



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Mid North Coast JO and Hunter JO Win *Towards Net Zero Emissions* Award at the Local Government NSW Environment Awards**

The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (MNCJO) and the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) are pleased to announce that their collaborative project, the Powering Tomorrow: Regional Councils NSW Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), has won the Local Government NSW *Towards Net Zero Emissions* Award for Category D – Joint Organisations and Regional Organisations of Councils, and has also been named the Overall Winner in the category.

The *Towards Net Zero Emissions* Award recognises outstanding initiatives that meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the transition to net zero. It highlights councils that are delivering strategic programs, policies, and on-the-ground actions to cut emissions across their operations and communities. This includes leadership in energy efficiency, electrification, and the generation or procurement of renewable energy, as well as initiatives that empower local businesses and communities to play an active role in reducing emissions.

This prestigious recognition highlights the scale, complexity, and impact of the *Powering Tomorrow PPA* – a coordinated renewable electricity procurement initiatives undertaken by regional councils in NSW.

Co-led by the MNCJO and Hunter JO, the project brought together thirteen councils from across regional NSW to secure long-term electricity supply through to 2030, achieving:

- More than 390 GWh of electricity for 163 major council sites and streetlighting
- 83% of supply sourced from NSW wind and solar projects
- An estimated 185,000 tonnes of carbon emissions avoided over the contract
- Over \$5 million in collective savings for participating councils
- Strengthened regional capacity, shared governance, and long-term budget certainty

By securing long-term access to renewable energy, the Powering Tomorrow PPA strengthens energy resilience across participating councils and provides a stable,



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reliable foundation for future planning. This certainty not only improves cost predictability but also frees up resources that councils can reinvest into local services and regional priorities, all while reducing our carbon emissions.

The project demonstrates how coordinated regional action can deliver environmental, economic, and operational benefits at a scale unattainable through individual procurement.

MNCJO Executive Officer, Skye Frost, says:

*“This award recognises the power of regional collaboration. By working across Joint Organisations and pooling our councils’ strengths, we delivered a project with significant financial, operational and sustainability benefits that no council could have achieved on its own.”*

Hunter JO Chair and Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, said:

*“The Powering Tomorrow PPA is a benchmark in joint procurement and regional partnership. It demonstrates how Joint Organisations can create real value for councils - supporting strong governance, long-term planning, and practical solutions to shared challenges.”*

Both Joint Organisations acknowledge the commitment of all thirteen participating councils, the expertise of project advisors, and the support of the NSW Government’s Sustainable Councils team through the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Program.

The award underscores the essential role of Joint Organisations in delivering regional-scale initiatives, strengthening local government capability, and driving shared outcomes for our member councils and their communities across NSW.

## **ENDS**

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