoast Council
- (ii) A population-based rate for Councils joining the program in 2002 (Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Dungog)

## **2. Fee for the provision of additional services**

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Hunter JO may charge and recover an approved fee for the delivery of additional services. No fee for service activities of this nature are currently proposed for the 2025/26 period. In the event that such work is delivered, the calculation of fees will consider:

- The cost of provision of the service
- Recommended prices suggested by outside bodies
- The importance of the service
- Legislation that regulates certain fees

## **3. Revenue from Grants**

Estimated revenue from grants for 2025/26 includes:

| Project                               | Funding amount | Source of Funding |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Regional Waste Coordination           | \$244,868      | NSW EPA           |
| Community Recycling Centres           | \$108,299      | NSW EPA           |
| Regional Illegal Dumping Program      | \$651,652      | NSW EPA           |
| Hospitality Circularity Network       | \$110,672      | NSW EPA           |
| Circular Economy Procurement          | \$130,945      | NSW EPA           |
| Hunter Circular Value Chain Solutions | \$198,925      | NSW EPA           |

| Project                                      | Funding amount     | Source of Funding                     |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Disaster Adaptation Planning                 | \$294,475          | NSW Reconstruction Authority          |
| Net Zero Acceleration                        | \$167,326          | NSW Office of Energy & Climate Change |
| <b>Total estimated grants received 25/26</b> | <b>\$1,907,162</b> |                                       |

#### 4. Annual Dividend from Arrow Collaborative Services

The Arrow Collaborative Services Strategic Plan 2024-26 identifies Arrow's role as supporting the Hunter JO via a member dividend to equip the Hunter JO with the resources needed to effectively advocate for the region. The level of dividend provided will be determined in accordance with Arrow processes which currently base dividend decisions on the prior years audited financial statements.

No dividend for the Hunter JO has been identified for the 2025/26 financial year.

#### 5. Proposed Borrowings

No borrowings are proposed at the Hunter JO for the 2025/26 financial year.

### Estimated Expenditure (Indicative 2025/26 Budget)

NB. The detailed budget for the 2025/26 financial year will be provided for consideration at the June 2025 Hunter JO Board meeting.

| INCOME STATEMENT             | Indicative<br>ANNUAL BUDGET<br>2025/26 |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>REVENUE</b>               |  |
| Membership Contributions     | \$645,815                              |
| Environment Program Fees     | \$340,894                              |
| Grant Funding                | \$1,907,162                            |
| Other Funding                | \$81,431                               |
| Services Fees                | \$0                                    |
| Miscellaneous                | \$18,250                               |
| Arrow Contribution           | \$0                                    |
| <b>Revenue - Total</b>       | <b>\$2,993,552</b>                     |
|                              |  |
| <b>COST OF SALES</b>         | <b>\$638,699</b>                       |
|                              |  |
| <b>GROSS PROFIT / (LOSS)</b> | <b>\$2,354,853</b>                     |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                          |                    |
| General & Administration                 | \$427,683          |
| Occupancy Costs                          | \$28,588           |
| Depreciation                             | \$37,581           |
| Information Technology                   | \$45,000           |
| Overhead Labour                          | \$1,706,135        |
| Employee Costs                           | \$28,123           |
| Travel & Accommodation                   | \$20,640           |
| Motor Vehicle                            | \$59,747           |
| <b>Overhead Expenses - Total</b>         | <b>\$2,353,496</b> |
|  |                    |
| <b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS) - OPERATIONS</b>  | <b>\$1,357</b>     |
| <b>OTHER INCOME / (EXPENSES)</b>         |                    |
| OTHER INCOME                             | \$18,325           |
| OTHER EXPENSES                           | \$0                |
| <b>Other Income / (Expenses) - Total</b> | <b>\$18,325</b>    |
|  |                    |
| <b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE TAX</b>    | <b>\$19,682</b>    |

**Appendix 7.2-B Current method for calculating annual council contributions and fees**

| Source                                     | Description   |
|--|---|
| Member Council Contributions (Hunter JO)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contributions for each council comprise:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an equal fixed base rate</li><li>• a variable component based on population &amp; rate base</li></ul></li><li>• Annual contributions are indexed by annual IPART approved rate increases</li></ul>  |
| Hunter & Central Coast Environment Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contributions for each Council indexed annually by CPI (to retain proportional contributions):</li><li>• Contributions based on:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• equal rate across founding Councils (Newcastle, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland, Central Coast) and MidCoast Council</li><li>• population based rate for Councils joining in 2002 (Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Dungog)</li></ul></li></ul> |

## 8. Items for the Hunter JO Board: For Noting

### 8.1 Hunter JO Financial Report

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Lisa Lord, Chief Operations Officer - Arrow |
|-----------------------|---|

#### Recommendations:

- That the Income Statement for period ending February 2025 be received and noted.
- That the summary of Credit Card expenditure for Hunter JO for YTD February 2025 be received and noted.

#### Executive Summary:

This report provides, for noting, the year-to-date financial statements for the Hunter Joint Organisation.

**Background:** Nil

#### Discussion:

##### Income Statement Summary

| SUMMARY                                       | ACTUAL        | ACTUAL         | BUDGET        | YTD      | YTD            | ANNUAL        | FORECAST        |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| INCOME STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS                   | Current Month | YTD            | YTD           | VARIANCE | PRIOR YEAR     | BUDGET        | BUDGET          |
| <b>HJO GROUP</b>                              |               |                |               |          |                |               |                 |
| HUNTER COUNCILS INCORPORATED                  | (11,049)      | (94,174)       | (92,510)      | 2%       | 6,149          | (3,626)       | (138,631)       |
| HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION                     | 54,968        | 85,780         | 116,784       | 36%      | 225,620        | 53,528        | 63,388          |
| <b>TOTAL NET PROFIT / (LOSS) - OPERATIONS</b> | <b>43,919</b> | <b>(8,394)</b> | <b>24,274</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>231,769</b> | <b>49,902</b> | <b>(75,243)</b> |
| HJO Subsidy                                   | -             | -              | -             | -        | -              | -             | -               |
| Extraordinary Expenses                        | -             | -              | -             | -        | -              | -             | -               |
| <b>TOTAL GROUP NET PROFIT / (LOSS)</b>        | <b>43,919</b> | <b>(8,394)</b> | <b>24,274</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>231,769</b> | <b>49,902</b> | <b>(75,243)</b> |

As of Year-to-Date (YTD), Hunter JO reports a net profit of \$85,780, which is 27% below the YTD budget projections. This variance is primarily attributable to timing differences in grant progress.

The YTD net results for Hunter Councils Inc align with the reforecast budget completed at the end of Q2. Lease preparations have been finalised with the new tenant moving in, in March 2025. The lease term is for a period of 2.5 years with 3 x 1-year options, with annual net rent of \$90,000 plus outgoings.

For a more detailed breakdown of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow by company, please refer to the attached documents accompanying this report.

A copy of Credit Card Expenditure for the Hunter JO since 1 July 2024 has been included at Attachment 8.1-1 for noting.



## Balance Sheet Summary

| YTD SUMMARY                     | HUNTER<br>COUNCILS INC | HUNTER JOINT<br>ORGANISATION | HJO<br>GROUP TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>BALANCE SHEET HIGHLIGHTS</b> |                        |                              |                    |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                   |                        |                              |                    |
| Cash                            | 569                    | 1,097,450                    | 1,098,019          |
| Trade Debtors                   | 5,631                  | 102,400                      | 108,031            |
| Property, Plant & Equipment     | 1,532,806              | 10,735                       | 1,543,541          |
| Intercompany Loans              | (630,412)              | 68,220                       | (562,192)          |
| Other                           | 6,750                  | 11,020                       | 17,770             |
|                                 | <b>915,344</b>         | <b>1,289,825</b>             | <b>2,205,169</b>   |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>              |                        |                              |                    |
| Trade Creditors                 | 21,154                 | 62,502                       | 83,656             |
| Employee Leave Entitlements     | -                      | 202,020                      | 202,020            |
| Unspent Grant Funding           | -                      | 697,905                      | 697,905            |
| Intercompany Loans              | 226,000                | -                            | 226,000            |
| Other                           | 3,726                  | 405,257                      | 408,983            |
|                                 | <b>250,880</b>         | <b>1,367,684</b>             | <b>1,618,564</b>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>               | <b>664,463</b>         | <b>(77,859)</b>              | <b>586,605</b>     |
|                                 | -                      | -                            |                    |
| <b>BALANCE SHEET METRICS</b>    |                        |                              |                    |
| Working Capital                 | 12,950                 | 1,210,870                    | 1,223,820          |
| Current Ratio [Target >1.5]     | 0.5:1                  | 0.9:1                        | 0.9:1              |
| Liabilities to Assets %         | 27%                    | 106%                         | 73%                |
| Cash Ratio [Target >1 ]         | 0:1                    | 0.8:1                        | 0.8:1              |

## Cashflow Summary

| YTD SUMMARY                             | HUNTER<br>COUNCILS INC | HUNTER JOINT<br>ORGANISATION | GROUP<br>TOTAL   |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>CASHFLOW HIGHLIGHTS</b>              |                        |                              |                  |
| <b>OPENING BALANCE - CASH ON HAND</b>   | <b>23,859</b>          | <b>27,953</b>                | <b>51,812</b>    |
| Net Cash - Operating                    | (26,290)               | 1,016,498                    | 990,208          |
| Net Cash - Investing                    | -                      | 28,000                       | 28,000           |
| Net Cash - Financing                    | 3,000                  | 25,000                       | 28,000           |
| Cash - Net Increase / (Decrease)        | (23,290)               | 1,069,498                    | 1,046,208        |
| <b>CLOSING BALANCE - CASH ON HAND</b>   | <b>569</b>             | <b>1,097,451</b>             | <b>1,098,020</b> |
| Plus Trade Debtors / Creditors          | (15,523)               | 39,898                       | 24,375           |
| <b>AVAILABLE WORKING CAPITAL (CASH)</b> | <b>(14,954)</b>        | <b>1,137,349</b>             | <b>1,122,395</b> |
| <b>LESS RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>            |                        |                              |                  |
| Employee Leave Entitlements             | -                      | 202,020                      | 202,020          |
| Unspent Grant Funds                     | -                      | 697,905                      | 697,905          |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>               | <b>(14,954)</b>        | <b>237,424</b>               | <b>222,470</b>   |

## Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:

- Attachment 8.1-1: Hunter JO Credit Card Expenditure: YTD February 2025 (Confidential)
- Attachment 8.1-2: Hunter JO Monthly Financial Report: February 2025

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Steve Wilson, Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer) |
|-----------------------|--|

### Recommendation:

- **That the Board note the information provided**

### Executive Summary:

This report provides, for noting, an update on progress of the regional activities being coordinated by the Hunter JO in conjunction with the 2025 National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government in Canberra from 24 – 27 June 2025.

### Background:

The Hunter JO is coordinating the following regional activities in conjunction with the 2025 NGA:

- Shared regional motions for each Member Council to individually lodge to the NGA
- Planning and hosting an annual conference dinner for Hunter-based Mayors, Councillors and staff attending the conference.
- Attempting to secure meetings with Ministers in the new Federal Government with portfolios that align to the shared priorities of the Hunter JO Board.

### Discussion:

The progress of activities includes:

| Activity                | Progress   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Shared Regional Motions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shared motions and supporting information have been completed (refer Appendix 8.2-A) and distributed to Mayors and General Managers for local endorsement and lodging to the NGA website.</li> <li>2. The shared motions have been lodged by the following councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Hunter Shire Council (24/2)</li> <li>• Port Stephens Council (25/2)</li> <li>• Singleton Shire Council (18/3)</li> <li>• Cessnock City Council (18/3)</li> <li>• Maitland City Council (18/3)</li> <li>• Dungog Shire Council (19/3)</li> <li>• Lake Macquarie City Council (24/3)</li> <li>• Muswellbrook Shire Council (25/3)</li> <li>• City of Newcastle (25/3)</li> <li>• MidCoast Council (26/3) – motions 2,3 &amp; 4</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The identification of spokespeople to move and speak in support of the regional motions will be determined at the 12<sup>th</sup> June Hunter JO Board meeting, pending confirmation of conference attendance and the identification of Mayoral spokespeople at today's "Communications and Media Framework" workshop.</li> </ol> |
| ALGA Dinner             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QT Canberra has been booked for the night of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.</li> <li>• Pending the outcomes of the federal election, invitations to attend the dinner will be extended to Hunter-based federal MP's</li> <li>• A minimum booking of 40 people was required to confirm the booking.</li> </ul>  |

| Activity                        | Progress   |
|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests will be sent to General Managers and their Executive Assistants in the coming weeks to assist with identifying Mayors, Councillors, staff and others attending the dinner.</li> </ul> <p>NB The direct costs of dinner and any associated room hire costs (proportional to level of representation) will be invoiced back to councils <b>based on the confirmed registrations prior to the date</b>. The purchase of drinks will be at the individual's expense.</p> |
| Meetings with Federal Ministers | This action is pending outcomes from the Federal Government election and subsequent appointment of Ministers.  |

#### **Financial / Resourcing Implications:**

Activities are being delivered within available Hunter JO staff resources.

#### **Next steps:**

1. Requests to be sent to Councils confirming attendance at the Hunter JO ALGA dinner
2. Request meetings with new Government Ministers pending outcomes of the Federal election.
3. Confirmation of Mayors / Councillors to move and speak in support of the regional motions at the conference (at 12<sup>th</sup> June Board meeting).

#### **Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Appendix 8.2-A Shared Regional Motions

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

## Appendix 8.2-A: Shared 2025 Regional Motions

| Category                    | Regional Motion  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Jobs and skills          | <p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Directly support the acceleration of local government actions that address imminent and substantial job losses arising from large scale industry closures in regional economies rapidly transforming to net zero by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearly identifying and establishing a single Federal Government Minister and Agency with responsibility for delivering funding and coordinating the provision of broader agency resources directly to Council led initiatives</li> <li>2. Directly investing in Council led, place-based initiatives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot the reactivation and repurposing of current and former mining lands and infrastructure to create urgently needed new employment lands</li> <li>• De-risk industry investment and strategically inform and accelerate industry attraction, skills development and job creation.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |
| 2. Housing and Homelessness | <p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Substantially increase direct Australian Government investment to councils for the construction of local enabling transport and community infrastructure and utilities critical to supporting national housing targets by unlocking and accelerating the delivery of housing on existing development-ready land.</p>  |
| 3. Financial Sustainability | <p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Lead systems reform across all three levels of government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs and governing agencies to reduce the administrative burden on local government.</li> <li>• Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity, certainty and sustainability for effective strategic planning.</li> <li>• Ensure equitable delivery of grant funding for rural and regional councils by upholding the principles of <i>the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995</i>, ensuring horizontal fiscal equalisation of funding.</li> </ul>   |
| 4. Roads and Infrastructure | <p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Lead systems reform across all levels of government to improve the planning, administration and delivery of road funding, to ensure equity in Financial Assistance Grant distribution to rural and regional councils by ensuring nationwide adherence to the principle of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation established under the <i>Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995</i>.</p>   |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Tim Askew, Director of Programs - Hunter JO |
|-----------------------|---|

### Recommendation:

- That the Board note the update on funding and grant opportunities

### Executive Summary:

This paper provides an update on the status of funding applications submitted by the Hunter JO.

### Background:

Grant funding is a key source of revenue for the Hunter JO, underpinning delivery of a range of advocacy initiatives and capacity building activities and projects that contribute directly to implementation of the Hunter JO Strategic Plan.

### Discussion

#### Status of Grant Applications

| Status   | Grant  | Amount                      |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Advice pending   | <b>Funding Program: EPA Local Government Waste Solutions Program</b><br><i>Project: Hunter Circular Value Chain Solutions project</i><br>The Hunter Circular Value Chain Solutions project seeks to develop and test innovative value chain collaboration processes to enable multi-party groups to work together to solve some of the region's waste management challenges.   | \$399,944<br>(over 2 years) |
| Advice pending   | <b>Funding Program: Regional Economic Development &amp; Community Investment Program</b><br><i>Project: Regional Post Mining Land Use in the Hunter</i><br>This project would deliver the preliminary components of the regional post mining land use proposal. Activities would focus on assessing region-wide mining lands and assets and developing a regional action plan for the repurposing of sites.  | \$998,843<br>(over 2 years) |
| Advice pending<br>(NB If successful DSSN would be the grant recipient) | <b>Funding Program: Regional Economic Development &amp; Community Investment Program</b><br><i>Project: Hunter Global Tourism Project.</i><br>Hunter JO has partnered with Destination Sydney Surrounds North (the proponent) and Newcastle Airport in this application, which would fund the delivery of two critical action plan items from the Hunter Global Tourism Marketing Strategy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trade Representation &amp; International Market Readiness</li> <li>2. Content Strategy &amp; Digital Infrastructure.</li> </ol> As required by the funding guidelines DSSN and Newcastle Airport are providing a 20% direct financial contribution to the project. | \$250,000                   |

#### Key:

|            |                |              |
|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Successful | Advice Pending | Unsuccessful |
|------------|----------------|--------------|

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:** Nil

**Next steps:** Nil

**Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:** Nil

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Tim Askew, Director of Programs - Hunter JO |
|-----------------------|---|

**Recommendation:**

- That the report be received and noted.

**Executive Summary:**

The Program Status Report provides the Board with an “at-a-glance” overview of the range of operational capacity building projects currently being delivered by the Hunter JO.

**Background:**

Key information provided by the report includes:

1. Project name.
2. Alignment of project to the strategic themes included in the Hunter JO Strategic Plan.
3. Source of project funding.
4. Status of project delivery in relation to project schedule, resourcing and scope.
5. Scheduled delivery date.
6. A brief update where any impacts on project schedule, resourcing and scope are being experienced.

**Discussion:** Nil

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:** Nil

**Next steps:** Nil

**Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Appendix 8.4-A: Program Status Update Report

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

## Appendix 8.4-A: Program Status Update Report

| Strategic Themes           |  |  |  | Project                                | Funding   | Schedule        | Resourcing      | Scope    | Delivery Date    | Updates by Exception  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|---|
| CONNECTIVITY               |  |  |  |  |           |                 |                 |          |                  |   |
| RESILIENCE                 |  |  |  |  |           |                 |                 |          |                  |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Disaster Ready Project                 | Grant     | On Track        | Moderate Impact | On Track | 29 February 2028 | The funding deed has now been signed and project has commenced. The grant had significant delays due to issues at the NSW Reconstruction Authority and NEMA funding authorities. The schedule is now back on track as an extended delivery timeframe has been approved. |
| JOBS AND A GROWING ECONOMY |  |  |  |  |           |                 |                 |          |                  |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Circular Economy Ecosystem             | Grant     | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 30 June 2027     |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Hospitality Circularity Project        | Grant     | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 31 March 2026    |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Circular Precincts and Futures Hub     | Hunter JO | On Track        | Moderate Impact | On Track | 30 June 2025     | The grant funding has concluded. The project continues to be managed by the Hunter JO to seek a new grant to continue the work.   |
|                            |  |  |  | Hunter Circular Knowledge Hub          | Grant     | Moderate Impact | On Track        | On Track | 30 April 2025    | Schedule extended 4 months due to savings in the budget being reallocated by the grant authority to undertake promotion and improve our work until April 2025.  |
|                            |  |  |  | Circular Economy Procurement Project   |           | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 30 June 2025     |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Priority Infrastructure List (Stage 2) | Hunter JO | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 30 June 2025     |   |
| LIVEABILITY                |  |  |  |  |           |                 |                 |          |                  |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Illegal Dumping Program                | Grant     | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 31 March 2027    |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Landfill Emissions Data Project        | Grant     | Moderate Impact | On Track        | On Track | 31 March 2025    | Schedule extended 3 months to give us more time to resolve difficulties in developing the best model for the outcome.   |
|                            |  |  |  | Community Recycling Centres            | Grant     | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 30 June 2025     |   |
|                            |  |  |  | Net Zero Acceleration                  | Grant     | On Track        | On Track        | On Track | 30 June 2025     |   |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b>   | Tim Askew, Director of Programs - Hunter JO |
| <b>Recommendation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the report be received and noted.</li></ul> |   |

### **Executive Summary:**

The Hunter JO 6-Monthly Program Report provides an update on the advocacy and capacity building activities of the Hunter JO. The current report covers the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

### **Background:**

In addition to providing the Hunter JO Board with information on the focus and status of advocacy activities, intergovernmental collaboration and capacity building programs being delivered by the Hunter JO team, the program report also provides a vehicle for readily communicating this information to a range of both internal and external stakeholders, including council officers, state and commonwealth government agencies, and regional bodies.

Key information provided by the report includes:

- Strategic Objectives
- Political Engagements
- Media Exposure
- Strategic Engagements
- Events delivered by the Hunter JO
- Capacity Building Program /Project Updates.

**Discussion:** N/A

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:** N/A

**Next steps:** N/A

### **Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Attachment 8.5-1: Hunter JO 6-Monthly Program Report (1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024).

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report.

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Bonnie Gradwell, Administration and Events Officer – Hunter JO |
|-----------------------|--|

**Recommendations:**

- That the Hunter JO Board note the Hunter JO Risk Register
- That the Hunter JO Board identify any new risks for inclusion on the Risk Register

**Executive Summary:**

This report provides, for noting, a copy of the Hunter JO Risk Register, and asks that the Board raise any additional risks for noting within the meeting, to be added to the register.

**Background:**

Provision of the Risk Register for the Board's consideration at each meeting is in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the annual Hunter JO audit.

**Discussion:**

Review and updating of the Risk Register is undertaken bi-monthly by the Hunter JO Director and Arrow Chief Operations Officer to identify any new risks and evaluate those already on the register.

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:**

The Governance & Risk Framework is managed by the Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer) in collaboration with the Arrow Chief Operating Officer.

**Next steps:**

The Register will continue to be reviewed and reported bi-monthly to Hunter JO Board.

**Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Attachment 8.6-1: Hunter JO Risk Register (Confidential)

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Bonnie Gradwell, Administration and Events Officer - Hunter JO |
|-----------------------|--|

**Recommendation:**

- That the Hunter JO Board note the status of the Compliance Calendar Checklist.

**Executive Summary:**

This report provides for noting, the status of the annual Hunter JO Compliance Calendar Checklist.

**Background:**

Similar to its member councils, the Hunter JO has a number of annual statutory compliance and reporting obligations that it must fulfil on an annual basis. To assist the Board with its oversight of these compliance obligations, the Compliance Calendar checklist identifies these obligations and their delivery status throughout the year. The checklist is reviewed and reported to the Board on a bi-monthly basis.

**Discussion:** Nil

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:**

The compliance calendar checklist is reviewed by the Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer), Administration and Events Officer and Arrow Chief Operating Officer on a bi-monthly basis.

**Next steps:**

The Checklist will continue to be reviewed and reported bi-monthly to meetings of the Hunter JO Board.

**Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:**

- Appendix 8.7-A: Hunter JO Compliance Checklist 2024-25FY

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

Appendix 8.7-A: Compliance Checklist: 2024-25FY

| Item  | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Legislative Compliance  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Hunter Joint Organisation Audit (Auditor-General)   | ☑   | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Hunter JO Meeting includes presentation of audited accounts   |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Lodgement of Audited Financial Statements to OLG  |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Submission of Hunter JO Annual Performance Statement to OLG   |     |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Submission of financial data return (FDR) to OLG  |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Hunter JO Pecuniary Interest Declaration Form to be sent to Mayors for completion (as well as Executive Officer)              |     |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tabling of Hunter JO Pecuniary Declarations at Hunter JO Board Meeting  |     | ☑   |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Publishing of Audited Annual Financial Statements on Hunter JO website  |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Submission of Public Interest Disclosure Annual Return  | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Publishing of Hunter JO Board Meeting Agendas on Hunter JO website  |     | ☑   |     | ☑   |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |
| Publishing of Hunter JO Board Meeting Minutes on Hunter JO website  |     | ☑   |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Annual Report of obligations under GIPA due to the Minister and the Information Commissioner                                  |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics to be reported to Board. Collection form due to OLG                               |     |     |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Post LG Election  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Election of Hunter JO Chair   |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Election of Hunter JO Deputy Chair  |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Review of Hunter JO Strategic Plan, and adoption of Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (within 12 months of election) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Review & adoption of Code of Meeting Practice & Expenses and Facilities Policy (within 12 months of election)                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Review of organisational structure (within 12 months of election)   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Review of Code of Conduct (within 12 months of election)  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Finance & Budget  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Commence consultation with Board on Statement of Revenue Policy   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | ☑   |     |     |     |     |
| Presentation of forecast budget (Hunter JO)   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| GST Certificate to be submitted   | ☑   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget [LG Reg cl 397I]   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Publish Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget on website [LG Reg cl 397I]  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

Key:

- ☑

Green – Completed
- Orange – Due date/to be completed by
- Red – Not completed on schedule

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Shaun O'Sullivan, Director North - Regional Coordination, Delivery and Engagement Group, Premier's Department |
|-----------------------|---|

|   |
|---|
| <b>Recommendation:</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>That the Board note the Premier's Department update.</b></li></ul> |

### **Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) priority setting for 2025/26**

The last RLE meeting, held in Newcastle 18 February 2025, explored thematic focus areas to progress the setting of specific RLE priorities for 2025/26.

Four key themes were explored: Energy and Economic Transition; Housing (including homelessness); Youth Engagement; and Mental Health. These reflected key statewide themes and those identified by RLE members at the November 2024 and May 2024 RLE meetings.

RLE members, including the HJO, were invited to nominate their interest in participating in targeted popup sessions to identify potential protects within these themes. These sessions have been scheduled for early May 2025, ahead of the next RLE meeting on 20 May 2025. The RLE will consider specific projects for endorsement at the May 2025 meeting.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Hunter JO Strategic Theme / Advocacy Priority:</b> | 5. Governance and Leadership   |
| <b>Objective:</b>                                     | 5.3.1 Facilitate Intergovernmental collaboration to identify and take up opportunities that align with our strategic regional priorities, Advocacy Framework and priorities Document and Hunter JO Board and Subcommittees |

## 8.9 Office of Local Government (OLG) Update

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Report Author:</b> | Virginia Errington, Council Engagement Manager, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government |
|-----------------------|--|

### **Recommendation:**

- **That the Board note the OLG update.**

### **Executive Summary:**

To provide an update on upcoming policy changes, funding opportunities, consultations and events for councils and joint organisations.

### **Background:**

#### Review of the Companion Animals Act

A [discussion paper](#) has been published as the first step in a review of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. The review aims to update the Act to improve responsible pet ownership across NSW, ensure the well-being of pets and the safety of communities. Submissions close Sunday 4 May 2025.

#### Review of the Roads Act 1993

Transport for NSW has commenced a review of the *Roads Act 1993* to create a more contemporary planning and management framework for roads and streets across NSW. An [Issues Paper](#) outlining the scope of the review and highlighting the current underlying challenges experienced under the Act has been published. Feedback on the Issues Paper can be submitted by completing the [survey](#) by Friday 28 March 2025.

#### Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines

The draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement [Guidelines](#) for Local Government have been revised. The draft Guidelines outline the purpose and value of effective financial reporting, highlight roles and responsibilities, and establish standardised Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) reporting templates.

OLG has prepared a [Consultation Guide](#) to encourage discussion and generate feedback on the draft Guidelines and the proposed changes. Submissions close Friday 18 April 2025.

#### Grants Commission Appointments

Three new Commissioners have been appointed to the Local Government Grants Commission. The new appointments are:

- Linda Scott – former Australian Local Government Association president and former City of Sydney Councillor, appointed as commissioner and chairperson.
- Brett Whitworth – Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government, appointed as commissioner and deputy chairperson.
- Jason Hamling – former mayor of Orange, appointed as commissioner.

The term of existing commissioner Leanne Barnes PSM OAM, former General Manager of Bega Valley Shire Council has been renewed. All commissioners have been appointed for a term of three years.

**Discussion:** n/a

**Financial / Resourcing Implications:** n/a

**Next steps:** n/a

**Appendices\* / Attachments\*\*:** n/a

\*Appendices are included directly following the report and inform the validity of the report

\*\*Attachments are included at the end of the Board Pack to provide supplementary information and context.

## 9. Matters Raised by Members

---

*Nil.*

## 10. General Business

---

*Nil.*



# Hunter JO Board Agenda Attachments

Thursday 10 April 2025



## Hunter JO Board Agenda Attachments:

- Attachment 6-1: Correspondence to DSSN re Letter of Support – Hunter Global Tourism Project, 7 February 2025
- Attachment 6-2: Correspondence template to NSW Ministers re Accelerating the reactivation of current and former mining lands to create jobs in the Hunter Region, 17 February 2025
- Attachment 6-3: Correspondence to Tim Browne, Chief Executive Officer Dantia re Letter of Support – Black Rock Motor Park REDCIP Funding Application, 17 February 2025
- Attachment 6-4: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support – MidCoast Regional Organics Processing Solution (MCROPS), 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-5: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support – HealthPulse: Connecting Upper Hunter Communities to Health and Wellbeing Services in Place, 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-6: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support – Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC): super yacht facility, 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-7: Correspondence to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development re Letter of Support - Rocky Point Road Pond Ash Trial Project, 18 February 2025
- Attachment 6-8: Correspondence template re Hunter region post mining land use - detailed \$20m budget breakdown and scope, 5 March 2025
- Attachment 6-9: Correspondence to Tony Chappel CEO NSW EPA re Letter of Support – EPA/LGNSW Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together, 28 March 2025
- Attachment 6-10: Correspondence from LGNSW providing copy of Hunter JO Excellence in the Environment Awards 2024, 4 December 2024
- Attachment 6-11: Correspondence from Hon Barnaby Joyce MP re Post Mining Land Advocacy, 13 February 2025
- Attachment 6-12: Correspondence from Tim Crakanthorp MP re support for Hunter Global Tourism Business Case, 25 February 2025
- Attachment 6-13: Correspondence from Tim Crakanthorp MP re support for Newcastle Airport Air-Cargo Terminal Business Case, 25 February 2025
- Attachment 6-14: Correspondence from Hon Barnaby Joyce MP re Post Mining Land Advocacy, 10 March 2025
- Attachment 6-15: Correspondence from the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP re Letter received on shared priorities, 11 March 2025
- Attachment 8.1-2: Hunter JO Monthly Financial Report: February 2025

- Attachment 8.5-1: Hunter JO 6-Monthly Program Report (1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024)



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton NSW 2323. 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.com.au](http://www.hunterjo.com.au)

Destination Sydney Surrounds North  
Glenn Caldwell, General Manager  
Level 2, 28 William Street  
Gosford NSW 2250

7 February 2025

**Re: Letter of Support – Hunter Global Tourism Project.**

I write to confirm support for the above funding application being submitted through the NSW Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program.

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

This project focuses on delivering two critical action plan items from The Hunter Global Tourism Marketing Strategy: Trade Representation & International Market Readiness and Content Strategy & Digital Infrastructure. These initiatives will deliver the foundational elements needed to promote the Hunter Region as a globally competitive destination.

The project directly aligns with the following objectives and strategic directions from the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

- 3.5.1 Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around regional tourism promotion to grow jobs in the region.
- 3.5.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of employment based in the tourism economy.
- 3.3.1 Support efforts that position the Hunter globally in its areas of competitive and comparative strength.

We are committed to working with Destination Sydney Surrounds North to deliver this important initiative for the region.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Kim Carland, Advocacy and Government Relations Lead on [kimc@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:kimc@hunterjo.com.au).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. P. Wilson".

Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton NSW 2323. 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.com.au](http://www.hunterjo.com.au)

The Hon INSERT  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
ADDRESS

EMAIL:

18 February 2025

Dear Minister INSERT

**Re: Accelerating the reactivation of current and former mining lands to create jobs in the Hunter Region**

I write on behalf of the ten Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) Mayors to request a meeting with you to discuss the focus and urgency of actions needed to accelerate the reactivation and repurposing of current and former mining lands and their infrastructure, to create urgently needed new employment lands and jobs across the Hunter region.

Within the next five years the Hunter is conservatively facing the imminent and substantial loss of at least 12,000 mining-related jobs from scheduled mine closures, with significantly more to follow. Given the scale and timeframe of this industrial closure, urgent action and transformational investment is needed to replace these significant losses and accompanying region-wide economic impacts.

It is for this reason that the Councils of the Hunter are seeking urgent investment from the NSW and Federal Governments of \$20M to lead a region-wide program that (refer Attachment):

- Pilots the reactivation and repurposing of current and former mining lands and infrastructure, across a range of scenarios, to create urgently needed new employment lands
- Directly de-risks industry investment and strategically informs and accelerates the industry attraction, skills development and job creation that is urgently needed as the Hunter's economy rapidly transforms away from coal.

We have recently briefed Federal Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Hunter-based MP's on these imminent challenges and the region-wide project we propose. We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss and explore this opportunity which will require investment and collaborative action across all levels of government.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could please confirm the opportunity to meet with us by contacting Kim Carland, Advocacy and Government Relations Lead on 0460 034 614 or [kimc@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:kimc@hunterjo.com.au).

Yours sincerely

Cr Sue Moore  
Mayor, Singleton Council  
Chair, Hunter Joint Organisation



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

17 February 2025

To whom it may concern

**Re: Letter of Support – Black Rock Motor Park REDCIP Funding Application**

I write to confirm support for the above funding application being submitted to the NSW Government’s Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP).

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

The proposed project will contribute directly to the establishment of the Black Rock Motor Park, which will promote regional economic development and job creation, contributing to the broader region’s economic diversification and transformation. Key elements of the Black Rock Motor Park will include:

- A 5.4km circuit with motorsport facilities include a kart track, car handling courses, and a 4WD adventure course.
- Hospitality and event facilities, including a hotel with a conference centre, pitlane building, mechanics pavilion, village precinct, café, and accommodation options
- The repurposing of local dam fly ash for road construction.

If successful, the funding application will expedite the delivery of the racetrack and driver programs, creating significant employment opportunities.

The proposed project directly aligns with the following advocacy priorities of the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

| Strategic Theme            | Objective / Strategy |  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Jobs and a Growing Economy | 3.1.1                | Support a clear, place-based, integrated whole-of-government policy and planning approach to drive the region’s economic evolution and jobs of the future                  |
|                            | 3.1.4                | Drive collaboration to provide clarity, certainty and fairness in land-use policy and regulation as it relates to the use of former industrial and mining land and assets. |
|                            | 3.1.5                | Support government policy and planning that prioritise investment into key regional catalyst areas.  |

| Strategic Theme | Objective / Strategy |   |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
|                 | 3.2.2                | Improve and accelerate the regions access to investment and capital markets to underpin the innovation ecosystem and the redevelopment of industrial and mining assets. |
|                 | 3.3.1                | Support efforts that position the Hunter globally in its areas of competitive and comparative strength  |
|                 | 3.5.1                | Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around regional tourism promotion to grow jobs in the region.  |
|                 | 3.5.2                | Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of employment based in the tourism economy.   |
| Liveability     | 4.1                  | We are recognised as a destination for hosting world class events that align with our unique offering   |
|                 | 4.1.1                | Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around events and tourism.   |
|                 | 4.1.2                | Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of the regional events and tourism economy.   |

We are committed to working with our member councils and partner organisations to progress this important initiative for the region.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at E [steve@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:steve@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au).

Yours Sincerely



Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

18 February 2025

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
[regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au)

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Letter of Support – MidCoast Regional Organics Processing Solution (MCROPS)**

I write to confirm support for the above funding application being submitted through the Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP).

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

This project focuses on establishing a circular solution for processing organic waste. This innovative project aims to convert up to 95,000 tonnes per annum of organic waste into high-quality compost, certified organic compost pellets, and green energy. This a first of it's kind for the region and will be a game changer for our member council, MidCoast Council, and more broadly benefit the circular economy for the entire region. The project will move beyond the existing composting processes to capture more methane and carbon dioxide to significantly reduce emissions, create green energy and manage the contamination issue faced by most organics' processors.

The proposed project directly aligns with the following objectives and strategic directions from the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

| Strategic Theme            | Strategy  |
|----------------------------|---|
| Jobs and a Growing Economy | <p>3.1.5 Support government policy and planning that prioritise the investment into key regional catalyst areas.</p> <p>3.3.1 Support efforts that position the Hunter globally in its areas of competitive and comparative strength.</p> <p>3.4.1 Support knowledge sharing and embed Circular Economy principles in our strategies and plans to provide a pathway to future jobs creation in our local supply chains and services</p> <p>3.4.2 Support implementation of the Hunter Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap.</p> |



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

| Strategic Theme | Strategy   |
|-----------------|--|
| Liveability     | 4.2.1 Support meeting our future regional infrastructure and operations for circular outcomes.<br>4.2.2 Reduce carbon emissions through better waste and materials management. |

We are committed to working with MidCoast Council and NALG Envirotech Pty Ltd to support this important initiative for the region, so that MidCoast and other member councils can benefit from the move to a more circular economy, a reduction in emissions and creation of jobs.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Tim Askew 0436420623.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)





4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

18 February 2025

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
[regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au)

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Letter of Support – HealthPulse: Connecting Upper Hunter Communities to Health and Wellbeing Services in Place**

I write to confirm support for the above funding application being submitted under the Regional Development Trust through Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP).

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

The project involves co-designing and launching a digital tool to measure the community’s mental health and well-being. This tool will enable us to quickly identify and respond to emerging mental health needs in the Upper Hunter, addressing existing service gaps. It will also provide access to nine mental health programs and include a climate resilience module co-designed with the community.

The proposed project directly aligns with the following objectives and strategic directions from the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

| Strategic Theme | Strategy   |
|-----------------|--|
| Liveability     | 4.6.3 Support equitable access to education and health services and facilities.<br>4.6.3 Support equitable access to education and health services and facilities. |

We are committed to working with Hunter Medical Research Institute to support this important initiative for the region.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Tim Askew 0436 420623.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

18 February 2025

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
[regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au)

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Letter of Support – Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC): super yacht facility**

I write to confirm support for the above funding application being submitted through the Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP).

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

This project focuses on the design and construction of a super yacht facility adjacent to NCYC’s existing marina and will deliver many benefits for the region, including:

- Boosting Hospitality & Accommodation – Yacht guests, crews, and sightseers bring high-value tourism to the region.
- Reviving and sustaining Skilled Maritime Trades – The facility will reactivate Newcastle’s shipbuilding heritage by creating jobs in marine fabrication, welding, component repair, and maintenance.
- Strengthening Local Businesses – Visiting super yachts provide a new market for local food and wine producers, artisan businesses, and service providers.
- Enhancing the Port’s Economic Growth – Increasing luxury yacht arrivals contributes to Newcastle’s roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) vehicle import trade and strengthens its position as a multi-industry port.
- Capturing a Growing Market –Newcastle can establish itself in this growing market as a premier destination alongside Sydney and Queensland.

The proposed project directly aligns with the following objectives and strategic directions from the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

| Strategic Theme            | Strategy  |
|----------------------------|---|
| Jobs and a Growing Economy | 3.3.1 Support efforts that position the Hunter globally in its areas of competitive and comparative strength.<br><br>3.5.1 Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around regional tourism promotion to grow jobs in the region. |

| Strategic Theme | Strategy  |
|-----------------|---|
|                 | 3.5.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of employment based in the tourism economy. |
| Liveability     | 4.1.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of the regional events and tourism economy. |

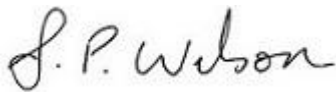
This project will provide substantial economic and employment benefits, including:

- Enhancing the Hunter's appeal as a tourism, investment, and lifestyle destination.
- Expanding NSW's capacity to attract, accommodate, service, and supply the global super yacht market.
- Driving job creation and investment in the maritime, leisure, and tourism sectors

We are supportive of the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's (NCYC) important initiative for the region.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Tim Askew 0436 420623.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. P. Wilson".

Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

18 February 2025

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
[regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au)

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Letter of Support – Rocky Point Road Pond Ash Trial Project**

I write to confirm support for the above funding application being submitted under the Regional Development Trust through Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program (REDCIP).

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

The Rocky Point Road Pond ash trial project is a collaborative pilot project being managed through the Circular Economy Living Lab (CELL). The purpose of the project is to trial increased proportions of Pond Ash (a problematic waste stream associated with coal fired power generation) in road pavement to promote the circular use of pond ash in roads by road authorities and potential commercial ventures.

The proposed project directly aligns with the following objectives and strategic directions from the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

| Strategic Theme            | Strategy   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Jobs and a Growing Economy | 3.4.1 Support knowledge sharing and embed Circular Economy principles in our strategies and plans to provide a pathway to future jobs creation in our local supply chains and services<br>3.4.2 Support implementation of the Hunter Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap. |
| Liveability                | 4.2.1 Support meeting our future regional infrastructure and operations for circular outcomes.<br>4.2.2 Reduce carbon emissions through better waste and materials management.   |



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

We are committed to working with Circular Economy Living Lab (CELL) to support this important initiative for the region.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Tim Askew 0436 420 623.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)

## Attachment 6-8 Correspondence template re Hunter region post mining land use - detailed \$20m budget breakdown and scope, 5 March 2025

**From:** [Kim Carland](#)  
**To:** [XXXXXXXXXX](#)  
**Cc:** [XXXXXXXXXX](#); [Bonnie Gradwell](#); [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** As requested - Hunter region post mining land use - detailed \$20m budget breakdown and scope  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 March 2025 10:01:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [250226\\_PMLU\\_Hunter\\_project\\_budget\\_summaries.xlsx](#)  
[250304\\_Project\\_Scope\\_Post\\_Mining\\_Land\\_Use\\_in\\_the\\_Hunter\\_2025.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

---

Hi XXXX

Thanks for your patience in responding to your request following our meeting in Canberra in early Feb (I've been on annual leave). As a reminder, we had a delegation of Mayors representing the 10 Mayors and local government communities of the Hunter region, who met with you to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities we're facing as we have a global downturn in coal demand and our commitment to net zero.

Our most urgent issue we're facing is post mining land use, and the need for funding to identify existing mining and industrial lands that can be activated for economic business development and provide the land to support local jobs (instead of the current rehabilitation plans which will limit access to the land for decades).

We have four pilot projects in the Hunter that need urgent funding to the value of \$20.7m, including:

1. Regional audit of Hunter sites, assets and opportunities for economic development, stakeholder coordination, biodiversity mapping, investment prospectus (led by Hunter JO \$3 million)
2. Localised coal mine closure strategy to determine actions and timelines (led by Singleton Council \$7 million)
3. Site specific detailed Master Plan for a closed mining site in rehabilitation, identified as a priority due to significant growth area (led by Lake Macquarie City Council \$5 million)
4. Site specific detailed Master Plan for operating mine planning to close within five years, identified as a priority due to high employment loss (led by Muswellbrook Shire Council \$5 million)

**As requested, please find attached a detailed breakdown of the budget for each project and a detailed Project Scope.**

Our shared advocacy priorities for the Federal election in 2025 will directly support and activate this economic transformation, create new jobs and transition to net zero, and support new housing.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the opportunity to progress these initiatives, and hope to hear from you and the Prime Minister soon.

Cheers

**Kim Carland | Advocacy and Government Relations Lead**

Hunter Joint Organisation

[kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au) | 0460 034 614

[Book a meeting with me](#)



**Lands of the Awabakal, Worimi, Wonnarua, Geawegal, Biripi, Guringai and Darkinjung Aboriginal peoples.**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



4 Sandringham Avenue, PO Box 3137,  
Thornton, NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4040  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

Tony Chappel  
CEO  
NSW Environment Protection Authority  
6 Parramatta Square, 10 Darcy Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

28 March 2025

**Re: Letter of Support – EPA / LGNSW Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together**

I write to confirm support for the ongoing continuation of the 'Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together' program by the NSW EPA and Local Government NSW.

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is a collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for communities. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

Over the past 12 months, the 'Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together' pilot project has effectively built upon the success of the Contaminated Land Councils Regional Capacity Building (CRCB) program, ensuring that critical expertise, resources, and collaboration in contaminated land management continue to be accessible to councils.

Hunter JO and its member councils have actively participated in this program, benefiting from its structured approach to knowledge-sharing, technical support and collaboration. The program has played a crucial role in addressing a major challenge faced by councils—contaminated land management is a highly complex and technical field, and most councils lack the dedicated resources to manage it effectively on their own. The 'Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together' initiative provides an invaluable support system that ensures councils have the guidance, tools, and expertise needed to navigate regulatory and environmental challenges.

This program has also created an essential platform for collaboration, allowing councils to share best practices, access valuable templates and tools developed through the CRCB program, and participate in training opportunities hosted by Hunter JO and other stakeholders. This has led to greater efficiency and consistency in managing contaminated land across NSW.

For this initiative to remain effective, we encourage the continuation and expansion of key program elements that were highly valued under the CRCB model, including:

- A **service desk function** offering technical support from specialists on contaminated land projects.
- **Frequent basic training** for new staff to address high turnover rates in councils.



- A **resourcing model for UPSS compliance**, as many councils lack the capacity to conduct inspections of operational sites.

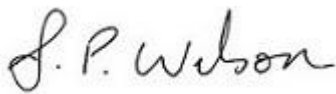
The 'Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together' program directly aligns with the following objectives and strategic directions from the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#):

| Strategic Theme | Strategy   |
|-----------------|--|
| Liveability     | <p>4.3.1 Our Councils are well supported in protecting and enhancing the environment through regional programs, data collection, support resources and capacity building</p> <p>4.3.3 We drive council capacity building opportunities to protect the environment and human health from pollution.</p> |

Maintaining the 'Councils Managing Contaminated Land Together' program is crucial to ensuring councils across NSW continue to receive the support they need. We strongly advocate for its ongoing funding and development to support local government capacity-building in contaminated land management. Hunter JO is committed to supporting the NSW EPA and LGNSW deliver this important initiative for the region and NSW.

Should you have any further queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Anna Flack, Senior Project Coordinator, at [annaf@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annaf@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au) or 0460038199.

Yours Sincerely



Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)



# Excellence in the Environment Awards 2024

**Presented to**  
**JO and ROC network**

**Division D Winner**  
**Climate Change Adaptation**

**For**  
**Regional Resilience Program for Disaster Risk  
Reduction**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Turley', positioned above a horizontal line.

**Cr Darriea Turley AM**  
President LGNSW

Supported by





# The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Federal Member for New England

Our ref: NE54317

13 February 2025

Mr Steve Wilson  
Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer)  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
PO Box 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Via e-mail: [stevew@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:stevew@hunterjo.com.au)

Dear Mr Wilson *Steve,*

Thank you for coming to see me on 6 February 2025 with Hunter Joint Organisation Mayors, Cr Sue Moore (Chair), Cr Leah Anderson (Deputy Chair), Cr Digby Rayward and Cr Jeff Drayton along with Hunter JO's Advocacy and Government Relations Lead, Ms Kim Carland, regarding the challenges and opportunities in the shared priorities of the 10 Mayors representing the Hunter region, particularly in relation to post mining land use.

It was good to meet with you and the delegation to discuss these important issues and I appreciated receiving an overview of the proposed regional and local strategies across the Hunter JO's 10 local government areas to mitigate the impacts of forthcoming coal mine closures affecting some 50,000 jobs, including the loss of some 12,000 jobs by 2030, and the funding being sought to implement these strategies.

I have written to the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, the Shadow Treasurer, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, the Shadow Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Jane Hume and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, drawing their attention to these strategies and the requested funding of \$20 million and have asked for their advice as soon as possible.

I have also highlighted the proposed \$5 million Thomas Mitchell Drive Industrial Expansion Pilot in Muswellbrook Shire for the establishment of 10,000 square metre sheds to attract new industries and jobs as part of this initiative and have included with my letters the summaries regarding the Newcastle Airport Air-Freight Cargo Terminal and Precinct proposal along with the Hunter Global Tourism initiative.

I will contact you as soon as I receive replies to my representations and look forward to continuing to work with the Hunter JO on these and other important initiatives such as the development of nuclear energy and the associated opportunities to drive the future development, growth and prosperity of the Hunter and New England regions.

...2/

Thank you once again for raising these important issues and if I can further assist at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

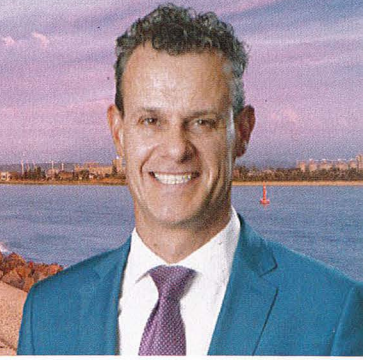
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BJ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP  
Federal Member for New England  
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs

bj.lt.tam

**Tim Crakanthorp MP**

STATE MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE



25 February 2025

Dear Cr Moore,

**Re: Hunter Global Tourism Business Case**

I write in support the recommendations outlined in the Hunter Global Tourism Business Case report prepared by the Hunter Joint Organisation.

The report was completed with funding support from the NSW Government, and directly aligns with Government's regional visitor economy objectives.

Establishing an international airport in Newcastle will play a crucial role in Hunter's economic diversification. As outlined in the Business Case, the highest priority investment to grow international tourism in the Hunter would be through the delivery of an Export Ready Tourism Marketing Strategy valued at \$3.85m.

Further, an international airport in Newcastle will leverage the \$250 million redevelopment of the Newcastle Airport passenger terminal, runway and surrounds currently underway, attracting international passenger flights directly to the Hunter. With tourism having a higher economic multiplier than mining, investing in the outcomes of the Hunter Global Tourism Business Case will stimulate new local jobs to support the region's economic diversification.

For these reasons, I support the recommendations outlined the Hunter Global Tourism Business Case.

If you require ant further information, please reach out on the contact below.

Kind regards

Tim Crakanthorp MP  
**State Member for Newcastle**



**Tim Crakanthorp MP**

STATE MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE



25 February 2025

Dear Cr Moore,

**Re: Newcastle Airport Air-Cargo Terminal Business Case**

I write in support for the recommendations outlined in the Hunter Global Air Freight Business Case report prepared by the Hunter Joint Organisation.

The report was completed with funding support from the NSW Government, and directly aligns with Government's regional visitor economy objectives.

As outlined in the report, the establishment of a \$27m Air-freight Cargo Terminal at Newcastle Airport will have a myriad of benefits for the Hunter, including directly supporting business growth, job creation and an expansion of international exports for the region. Combined with an additional air freight precinct (for which an additional business case analysis is currently underway), the two initiatives represent a \$50 million investment in air-freight capability for Newcastle Airport.

Further, international air-freight facilities at Newcastle Airport will attract international passenger flights directly to the Hunter. With tourism having a higher economic multiplier than mining, this would further stimulate new local jobs to support the region's economic diversification.

For these reasons, I support the recommendations outlined in the Hunter Global Air Freight Business Case report.

If you require any further information, please reach out to the contact details below.

Kind regards

Tim Crakanthorp MP  
**State Member for Newcastle**



**The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP**

Federal Member for New England

Our ref: NE54317

10 March 2025

Ms Kim Carland  
Advocacy and Government Relations Lead  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
PO Box 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Via e-mail: [kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Carland

Thank you for your e-mail message of 5 March 2025, with attachments, further to our meeting on 6 February 2025 at my Parliament House Office attended by a delegation of Mayors representing the 10 Mayors and local government communities of the Hunter region regarding the challenges and opportunities in their shared priorities, particularly in relation to post mining land use.

I have noted the contents of your correspondence and appreciate receiving the additional information you have provided regarding four pilot projects for which the Hunter Joint Organisation is seeking urgent funding.

Further to my letter of 13 February 2025 to Mr Steve Wilson, Director Hunter JO (Executive Officer), Hunter Joint Organisation, and my representations of the same date, I have again e-mailed letters to the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, the Shadow Treasurer, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, the Shadow Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Jane Hume and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, asking if this additional information could be considered in conjunction with my previous correspondence and for their advice.

In regard to your meeting request, I will arrange for my Diary Manager to contact you to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for this to occur.

Thank you once again for writing and I will contact you when I receive replies to my representations.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP  
Federal Member for New England  
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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



**THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

MC25-000395

Cr Sue Moore and Cr Leah Anderson  
Chair and Deputy Chair  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
c/- [kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Councillors Moore and Anderson

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2024 about shared advocacy priorities of the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils for the 2025 Federal election.

I am pleased to hear about the prioritisation of a circular economy futures hub in the Hunter Region. The circular economy represents a powerful economic opportunity that will support our net zero goals while addressing waste and pollution. The Australian Government is setting the national direction to help Australia transition to a circular economy. Circular economy principles are already supported in over 30 government programs and policies, representing more than \$150 billion of investment. Further detail is in Australia's Circular Economy Framework, which I released in December 2024.

Our regions are critical to the circular economy transition. I understand your engagement last year with the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group on place-based circularity opportunities was very helpful in informing their final report. I would be grateful if you could keep my department updated on progress of your hubs by contacting [circulareconomy@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:circulareconomy@dcceew.gov.au). You may also be interested in the \$400 million Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program as a potential avenue for supporting your futures hubs. More information is available at [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au).

I was interested to read about the potential biodiversity benefits of your project on re-use of mining lands. As you may be aware, we have set up a Nature Repair Market to make it easier for businesses and philanthropic organisations to invest in projects to restore and protect the environment. The scheme enables individuals and organisations that undertake nature repair projects to generate a tradeable certificate.

Your correspondence also touched on a range of other priorities across government. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to contact the responsible Ministers about these priorities directly.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tanya Plibersek'.

TANYA PLIBERSEK

11. 3. 2025



## YTD INCOME STATEMENT

YTD

## SUMMARY BY COMPANY

HUNTER COUNCILS  
INCHUNTER JOINT  
ORGANISATION

GROUP TOTAL

## REVENUE

|                          |        |           |           |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Membership Subscriptions | -      | 633,517   | 633,517   |
| Project Funding          | -      | 1,498,444 | 1,498,444 |
| Management Fees          | -      | -         | -         |
| Training Revenue         | -      | -         | -         |
| Consultancy Fees         | -      | -         | -         |
| Rent & Overheads         | 40,950 | -         | 40,950    |
| Miscellaneous            | -      | 18,372    | 18,372    |
| Legal Fees               | -      | -         | -         |
| Client Fees              | -      | -         | -         |
| Arrow Contribution       | -      | -         | -         |

## Revenue - Total

|        |           |           |
|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 40,950 | 2,150,333 | 2,191,283 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|

## COST OF SALES

|               |   |         |         |
|---------------|---|---------|---------|
| Cost of Sales | - | 809,388 | 809,388 |
| Direct Labour | - | -       | -       |

## GROSS PROFIT / (LOSS)

|        |           |           |
|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 40,950 | 1,340,946 | 1,381,896 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|

Gross Margin

|      |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|
| 100% | 62% | 63% |
|------|-----|-----|

## EXPENSES

|                          |        |         |         |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| General & Administration | 43,561 | 317,823 | 361,384 |
| Occupancy Costs          | 61,269 | 18,503  | 79,772  |
| Depreciation             | 30,257 | 36,328  | 66,584  |
| Information Technology   | 37     | 23,391  | 23,428  |
| Overhead Labour          | -      | 862,030 | 862,030 |
| Employee Costs           | -      | 5,213   | 5,213   |
| Travel & Accommodation   | -      | 3,781   | 3,781   |
| Motor Vehicle            | -      | 25,507  | 25,507  |

## Overhead Expenses - Total

|         |           |           |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 135,124 | 1,292,577 | 1,427,700 |
|---------|-----------|-----------|

## NET PROFIT / (LOSS) - OPERATIONS

|          |        |          |
|----------|--------|----------|
| (94,174) | 48,369 | (45,805) |
|----------|--------|----------|

Net Profit Margin

|       |    |     |
|-------|----|-----|
| -230% | 2% | -2% |
|-------|----|-----|

## OTHER INCOME / (EXPENSES)

## OTHER INCOME

|                                |   |        |        |
|--------------------------------|---|--------|--------|
| Profit / Loss on sale of asset | - | 37,411 | 37,411 |
| Interest                       | - | -      | -      |
| Other - Extraordinary          | - | -      | -      |

## OTHER EXPENSES

|                   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| HJO Contributions | - | - | - |
| Other             | - | - | - |

## EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

|                       |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Other - Extraordinary | - | - | - |
| Redundancy            | - | - | - |

## Other Income / (Expenses) - Total

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| - | 37,411 | 37,411 |
|---|--------|--------|

## NET PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE TAX

|          |        |         |
|----------|--------|---------|
| (94,174) | 85,780 | (8,394) |
|----------|--------|---------|

## EBITDA - NET PROFIT

|          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| (63,917) | 122,108 | 58,190 |
|----------|---------|--------|

EBITDA Margin

|       |    |    |
|-------|----|----|
| -156% | 6% | 3% |
|-------|----|----|

# YTD BALANCE SHEET

## SUMMARY BY COMPANY

### HUNTER COUNCILS INC

### HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION

#### CURRENT ASSETS

|                         |        |           |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | 569    | 1,097,450 |
| Receivables             | 5,631  | 102,400   |
| Prepayments             | 6,750  | 11,019    |
| Other Receivables       | -      | 1         |
|                         | 12,950 | 1,210,870 |

#### NON CURRENT ASSETS

|                       |           |        |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|
| Buildings             | 809,062   | -      |
| Land                  | 351,302   | -      |
| Computers             | -         | 322    |
| Fixtures and Fittings | 10,951    | 10,413 |
| Building Improvements | 361,490   | -      |
| Motor Vehicles        | -         | -      |
| ROU                   | -         | -      |
| Other                 | -         | -      |
| Intercompany Loans    | (630,412) | 68,220 |
|                       | 902,393   | 78,955 |

#### TOTAL ASSETS

**915,343 1,289,825**

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

|                       |         |           |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Payables              | 21,154  | 62,502    |
| Accruals              | 7,459   | 14,410    |
| Loans                 | -       | -         |
| Employee Payables     | -       | 66,001    |
| Other Payables        | (2,867) | 4,783     |
| GST                   | (866)   | (15,445)  |
| Employee Entitlements | -       | 202,020   |
| Unearned Income       | -       | 335,508   |
| Unspent Grant Funding | -       | 697,905   |
| Other Payables        | -       | -         |
|                       | 24,880  | 1,367,684 |

#### NON CURRENT LIABILITIES

|                                     |         |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Term Debt                           | -       | - |
| Employee Entitlements - non current | -       | - |
| Lease Liability                     | -       | - |
| Intercompany Loans                  | 226,000 | - |
|                                     | 226,000 | - |

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES

**250,880 1,367,684**

#### NET ASSETS

**664,463 (77,859)**

#### EQUITY

|                       |          |           |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Retained Earnings     | 758,637  | (163,639) |
| Current Year Earnings | (94,174) | 85,780    |

#### TOTAL EQUITY

**664,463 (77,859)**

# YTD CASHFLOW

## SUMMARY BY COMPANY

### HUNTER COUNCILS INC

### HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION

### GROUP TOTAL

#### CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

##### Cash inflows from

|                   |        |           |           |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Trade debtors     | 72,466 | 2,571,764 | 2,644,230 |
| Other receivables | -      | 810,918   | 810,918   |
| Other Income      | -      | -         | -         |
|                   | 72,466 | 3,382,682 | 3,455,148 |

##### Cash outflows to

|                       |           |             |             |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Trade Creditors       | (102,216) | (1,452,199) | (1,554,415) |
| Employee Expenses     | -         | (691,216)   | (691,216)   |
| Funding Disbursements | -         | -           | -           |
| Other                 | -         | -           | -           |
|                       | -         | -           | -           |
| Taxes                 | 3,460     | (222,769)   | (219,309)   |
|                       | (98,756)  | (2,366,184) | (2,464,940) |

#### Net cash from/(used)

(26,290) 1,016,498 990,208

#### CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

##### Cash Inflows from

|                           |   |        |        |
|---------------------------|---|--------|--------|
| Proceeds from sale of P&E | - | 28,000 | 28,000 |
| Other                     | - | -      | -      |
|                           | - | 28,000 | 28,000 |

##### Cash outflows to

|                                     |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Purchase of CAPEX                   | - | - | - |
| Repay / (new loans) - Finance Lease | - | - | - |
| Other                               | - | - | - |
|                                     | - | - | - |

#### Net cash from/(used)

- 28,000 28,000

#### CASH FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

##### Cash inflows from

|                      |       |        |        |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Intercompany (Arrow) | 3,000 | 25,000 | 28,000 |
| Other                | -     | -      | -      |
|                      | 3,000 | 25,000 | 28,000 |

##### Cash outflows to

|                      |   |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Intercompany (Arrow) | - | - | - |
| Other                | - | - | - |
|                      | - | - | - |

#### Net cash from/(used)

3,000 25,000 28,000

##### Movement in cash

|                                     |          |           |           |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash at the beginning of the period | 23,859   | 27,953    | 51,812    |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash     | (23,290) | 1,069,498 | 1,046,208 |


#### CASH AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

569 1,097,451 1,098,020



**Hunter Joint Organisation  
Six-monthly Program Report  
Jul - Dec 2024**





This document is designed to communicate progress in delivery of the [Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032](#) and core advocacy priorities of the Hunter JO.

This program report demonstrates how we are delivering on our four strategic priorities of connectivity, resilience, jobs and a growing economy and liveability.

#### Acknowledgment of Country

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

If you have any feedback or questions please contact us at [admin@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au) or at

[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

©Hunter Joint Organisation

## About the Hunter JO

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Who Are We   | 2 |
| How We Deliver   | 3 |
| Our Region   | 4 |
| Hunter JO Board of Mayors                                | 6 |
| Hunter JO Board of General Managers & Advisory Committee | 7 |
| Our Team   | 9 |

## Our Delivery

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Shared Advocacy            | 12 |
| Capacity Building          | 13 |
| Connectivity               | 14 |
| Resilience                 | 18 |
| Jobs and a Growing Economy | 22 |
| Liveability                | 30 |

# Section One

## About the Hunter JO

### About the Hunter JO

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Who Are We   | 2 |
| How We Deliver   | 3 |
| Our Region   | 4 |
| Hunter JO Board of Mayors                                | 6 |
| Hunter JO Board of General Managers & Advisory Committee | 7 |
| Our Team   | 9 |

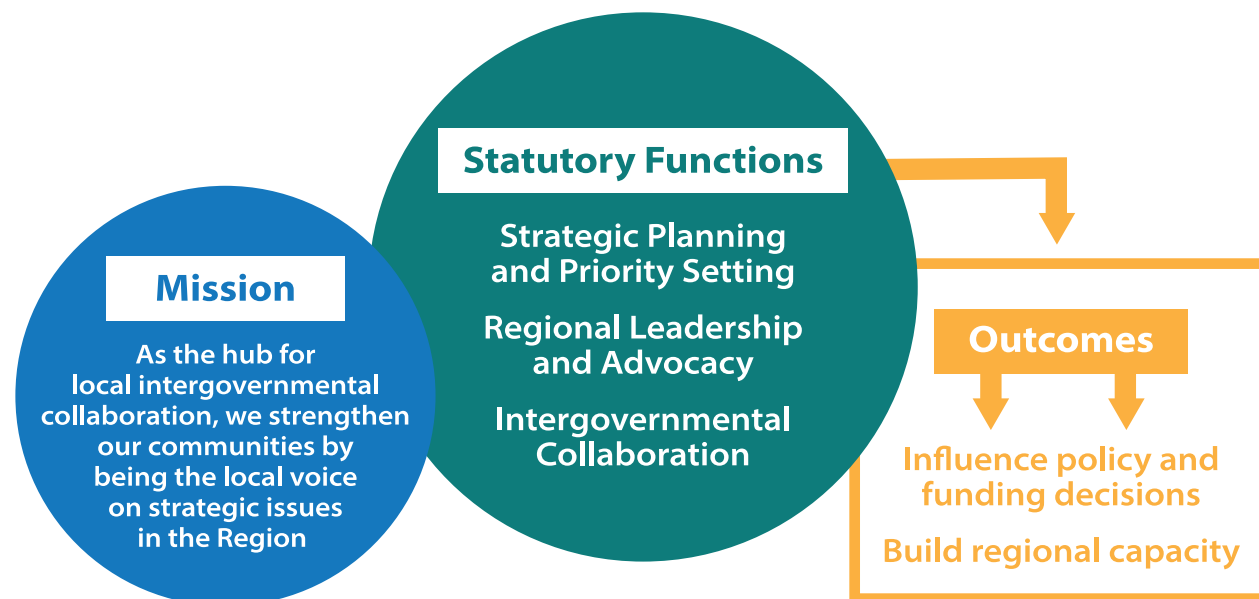
## Who are we

The Hunter Joint Organisation 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.

The Hunter JO Board determines the strategy and oversees the programs and advocacy priorities of the Hunter JO. The Board consists of the Mayor of each Member Council as Voting Representatives, with Non-Voting Representatives including GM's/CEO's of each Member Council and an employee of the NSW public service.

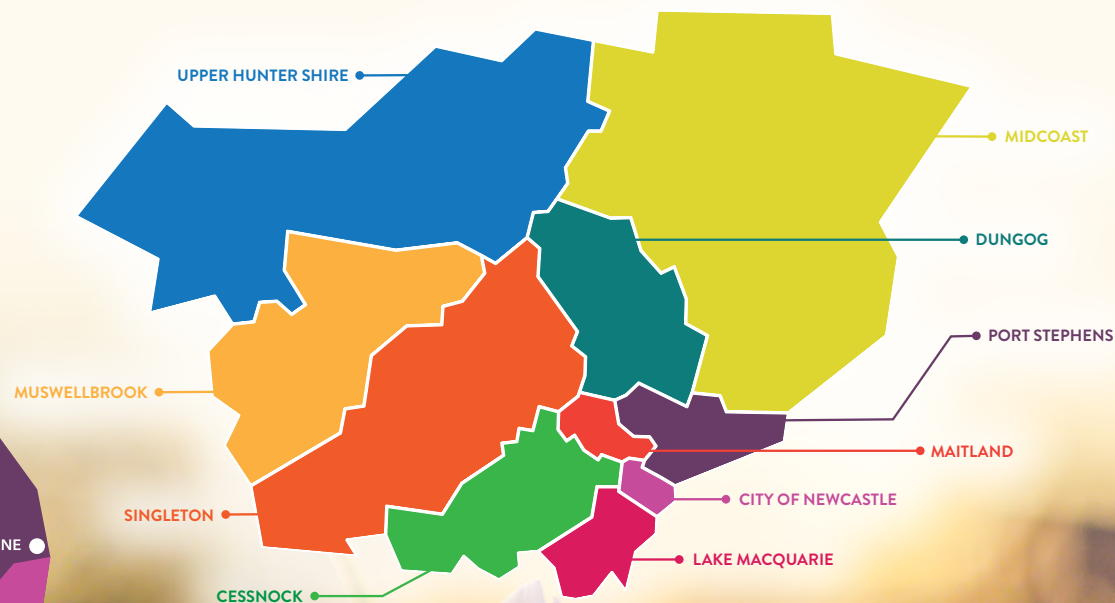
Collaboration across the Hunter region is the cornerstone of the Hunter JO. The connection and coordination between our Member Councils has grown and developed since the 1950s, when local government combined their efforts in the best interests of their communities to respond to floods across the region. Since this time our collaboration has developed and matured, delivering value for councils, our region, and the local government sector as a whole.







Hunter Region  
32,870 km<sup>2</sup>



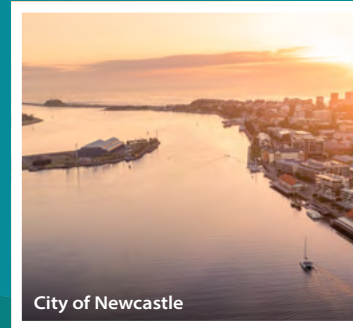
## Our Vision

We are a region that:

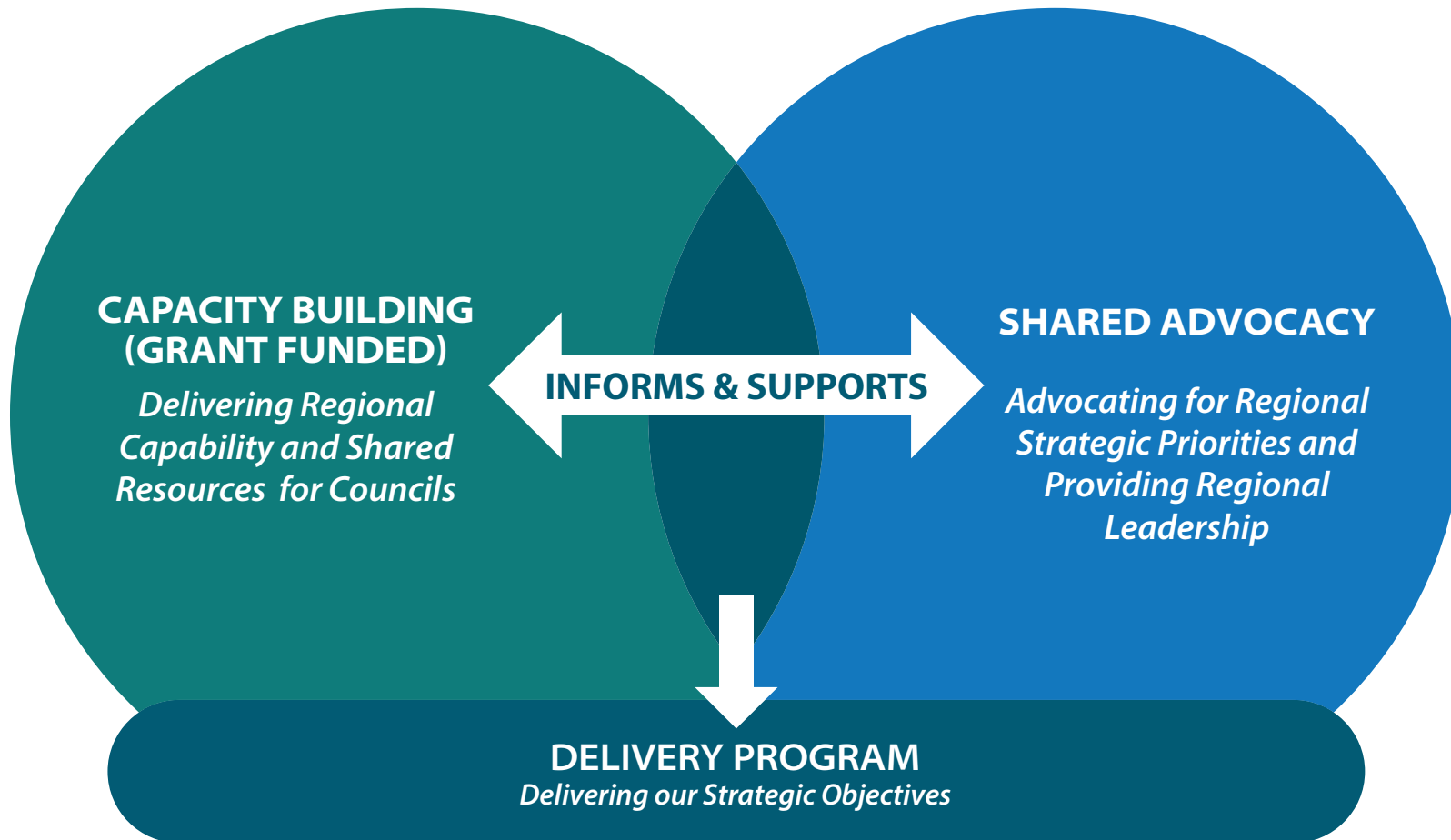
- Is globally connected and whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities;
- Is prepared for change and ready to withstand, adapt and recover from natural and human induced risks;
- Has an economy that continues to grow and evolve as a powerhouse of the state and national economies, providing more and higher quality jobs; and
- Will protect, preserve and improve the high standard of liveability and pristine environments.



# Our Region



## How we deliver



## Hunter JO Board of Mayors

(Voting Members)



**Mayor Daniel Watton**  
Cessnock City Council



**Mayor Digby Rayward**  
Dungog Shire Council



**Mayor Adam Shultz**  
Lake Macquarie City Council



**Mayor Philip Penfold**  
Maitland City Council



**Mayor Claire Pontin**  
MidCoast Council



**Mayor Jeffrey Drayton**  
Muswellbrook Shire Council



**Lord Mayor Ross Kerridge**  
City of Newcastle



**Mayor Leah Anderson**  
Port Stephens Council  
(Deputy Chair)



**Mayor Sue Moore**  
Singleton Council  
(Chair)



**Mayor Maurice Collison**  
Upper Hunter Shire Council





**Ken Liddell**  
GM Cessnock City Council



**Gareth Curtis**  
GM Dungog Shire Council



**Morven Cameron**  
CEO Lake Macquarie City Council  
(GMAC Chair)



**Jeff Smith**  
GM Maitland City Council



**Adrian Panuccio**  
GM MidCoast Council



**Derek Finnigan**  
GM Muswellbrook Shire Council



**Jeremy Bath**  
CEO City of Newcastle



**Tim Crosdale**  
GM Port Stephens Council



**Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr**  
GM Singleton Council



**Greg McDonald**  
GM Upper Hunter Shire Council



**Shaun O'Sullivan**  
Director North  
Regional Coordination  
Premiers Department NSW

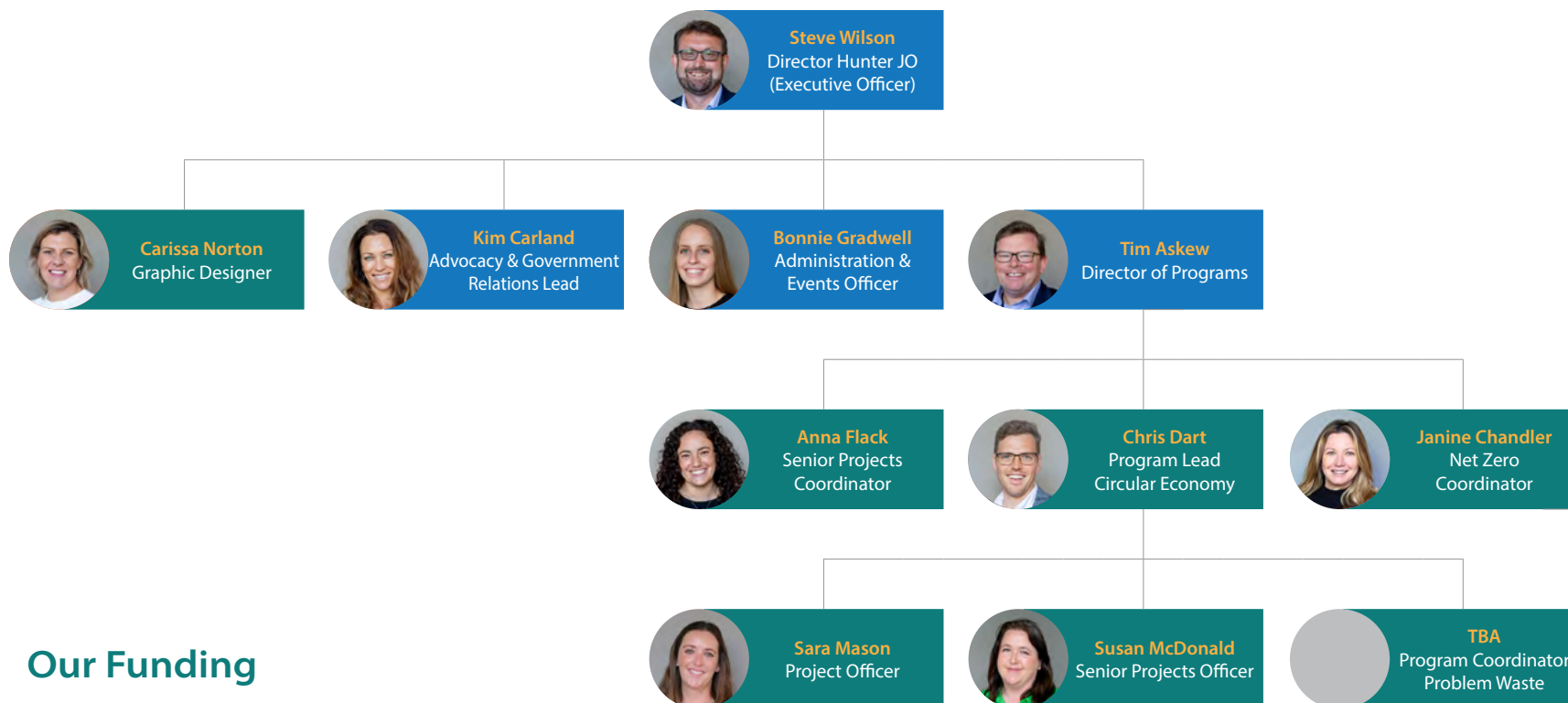


**Virginia Errington**  
Council Engagement Manager  
NSW Office of Local  
Government

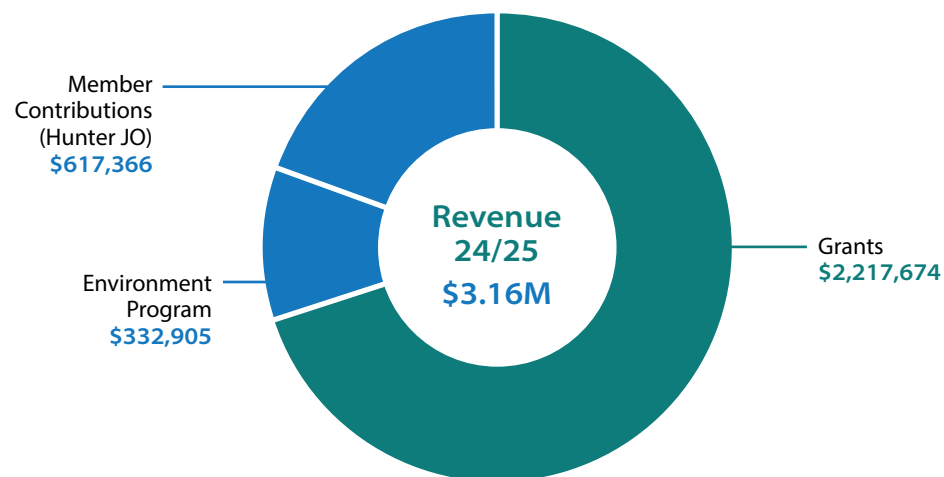
## Hunter JO Board (Non-voting Members) and General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC)



## Hunter JO Team



## Our Funding



Core funded role Grant funded role

### Staffing

Core funding provided from Member Contributions and Environment Program currently funds four core positions:

- Director Hunter Joint Organisation (Executive Officer)
- Director of Programs
- Advocacy and Government Relations Lead
- Administration and Events Officer

Additional staff are funded directly via grants to deliver a suite of policy, programs, collaboration and capacity building activities that deliver directly on the strategic objectives and directions of the Hunter JO Strategic Plan.





# Section Two

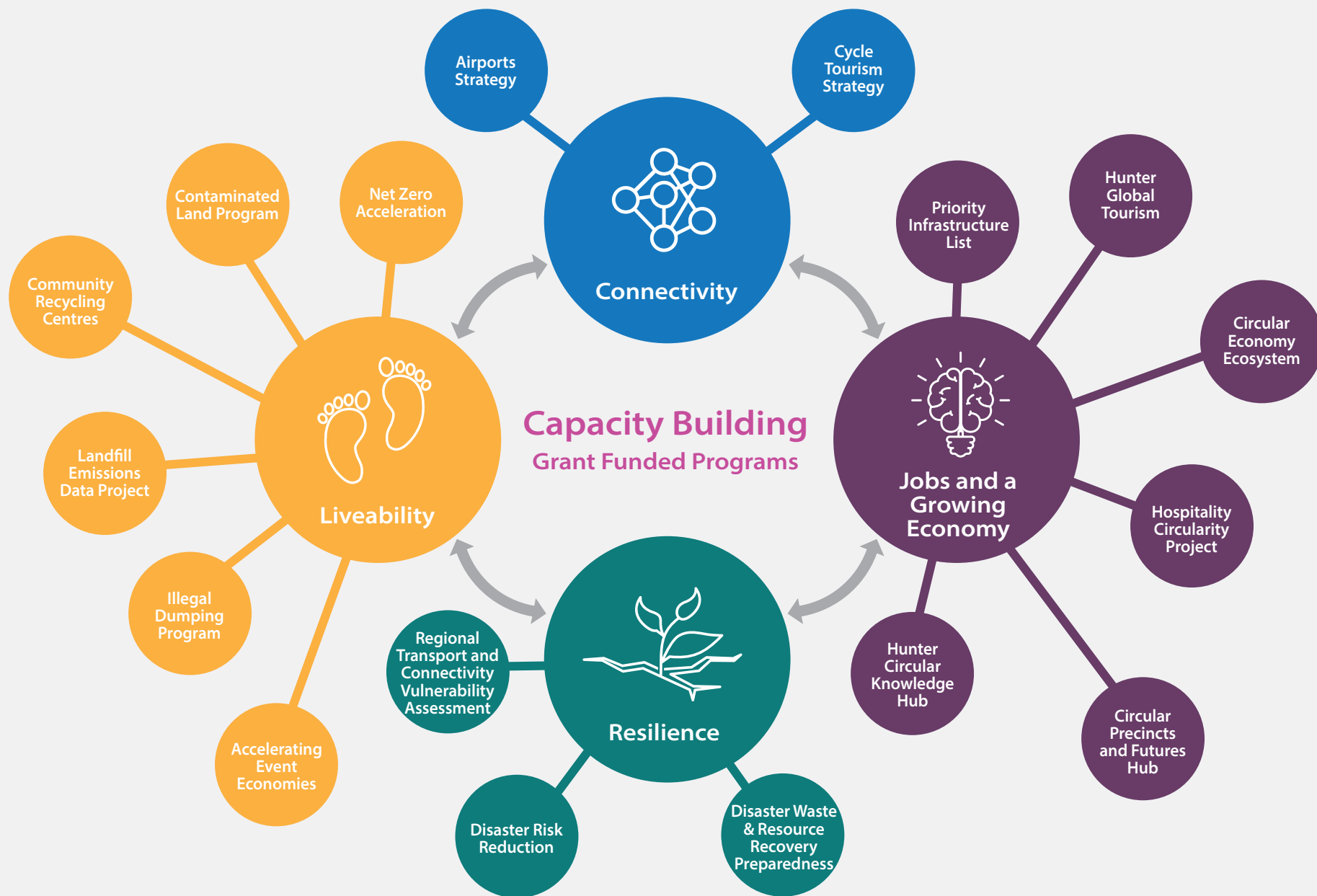
## Our Delivery

### Our Delivery

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Shared Advocacy            | 12 |
| Capacity Building          | 13 |
| Connectivity               | 14 |
| Resilience                 | 18 |
| Jobs and a Growing Economy | 22 |
| Liveability                | 30 |







Valued at \$2.2M in 2024 - 2025



# Connectivity

## Strategic Objectives

- 1.1 Within the region there is a robust integrated transport solution that underpins the experience/liveability and productivity of its residents and visitors comparable to its global peers.
- 1.2 Through its port and airport the Hunter is a globally connected and economically prosperous city- region, recognised as a key international gateway, providing its communities with a vibrant and unique lifestyle and growth in products and services to replace the economic output of thermal coal.
- 1.3 Digital connectivity that ensures community access to core services on commuter routes across the region and between Sydney and Newcastle and to enable business development, growth and innovation.
- 1.4 A region that is built around sustainable transport outcomes.

### Program

### Purpose and Outcome

#### Airports Strategy (Freight and Logistics)

**To develop strategy and business case for airfreight and passenger infrastructure and connectivity logistics for the region to leverage the new international terminal investment into Newcastle Airport.**

This project funded by the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund project has been completed. Since then, we have been working in partnership with Newcastle Airport in using the evidence and results from the Business Case to advocate for catalytic investment into constructing an airfreight precinct to stimulate business growth across the region and assist in attracting international routes.

#### Cycle Tourism Strategy (Shiraz to Shore)

**To prepare a cycle tourism masterplan / Destination Management Plan for the region.**

This project funded by the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund project has been completed. Since then, we have been advocating for funding to deliver the 100km connected cycleway from the Hunter Valley to the shores of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.



**“A globally connected region whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities”**

## Political Engagements

- **Hon Yasmin Catley, MP, Minister for the Hunter, and the NSW Hunter Labor Caucus**  
21 November 2024  
Focus: Progressing shared priorities around Hunter Global Tourism and Freight.
- **Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and Member for Maitland.**  
13 November 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Freight Business Case outcomes.
- **Hon Anoulack Chanthivong, Minister Industry and Trade**  
30 October 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Freight Business Case outcomes.
- **Ms Sharon Claydon, MP for Newcastle**  
4 September 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Freight and Hunter Cycle Tourism Plan (Shiraz to Shore) Business Case outcomes.
- **Hon Pat Conroy, MP Shortland, Minister for Defence Industry, Minister for International Development and the Pacific**  
16 August 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Freight and Hunter Cycle Tourism Plan (Shiraz to Shore) Business Case outcomes.



- **Hon Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**  
5 July 2024  
Focus: Business Case outcomes for Hunter Global Freight and Hunter Cycle Tourism Plan (Shiraz to Shore).
- **Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Tourism and Trade**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Business Case outcomes for Hunter Global Freight and Hunter Cycle Tourism Plan (Shiraz to Shore).
- **Hon Carol Brown, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: Shiraz to Shore Business Case outcomes.





# Connectivity

## Media

- **Newcastle Airport terminal expansion Hunter JO tour - "Construction Milestone for Newcastle Airport International Terminal"**  
8 August 2024  
Focus: Hunter JO Board meeting tour of the Airport upgrade  
Coverage: NBN, Newcastle Herald and ABC Radio.
- **Hunter Cycle Tourism Plan - "Shiraz to Shore: \$89m plan for 100km cycle trail linking wineries to beach"**  
2 August 2024  
Focus: Outcomes and recommendations from Hunter Cycle Tourism (Shiraz to Shore) Business Case  
Coverage: NBN, Newcastle Herald and ABC Radio.





## Strategic Engagements

- **Transport for NSW**

11 December 2024

Focus: Presentation to Mayors and GMs on the Hunter Strategic Transport Integrated Regional Plan prior to public exhibition on Monday 16th December.

- **Tourism Australia and Destination NSW**

26 November 2024

Focus: Alongside our project partners Destination Sydney and Surrounds North and Newcastle Airport, we met with senior representatives from Tourism Australia and Destination NSW to:

- Communicate the outcomes and recommendations of the Hunter Global Tourism Business Case
- Explore avenues and opportunities for further developing and integrating shared Hunter region marketing collateral (trade focused) into the marketing systems and processes of these national and state tourism bodies.

- **Hunter Central Coast Regional Development Team, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development**

12 November 2024

Focus: Communicating Business Case outcomes for Hunter Global Tourism, Freight and Shiraz to Shore.

- **High Speed Rail Authority**

16 August 2024 and 11 September 2024

Focus: Attended events where feedback and insights were provided into potential alignment, economic and land use opportunities arising from high speed rail development.

- **Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association**

14 August 2024

Focus: Communicating Business Case outcomes for Hunter Global Tourism and Shiraz to Shore outcomes and an advocacy update.



## Submissions

- **NSW Transport Freight Policy Reform Program**

23 October 2024

Focus: Second and final recommendations for building the international freight capacity and capability of the Hunter Region's primary international gateways, the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.



# Resilience

## Strategic Objectives

- 2.1 We are recognised as innovative leaders in Council capacity building and policy support for climate change action, resilience and disaster preparedness.
- 2.2 We take leadership and drive regional best practice in climate action.
- 2.3 Our region is resilient to environment risks, natural hazards and climate change.

### Program

### Purpose and Outcome

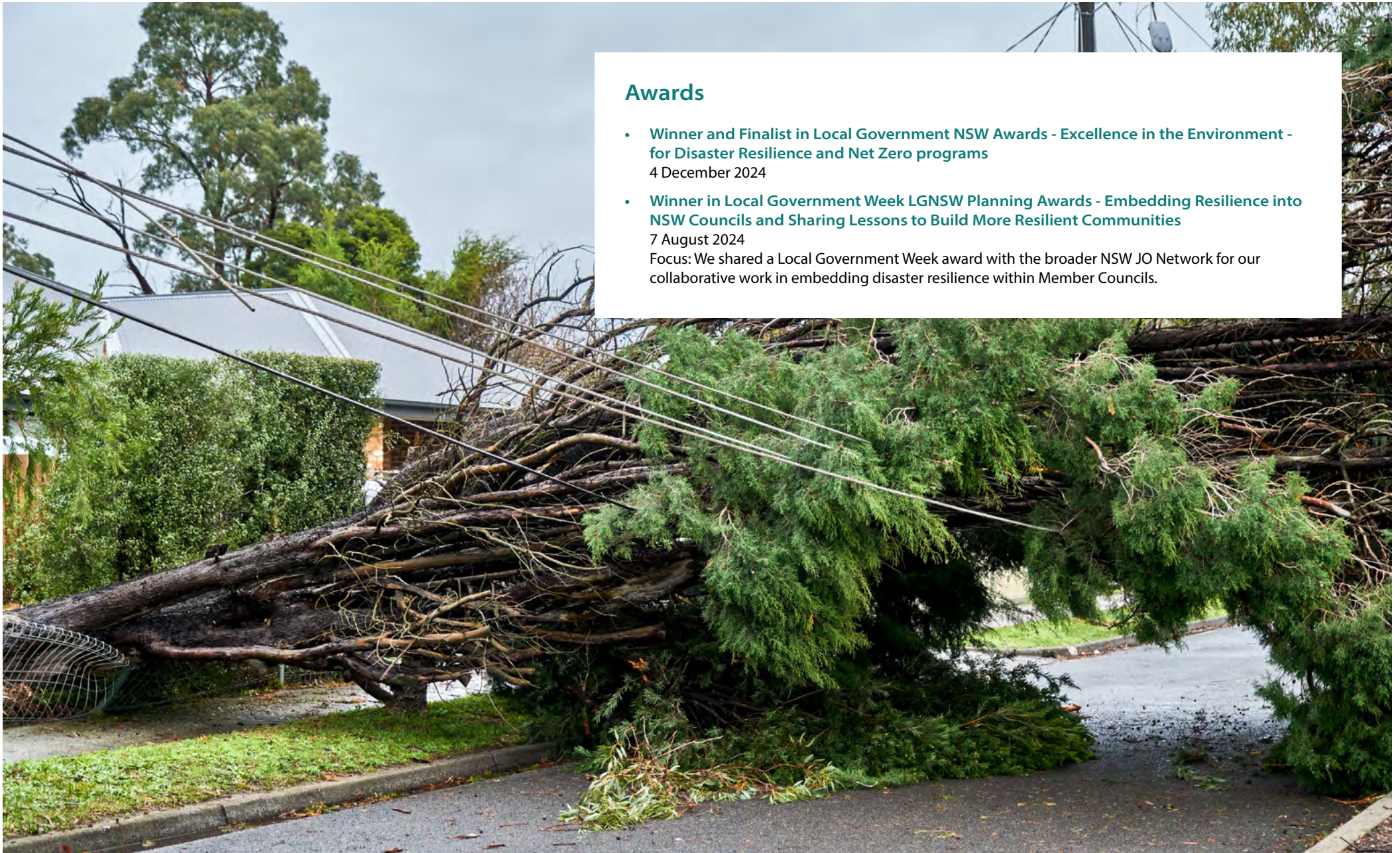
#### Getting Local Government Disaster Ready

We were successful with our \$851,000 funding application to the Australian Government's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for this new 3 year project which will build disaster resilience capacity and capability within 11 Hunter and Central Coast councils and their communities. This will be achieved by supporting development and implementation of local and regional Disaster Adaptation Plans, embedding resilience into councils' IP&R framework, facilitating a regional resilience network, and supporting community engagement efforts.



*"We are prepared for change and ready to withstand, adapt and recover from natural and human induced risks"*





## Awards

- **Winner and Finalist in Local Government NSW Awards - Excellence in the Environment - for Disaster Resilience and Net Zero programs**  
4 December 2024
- **Winner in Local Government Week LGNSW Planning Awards - Embedding Resilience into NSW Councils and Sharing Lessons to Build More Resilient Communities**  
7 August 2024  
Focus: We shared a Local Government Week award with the broader NSW JO Network for our collaborative work in embedding disaster resilience within Member Councils.





# Resilience

## Strategic Engagements

- **Adapt NSW Forum**  
29 and 30 October 2024  
Focus: Hunter JO Resilience team and council representatives attended the NSW Government's AdaptNSW Forum, exploring themes of adaptation and building resilience to climate change impacts.
- **NSW Reconstruction Authority**  
8 July 2024  
Focus: Hunter JO, member councils and key stakeholders joined the NSW Reconstruction Authority for a workshop to better understand the purpose of Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAPs) Guidelines, our role in and the indicative process for developing a DAP. It was also an opportunity to provide local insights and feedback to influence the final DAP Guidelines.



## Political Engagements

- **Senator Perin Davey, Shadow Minister for Emergency Management**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: A more sustainable and strategic approach to local and regional recovery and resilience planning and funding aligned with councils' four-year statutory planning time frames.





## Submissions

- **Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding**

The Final report of the Commonwealth Government's Independent "Colvin Review" into Disaster Funding was released on 25th October.

Key recommendations (including a direct extract) are consistent with those included in Hunter JO's 2023 regional submission, including;

- ensuring adequate investment, support and funding for local government to respond to natural disaster events (R5)
- prioritisation of data coordination across all levels of government (R9)
- an evidence-informed, risk-based approach to disaster funding (R24)
- streamlining of administrative arrangements (R33)
- increased funding allocated to disaster risk reduction and resilience (R42).

- **Draft Disaster Adaptation Guidelines**

22 August 2024

Focus: Hunter JO's submission expressed support for a regional approach to developing Disaster Adaptation Plans, but also communicated concerns on resource implications of the process for Councils and JO's.



# Jobs and a Growing Economy

## Strategic Objectives

- 3.1 Coordinated planning and investment by all levels of government that empowers the region and its residents to maintain and grow jobs, economic opportunities and quality of life.
- 3.2 Accelerated and amplified market-driven investment in innovation that capitalises on the region's existing natural strengths and attributes which create jobs in future industries.
- 3.3 A globally focused region that drives talent attraction and retention
- 3.4 A region that is built around Circular Economy principles as a driver of future jobs.
- 3.5 We are recognised as a destination of choice for international and domestic visitors.

| Program   | Purpose and Outcome  |
|---|--|
| <b>Economic Evolution - Mining Land Reuse / Redevelopment</b> | <p><b>To seek support and investment from State and Federal Government to look at reusing the existing infrastructure on mining lands for economic development opportunities and streamlining the process for rezoning the land to incentivise new businesses.</b></p> <p>Our advocacy efforts have involved meeting with several State and Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament to raise awareness of the need for policy change to activate mining land redevelopment in the Hunter region.</p>   |
| <b>Hunter Global Tourism</b>                                  | <p><b>To identify the international tourism opportunities of the Hunter region in preparation of the Newcastle Airport international upgrade.</b></p> <p>This project funded by the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund project has been completed. Since then, we have been using the evidence and results from the Business Case to advocate for catalytic investment into delivering the marketing and business training activities to increase international tourism across the Hunter region.</p>  |
| <b>Airports Strategy (Freight and Logistics)</b>              | <p><b>To develop strategy and business case for airfreight and passenger infrastructure and connectivity logistics for the region to leverage the new international terminal investment into Newcastle Airport.</b></p> <p>This project funded by the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund project has been completed. Since then, we have been working in partnership with Newcastle Airport in using the evidence and results from the Business Case to advocate for catalytic investment into constructing an airfreight precinct to stimulate business growth across the region and assist in attracting international routes.</p> |

***“The Hunter economy continues to grow and evolve as a powerhouse of the state and national economies, providing more and higher quality jobs”***

| Program   | Purpose and Outcome   |
|---|---|
| <b>Circular Economy Ecosystem</b>                 | <p><b>To build circular economy knowledge through education, data sharing and capacity building opportunities for Hunter JO member councils and Central Coast Council.</b></p> <p>This program continued to support a number of circular economy ecosystems initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating fortnightly Circular Economy Facilitators Group meetings</li> <li>• Delivering quarterly Hunter JO Regional Waste Managers Network meetings</li> <li>• Participating in quarterly metro and regional waste group meetings</li> <li>• Facilitating bi-monthly meetings of the Sustainability Educators Group</li> <li>• Contributing to the Hunter IF Action Group, who collaboratively work to develop the Hunter region's circular economy</li> <li>• Maintaining the <a href="#">Hunter Circular website</a>, including compiling and updating new case studies for the site.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Hospitality Circularity Project</b>            | <p><b>To engage hospitality SMEs across the region, to build their capacity to evaluate and adopt circular solutions for their business operations and supply chains, focusing on organics and single use items.</b></p> <p>Go Circular, the consultant delivering this project, has completed two rounds of Bin Trim assessments with 157 hospitality business across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Singleton, Port Stephens, and Cessnock. These business have each been provided with action plans to help them reduce the amount of waste they are generated and disposing of to landfill. Go Circular has also delivered two co-design workshops with participating business to identify waste reduction solutions. To date, this has resulted in an estimated 382 tonnes per year reduction in landfilled waste from the participating businesses. Go Circular will now complete a third round of assessments for 13 highly engaged business, and provide support to implement waste reduction strategies.</p> |
| <b>Circular Economy Precincts and Futures Hub</b> | <p><b>To advocate for the funding of the Circular Economy Futures Hub to help facilitate the development of a circular economy in the Hunter Region.</b></p> <p>This project, funded by the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund project, has been completed. For the last six months we have been engaging stakeholders and familiarising all levels of government with the results of the business case and requesting core funding to realise the business case benefits.</p>  |



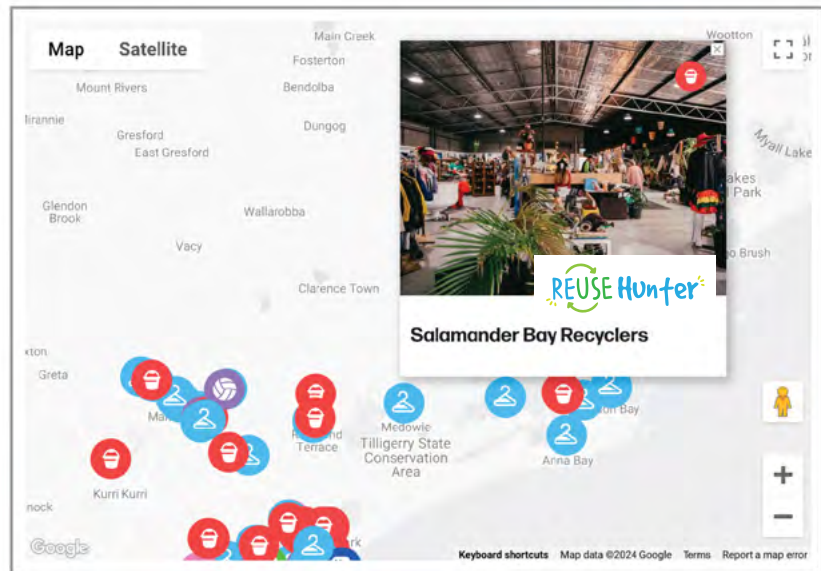
# Jobs and a Growing Economy

| Program                       | Purpose and Outcome   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Circular Economy Procurement  | <p><b>To support Councils to prioritise recycled materials and circular economy services in their procurement systems and processes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initial meetings held with Hunter councils to introduce the project and begin mapping council specification processes</li><li>• Working Group/champions re-established with representatives from Councils, University of Newcastle, MECLA and Circular Economy Living Lab (CELL)</li><li>• Collaborated with NSW DCCEEW Low Emissions Specification program working with three Hunter Councils (MidCoast, Lake Mac, and Newcastle) and NSW DCCEEW Supplier Directory</li><li>• Scanned best practice circular procurement tools/practice in Australia</li><li>• Test product 1 selected - low carbon concrete (LCC). LCC specification developed leveraging NSW DCCEEW low carbon program resources promoted by <a href="#">MECLA</a>.</li></ul>   |
| Hunter Circular Knowledge Hub | <p><b>To create a digital circular knowledge hub for council staff and community to address the information accessibility and knowledge barriers that prevail and frustrate uptake of circular services and recovery pathways in the region.</b></p> <p>The project is divided into two streams with their own unique objectives: Stream A – Council Hub and Stream B - Community Hub.</p> <p><b>Stream A - Council Hub</b> is further broken down into two distinct sub-projects;</p> <p><b>1. Research</b> - on key material streams, combined with co-design processes with industry, enabling councils to collaboratively evaluate new recovery pathways and off-takers. From this research, an immediate opportunity to increase circular outcomes of plastic waste was identified with a Circular Plastics Pilot Initiated with Upper Hunter, Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland and Newcastle Councils and Resourceful Living, a recycled plastic manufacturer located In Kurri. While initially considering a range of plastics, the pilot commenced In September with councils collecting HDPE Type 2 plastics and transferring them to Resourceful Living to be recycled and made into new items. The end date for this was extended into 2025 due to a fire at the factory. The full Circular Plastics Pilot Action Plan can be read here <a href="#">2024-Circular Plastic Pilot - Action Plan-final</a></p> <p><b>2. Council Portal</b> - a prototype for a new council-only access digital portal has been developed and will be hosted on the Hunter Circular website to enable circularity best practice for council-managed waste streams. Data from the research above has been used to inform the portal. Next steps for the portal will be a peer review to refine the information and facilitate use as well as a webinar to launch the portal to council stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Stream B - Community Hub 'ReUse Hunter'</b></p> <p>The development of a digital map tool designed to encourage the uptake of sharing, hiring, reuse and repair behaviours by connecting community members with circular solutions provided by businesses (B2C) and councils (C2C). The outcome of this project, ReUse Hunter, is hosted on the <a href="#">Hunter Circular website</a>.</p> <p>Since launching ReUse Hunter in September, the Hunter Circular website has seen a dramatic increase in traffic, with views Increasing from 3,104 to 12,962 compared to the four month period prior to launch. Watch the ReUse Hunter community video <a href="#">here</a>.</p> |



## Strategic Engagements

- Launch of Federal Government's Circular Economy Precincts Report (convened by Minister Plibersek)**  
 9 September 2024  
 Focus: Attended launch of the Ministerial Advisory Group's Circular Economy Precincts Report, involving Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Environment and Water; and Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government.
- Future Made in Australia Industry Workshop (convened by Minister Ayres)**  
 6 September 2024  
 Focus: Attended Future Made in Australia Industry Workshop, involving Hon Tim Ayres MP, Assistant Minister for Trade; Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for Defence Industry and Capability; and Sharon Claydon, Member for Newcastle.
- Circular Precincts Workshop (convened by Circular Australia Taskforce)**  
 16th August 2024  
 Focus: Circular Australia is the leading national body on the circular economy with strong links to Federal Government through the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group. Circular Australia convened a specific workshop with national experts from across Australia to help review and develop our CE Precincts and Futures Hub project.
- Australian Bio-Economy Conference (presenting)**  
 11 September 2024  
 Focus: Presented the Hunter JO Circular Economy Precincts and Futures Hub business case recommendations and next steps.
- Australian Circular Economy Forum 2024**  
 10 October 2024  
 Focus: Attended forum to learn more about the challenges and opportunities of embedding a circular economy, with Chair of Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group and former Victorian Deputy Premier, John Thwaites.





# Jobs and a Growing Economy

## Political Engagements

- **Senior Advisor to the Hon John Graham, Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Angud Chawla**  
10 December 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Tourism Business Case outcomes.
- **Hon Yasmin Catley, Minister for the Hunter, along with the Hunter NSW Labor Caucus, and Angud Chawla - Policy Advisor to Hon John Graham, Minister for Jobs and Tourism**  
21 November 2024  
Focus: Confirming support from NSW Hunter Labor MPs for the Hunter Global Freight and Tourism Business Cases, and opportunities for progressing their implementation in collaboration with both State and Federal Governments.
- **Ms Emily Suvaal MLC & Lizzie Butterworth, Policy Advisor to the NSW Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Hon John Graham**  
13 November 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Freight and Tourism Business Case Outcomes.
- **Ms Sharon Claydon, MP for Newcastle**  
4 September 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Tourism Business Case outcomes.
- **Hon Pat Conroy, MP Shortland, Minister for Defence Industry, Minister for International Development and the Pacific**  
16 August 2024  
Focus: Hunter Global Tourism Business Case outcomes.
- **Prime Minister's Office (Senior Advisors)**  
17 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Hon Sussan Ley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition**  
4 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Hon Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England**  
4 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Tourism and Trade**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Business Case outcomes for Hunter Global Freight and Tourism and Hunter Cycle Tourism Plan (Shiraz to Shore).
- **Hon Madelaine King, Minister for Resources**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: The activation of mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Hon Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries, and the need for more equitable grant funding allocation for roads.
- **Hon Jonathon Duniam, Shadow Minister Environment, Fisheries and Forestry**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Hon Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Senator Susan McDonald, Shadow Minister for Resources**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: The activation of mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.







- **Hon Darren Chester, Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Federal Hunter Labor Caucus, Mr Dan Repacholi MP, Ms Meryl Swanson MP, Ms Sharon Claydon MP, Hon Pat Conroy MP**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Business Case outcomes in freight and tourism to leverage the Newcastle Airport upgrade.
- **Hon Peter Dutton, Leader of the Opposition**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.

- **Mr Ted O'Brien, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.
- **Hon David Littleproud, Shadow Minister Agriculture and Leader of the Nationals**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: Economic evolution and the need to diversify our economy through various industries and the need to activate mining and industrial lands for economic opportunities.

## Submissions

- **Committee Hearing: Beneficial and productive post mining land use**  
21 August 2024  
Focus: Providing further evidence to the Inquiry into post-mining land on the Hunter JO submission.
- **NSW Plastics: The Way Forward (Draft Discussion Paper for Consultation)**  
4 November 2024  
Focus: The submission provided general support for the proposed measures identified in the EPA discussion paper, but further recommended:
  - A more holistic circular economy approach for removing problematic plastic items from the marketplace to reduce items being littered or deposited as waste in landfill facilities.
  - The return of funds collected through the NSW Waste Levy to support local and regional local government waste management and circular economy initiatives that would contribute to reducing plastic pollution.
- **Australian Government Productivity Commission: Inquiry into Australia's Opportunities in the Circular Economy**  
Focus: Comprehensive technical input was provided in response to the questions posed by the Inquiry, drawing on the Circular Economy project work of the Hunter JO and its partners. The submission communicated the nature and recommendations arising from the considerable work undertaken by the Hunter JO and its partners in the Circular Economy space over recent years, with a view to encouraging the Productivity Commission to engage more directly with the Hunter JO during the next more detailed stages of the Inquiry.





# Jobs and a Growing Economy

## Hunter JO Events

- **Regional Council Economic Development Forum**  
26th July 2024  
Focus: Outcomes and Recommendations from Hunter Global Tourism Business Case and Events10 resources available.







## Media

- Circular Economy procurement grant - "Council scores Circular Economy funding"**  
 22 August 2024  
 Focus: Announcement of EPA funding for Circular Economy Procurement Project. Launch included a site visit to mattress recycling facility at Redhead, attended by Minister for the Hunter and Mayor Fraser.  
 Coverage: Newcastle Herald
- Hunter Circular - ReUse Hunter Community Map**  
 Coverage: Social media launch the ReUse Hunter web page - connecting the community to circular businesses who provide a service to repair, hire, donate, refurbish and buy second hand; within their own LGA and across the broader Hunter region.





## Strategic Objectives

- 4.1 We are recognised as a destination for hosting world class events that align with our unique offering.
- 4.2 Making use of our opportunity to drive circular evolution of our region's economy.
- 4.3 Our natural environments including our bushland, estuaries, waterways and beaches are protected and enhanced.
- 4.4 Supporting our region to be on the path to net zero emissions and paving the way with smart innovative solutions that increase liveability.
- 4.5 A region with enriched neighborhoods and places supported by planned infrastructure that promotes community cohesion, active living and pride in culture and heritage.
- 4.6 A region that is connected, inclusive and a fair.

| Program                                 | Purpose and Outcome  |
|---|--|
| <b>Regional Illegal Dumping Program</b> | <p><b>To support member councils manage and reduce the impacts of illegal dumping on local communities and the environment.</b></p> <p>During the year this program continued to build momentum among the eleven participating councils in the program. Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivery of an illegal dumping social media campaign across the Small Acts Big Change channels.</li><li>• Establishing a legal service desk to provide councils with support to enforce illegal dumping offences.</li><li>• Organising for the EPA to deliver Protection of the Environment Operations Act (POEO) Act training to council staff In August 2024.</li><li>• Arranging for Phil McNeice, Senior Ranger from Shoalhaven Council to provide peer-to-peer training to Singleton Council staff, and a presentation to the Report Illegal Dumping (RID) Officers Forum.</li><li>• Providing equipment to councils, including road signs, PPE, promotional and educational materials, and surveillance cameras.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Landfill Emissions Data Project</b>  | <p><b>To establish a landfill emission data management program for councils to improve understanding of baseline emissions.</b></p> <p>Hunter Joint Organisation partnered with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) through the Sustainability Partnerships program to support NSW councils with landfill emissions measurement and reporting. Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Mastering Emissions with the National Greenhouse and Energy Report a Scheme (NGER) Solid Waste Calculator package, to help councils estimate their landfill emissions using best practice methodology.</li><li>• Completing an National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGER) Solid Waste Calculator for ten council managed landfills.</li><li>• Scenario modelling estimating the emissions reductions that could be achieved by implementing Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO), landfill gas capture systems, and landfill closure at each of the ten landfills.</li><li>• A data dashboard for councils to visualise and analyse the above data.</li><li>• Six factsheets providing guidance on landfill emissions management for councils.</li></ul> |

***“Protect, preserve and improve the high standard of liveability and pristine environments that we enjoy in our region”***

## Program

## Purpose and Outcome

### Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Program

**To support member councils reduce their carbon emissions to achieve their part in the State's Net Zero target of 50 per cent reduction by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050.**

With funding support provided through the NSW Government's Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) program, a staff member is employed within the Hunter JO dedicated to progressing the JO and its member councils toward net zero emissions, and to provide a link to other NSW government support mechanisms. Key initiatives delivered during the year (including in collaboration with the broader JO network) included:

- Facilitating bi-monthly meetings of the Hunter Net Zero Network, a network for council staff working on emissions reduction.
- Completed the Regional Councils NSW Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA), a buyer's group of 13 councils across regional NSW (including four Hunter JO councils) to purchase renewable energy supply until 2030. The PPA will result in an estimated 185,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e avoided, and combined savings of \$5.2M for the participating councils. The buyers group included Maitland, MidCoast, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Councils, who will collectively save over \$2M over the course of the agreement (compared to 2024 electricity costs) and be protected from future energy price fluctuations.
- Facilitated a trial of the Kinesis community emissions data platform for councils.
- Supported NSW DCCEEW with the roll out of the Carbon Compass emissions calculator, helping councils to measure their operational emissions.
- Organised the installation of a rooftop solar system and two EV chargers at the Hunter JO office.
- Provided support and advice to councils on the procurement of Small Market Electricity supply.
- Provided legal advice to councils on the leasing of council owned land and crown land for EV charging.

### Community Recycling Centres (CRC) Education & Communication Plan

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

Promotions commenced in September with the key activities including:

- Direct Mail Campaign – 160,647 CRC flyers were distributed to households across the Central Coast, MidCoast, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter. 2000 additional flyers were distributed to waste facilities across the Hunter and Central Coast.
- Social Media Campaign – across the Small Acts Big Change platforms Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. There has been significant growth totalling a 4.6k% increase on Facebook and Instagram. Reach and engagement on both accounts has also improved with impressions increasing from 1,154 to 707,322 since November.
- CRC Survey – first time we have trialled a digital survey situated at CRC locations. Survey to run through to April 30. Survey available for non-English speaking visitors including Spanish, Mandarin, Punjabi and Arabic based on Census and REMPLAN research (from available languages).
- Radio Advertising – Upper Hunter on 2NM, three ads playing on rotation across all radio time slots (Breakfast, Morning, Afternoon, Drive BMAD) with a potential audience of 58,000 listeners. Lower Hunter on Triple M and HIT 106.9, dedicated ads to suit audience demographics also played across BMAD reaching over 293k target audience weekly.
- Cinema Advertising – three different ads running across cinemas Event Glendale, Event Kotara, HOYTS Charlestown, HOYTS Green Hills, Reading Charlestown and Reading Maitland. Advertising includes dedicated battery recycling messaging. Advertising to reach guaranteed minimum of 100k cinema attendees over duration of campaign.





## Political Engagements

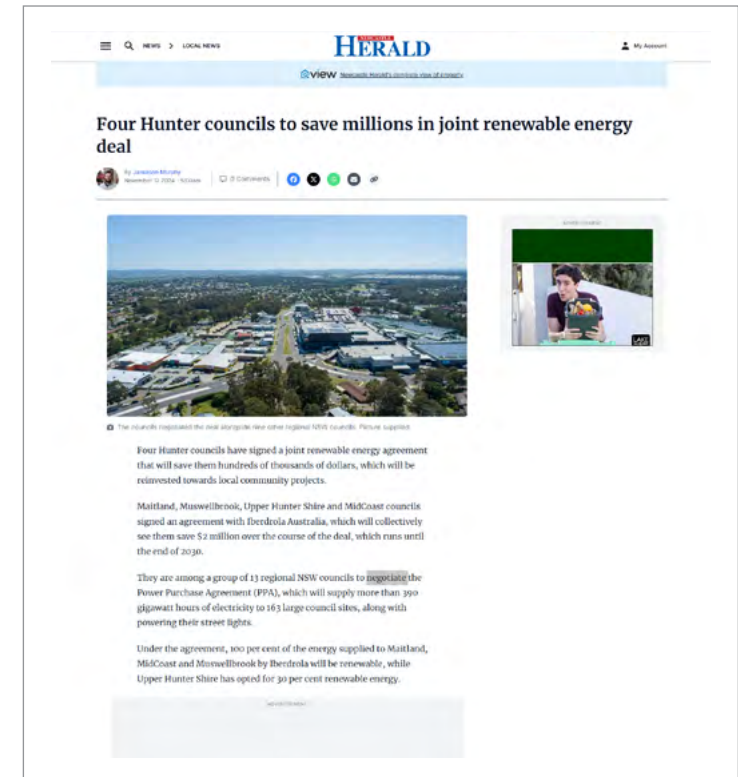
- **Hon Michael Sukkar, Shadow Minister Housing**  
4 July 2024  
Focus: Enabling infrastructure for housing.
- **Hon Sussan Ley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition**  
4 July 2024  
Focus: Circular economy business case outcomes.
- **Hon Jonathon Duniam, Shadow Minister Environment, Fisheries and Forestry**  
3 July 2024  
Focus: Circular economy business case outcomes.
- **Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Future Made in Australia**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: Circular economy and airfreight business case outcomes.
- **Mr Ted O'Brien, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy**  
2 July 2024  
Focus: Circular economy business case outcomes.





## Strategic Engagements

- **Dr Iain Ross, Chair of Net Zero Economy Agency**  
24 October 2024  
Focus: Presentation from Net Zero Economy Agency to the Board providing information about purpose and objectives.
- **Beyond Zero Emissions - Delivering Australia's Energy Future**  
19 September 2024  
Focus: Attended event where Beyond Zero Emissions reported on data and discussed the challenges and opportunities of delivering renewable energy projects and a changing workforce.
- **UDIA NSW Housing Event**  
12 September 2024  
Focus: Attended event with UDIA and Department of Transport presenting on the challenges and opportunities of unlocking the region's major housing growth fronts.



## Media

- **Power Purchasing Agreement - Hunter councils save millions**  
12 November 2024  
Focus: Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) finalised securing a renewable electricity supply and financial savings for Maitland, MidCoast, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Councils.  
Coverage: NBN, ABC Newcastle, Newcastle Herald, Muswellbrook Chronicle, Hunter Valley News, Maitland Mercury, Manning Times, Council Magazine, Inside Local Government, Renewables Now, PV Magazine Australia, PV Tech, Port Stephens Examiner, New of the Area.



## Hunter JO Events

- **Net Zero Economy Agency - Communications Workshop**  
15 October 2024  
Focus: Hunter JO organised a workshop with NZEA and council communication managers to improve the level of information being shared with our community on our net zero future.
- **Illegal Dumping Program Events**  
17 & 18 September 2024  
Focus: Shoalhaven City Council shared their illegal dumping expertise and approach with Hunter councils.



## Capacity Building

- **No Time to Waste Conference (presenting)**  
30 and 31 October 2024  
Focus: Presented outcomes on our Landfill Emissions partnership project with EPA to identify strategies to reduce emissions from council owned landfills.
- **Regional Illegal Dumping annual RIDstock 2024 Event**  
29 and 30 October 2024  
Focus: Attended the annual capacity-building event for illegal dumping enforcement officers in Parramatta.
- **Western Sydney Regional Councils Waste Managers**  
14 August 2024  
Focus: Sharing the Hunter's Regional Circular Economy Program with Western Sydney Councils.





## Submissions

- **Federal Net Zero Transport and Infrastructure Roadmap**  
6 August 2024  
Focus: Recommendations to inform Federal Government programs implemented by the Net Zero Economy Agency.



