

Roads Funding Reform

Our Ask

An ongoing source of non-competitive funding, transparently delivered and aligned to councils' asset management programs rather than grant-based criteria. Funding allocations should appropriately recognise:

- Longer road networks
- Heavier freight use
- Increased exposure to severe weather due to geographic location
- Importance of the network for 'one road in' access during emergencies
- Essential connections to state significant assets
- Capacity to fund
- Up front payment of funds rather than reimbursement in arrears

Context

- Regional councils across Australia are struggling to maintain road networks due to insufficient funding, particularly following extreme weather events.
- In May 2025, the NRMA reported that NSW councils are facing an immediate backlog in road repairs valued at \$3.4 billion.
- Recent NSW and Commonwealth Inquiries demonstrate Local Governments are facing mounting financial risks that threaten their long-term sustainability.
- Existing state and federal road maintenance funding programs rely on calculations that fail to account for actual condition, usage, or network scale in regional areas.
- We acknowledge the NSW Governments pledge of \$3 billion over 10 years for road safety and weather-related transport infrastructure in regional NSW. This will be complemented by the Commonwealth's contribution of \$630 million in road funding in 2025/26 to 128 NSW councils through programs such as Roads to Recovery and Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure.
- These funding streams do not recognise the disparity in size and scale of road networks between metropolitan and regional NSW. While the funding support is welcomed, it will not adequately address the backlog in road repairs.



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

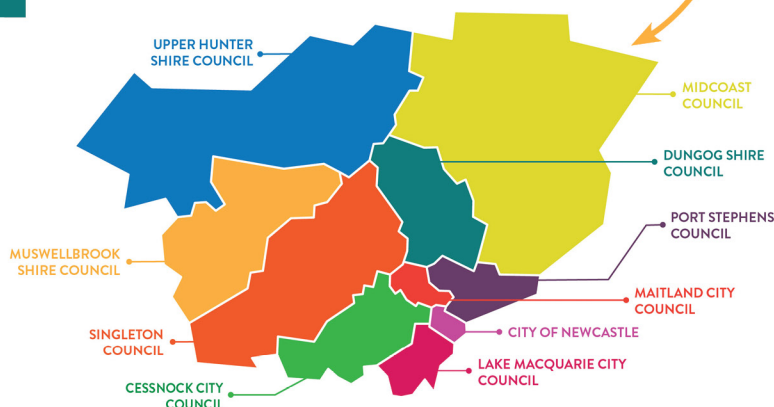
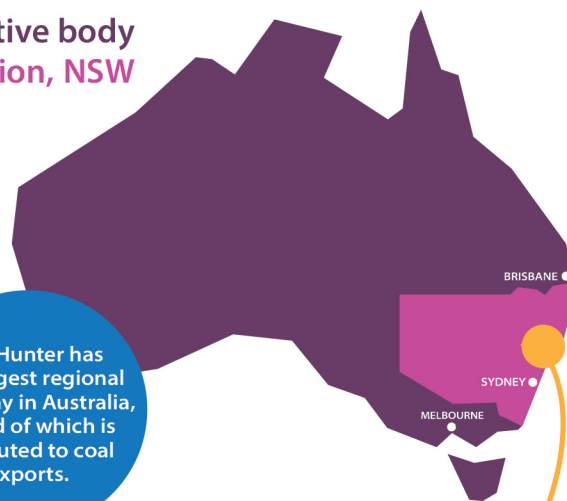


Gross Regional Product

\$91b

REMPAN 2025

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



Sue Moore

Mayor Singleton Council
Chair Hunter JO



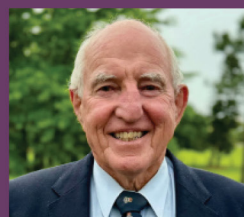
Leah Anderson

Mayor Port Stephens Council
Deputy Chair Hunter JO



Daniel Watton

Mayor Cessnock City Council



Digby Rayward

Mayor Dungog Shire Council



Adam Shultz

Mayor Lake Macquarie City Council



Philip Penfold

Mayor Maitland City Council



Claire Pontin

Mayor MidCoast Council



Jeffrey Drayton

Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council



Gavin Morris

Lord Mayor City of Newcastle



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

