



Economic Transformation

A key priority for 2026 is Economic Transformation, where the scale of change facing our region is significant:

- According to coal industry modelling shared with out Member Councils, 12,000 direct and indirect jobs are expected to be impacted by two coal mine closures by 2030.
- Expected global decline in coal demand will impact another 20 further coal mines with no mining approvals currently granted beyond 2048.
- Impacts across the Hunter will be close to 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Hunter region (FIJA Issues Paper, 2023).

We’re calling for the Federal and NSW Governments to come together with Local Governments to collaborate on delivery, and provide a greater level of investment to support the Hunter region through this transformation.

With our population approaching one million, and an economic output over \$90 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. We’re advocating for the Federal and NSW Governments to come together with Local Governments in agreeing on a set of commitments and to work together on their delivery to assist the Hunter

region and its people, jobs and businesses.

Revenue from mining royalties currently contributing over \$3 Billion per year to NSW Government provides and opportunity to catalyse investment to support mining impacted communities above the \$25 Million that is already committed to support all coal mining regions in NSW.

- 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 decades, and consideration might be given to job creation targets.
 - 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, noting that the New South Wales Government has accepted all recommendations of the inquiry into beneficial and productive post-mining land reuse by the Standing Committee on State Development, and pilot projects are currently underway in the City of Lake Macquarie and Muswellbrook Shire.
 - Planning partnerships to support housing growth to meet the NSW targets.
 - Long-term Federal, State and Local Government agreement and clear governance arrangements, and direct government intervention.
 - Streamlined and clear governance arrangements for delivery of cross government support services to mining impacted communities.

Challenge	Advocacy Ask
Lack of Coordination Across All Levels of Government	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

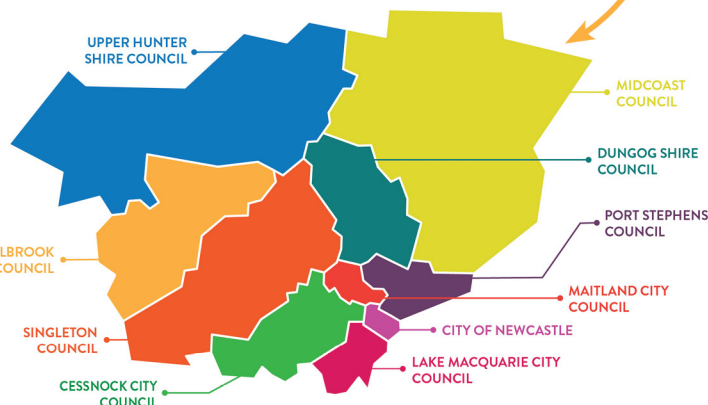


Gross Regional Product

\$91b

REMPAN 2025

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



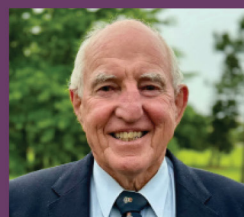
Leah Anderson

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

