

Disaster Resilience

On top of extreme weather events already impacting our region, the Hunter is predicted to experience more severe weather and natural hazards of increasing frequency and intensity as our climate continues to change. Many of our region's communities are already struggling to recover from the continual and combined impacts of more frequent and severe natural hazards, as demonstrated by the severe weather events that have impacted the NSW East Coast from May 2025.

In the face of this change we appreciate the significant ongoing efforts of the NSW and Commonwealth Governments to review and improve disaster management frameworks and responses and to build the resilience capability of local communities.

The involvement of local councils in this work will be critical. This is because councils play a unique and systemic role in addressing climate risks and achieving adaptation objectives. However local councils, especially regional and rural ones, are typically under-resourced to plan and undertake this important work.

Challenge

Advocacy Ask

Lack of Funding	Commit to more proactive and streamlined resilience funding aligned to councils mandated four year planning cycle.
Betterment	Enable betterment funding to strategically improve and upgrade resilience of priority public infrastructure to natural disasters.
Staff Resources	Establish and fund permanent local and regional roles for disaster resilience.
Regional, Place-based Approach	Co-design regional disaster adaptation priorities and funding arrangement's to reflect shared local priorities.
Spontaneous Volunteers	Allow recovery of costs incurred through ongoing Spontaneous Volunteer management and coordination.
Water Infrastructure Excluded from Recovery Arrangements	Revise criteria to ensure water and sewer assets are included in disaster recovery funding.

Representing the communities of the Hunter Region

The Hunter Joint Organisation is the statutory collaborative body that brings together the **ten Councils in the Hunter Region, NSW** to provide a united and local voice for our communities



Has a rapidly growing population forecast to reach

1million people by 2040



Current Hunter Population

800,000

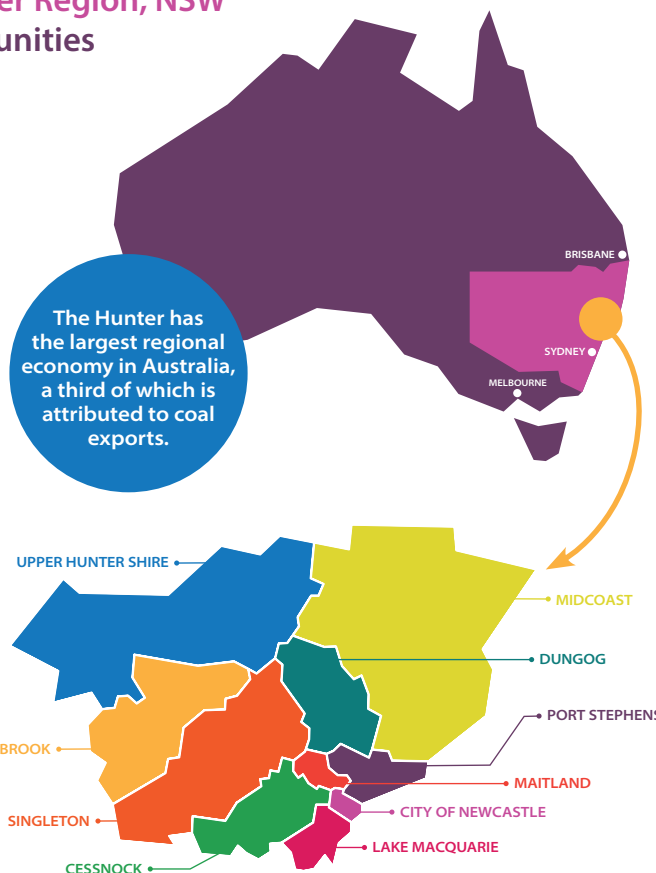


Gross Regional Product

\$91b

REMPAN 2025

The Hunter has the largest regional economy in Australia, a third of which is attributed to coal exports.



Our
Statutory
Mandate

Strategic Planning and Priority Setting

Regional Leadership and Advocacy

Intergovernmental Collaboration

Our Member Council Mayors



Cr Sue Moore

Mayor Singleton Council
Chair Hunter JO



Cr Leah Anderson

Mayor Port Stephens Council
Deputy Chair Hunter JO



Cr Daniel Watton

Mayor Cessnock City Council



Cr Digby Rayward

Mayor Dungog Shire Council



Cr Adam Shultz

Mayor Lake Macquarie City Council



Cr Philip Penfold

Mayor Maitland City Council



Cr Claire Pontin

Mayor MidCoast Council



Cr Jeffrey Drayton

Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council



Cr Ross Kerridge

Lord Mayor City of Newcastle



Cr Maurice Collison

Mayor Upper Hunter Shire Council

We'd love to continue the conversation

Please contact Kim Carland on 0460 034 614 or kimc@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au

