



Economic Transformation

By 2030, nearly 12,000 direct and indirect jobs will be lost in the Hunter region with the closure of two mines. Over the next couple of decades, 22 further coal mines are due to close. This will impact almost 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region (FIJA Issues Paper, 2023).

With our population approaching one million, and an economic output of \$91 billion annually, this will have enormous social and economic ramifications for the Hunter region and the NSW economy more broadly, including a decline in coal royalties currently contributing over \$3 billion annually to the NSW budget.

Without urgent intervention, the scale of disruption to communities and the regional economy will be profound.

We know from international experience that successful transition of mining regions requires all levels of government to effectively collaborate to deliver shared plans and objectives. The ten councils of the Hunter region are firmly committed to partnering with both the Federal and NSW governments to deliver outcomes for our communities, to successfully transition away from coal.

We're advocating for the Federal and NSW Governments to come together with our Member Councils to properly recognise the scale and urgency of the Hunter's transition, to agree on a set of shared commitments, and to work together on their delivery to assist the Hunter region and its people, jobs and businesses.

Similar to the successful Western Sydney tri-government agreement, we're asking for a similar focus for the Hunter, to provide specific economic focus and support to urgently catalyse business investment and jobs to support a transitioning economy. Revenue from mining royalties provides an opportunity to catalyse investment in this approach to support mining impacted communities.

Objectives of this approach for the Hunter would include:

- Creating 50,000 new jobs to offset those expected to be lost from the global decline in coal over the coming years.
- Business incentives and investment attraction.
- Reskilling our mining related industries for future industries.
- Repurposing mining lands to create the new industry and jobs to drive the Hunter's ongoing contribution to the State and National economies
- Planning partnerships to support housing growth to meet the NSW targets.
- Long-term Federal, State and Local Government agreement and governance.
- Streamlined and clear governance arrangements for delivery of cross government support services to mining impacted communities.

Challenge

Lack of Coordination Across All Levels of Government

Advocacy Ask

Tri-Government agreement and long-term strategy for economic transformation in the Hunter region.

Lack of Direct Funding Support

Contribution from mining royalties to plan for the economic transformation of mining impacted communities with expected downturn in coal.



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

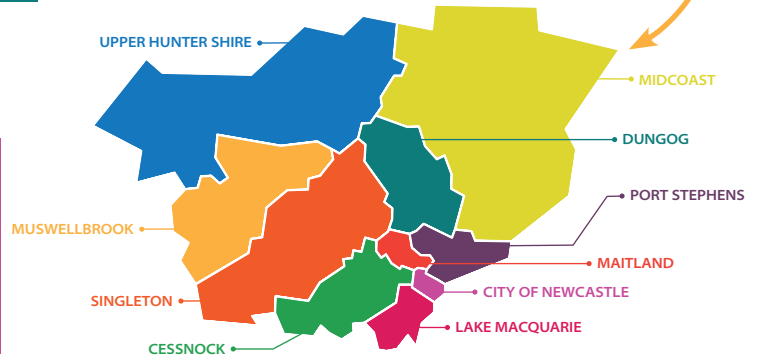


Has a rapidly growing population forecast to reach **1 million people by 2040**



Current Hunter Population **800,000**

Gross Regional Product
\$91b
REMPAN 2025



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