



4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton,  
NSW 2322 - 02 4978 4020  
[www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunterjo.nsw.gov.au)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Backing Hunter jobs through the energy transition**

29 April 2026

Hunter Joint Organisation has reaffirmed its support for protecting and growing jobs across the Hunter as industries navigate the global energy transition.

Recent comments from Federal Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Tim Ayres highlight that global demand for aluminium is expected to increase by around 40 per cent in the coming years, presenting a significant opportunity for the Hunter to remain a major industrial and manufacturing hub. Tomago Aluminium, which employs around 1,000 people directly and supports many more jobs across the region, is central to this future.

We are encouraged by ongoing discussions between the Commonwealth Government, NSW Government and industry, and remain confident that a collaborative pathway can be achieved. Other jurisdictions have already stepped forward, with the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments committing significant funding to support industrial transition in Gladstone. A similar collaborative approach in NSW will be critical to maintaining the Hunter's competitive edge.

Regional organisations, industry groups and unions are increasingly aligning around the need for a nationally coordinated approach, one that supports existing industries to adapt, while positioning the Hunter for future growth.

The Hunter Joint Organisation supports efforts to bring all levels of government together to deliver practical, job-focused outcomes for the region.

#### **Mayors represented by the Hunter Joint Organisation**

- Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton Council and Chair of the Hunter Joint Organisation
- Leah Anderson, Mayor of Port Stephens Council and Deputy Chair of the Hunter Joint Organisation
- Dan Watton, Mayor of Cessnock City Council
- Digby Rayward, Mayor Dungog Shire Council
- Philip Penfold, Mayor of Maitland City Council
- Jeffrey Drayton, Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Adam Shultz, Mayor of Lake Macquarie City Council
- Charlotte McCabe, Deputy Lord Mayor of City of Newcastle
- Maurice Collison, Mayor of Upper Hunter Shire Council
- Claire Pontin, Mayor of MidCoast Council



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**Contact details:**

Please direct media or project inquiries to [comms@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:comms@hunterjo.nsw.gov.au) or contact Kim Carland on 0460 034 614.

**About the Hunter Joint Organisation:**

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. Find out more at [www.hunterjo.com.au](http://www.hunterjo.com.au)

The Mayors provide a united and local voice for our communities, working across council boundaries to ensure that the diverse needs and aspirations of the Hunter region are effectively represented and addressed. The councils of the Hunter have been working closely together for nearly 70 years.

The Hunter JO includes the following councils:

Cessnock City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Maitland City Council, MidCoast Council, City of Newcastle, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Port Stephens Council, Singleton Council, and Upper Hunter Shire Council