

Hunter JO Delivery Program 2026-2030

Hunter JO's Delivery Program is our plan for achieving the objectives outlined in the Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2035.

It identifies the projects and advocacy priorities that the Hunter JO will deliver based on available funding and resources.

The Delivery Program will be reviewed and adopted by the Hunter JO Board annually.

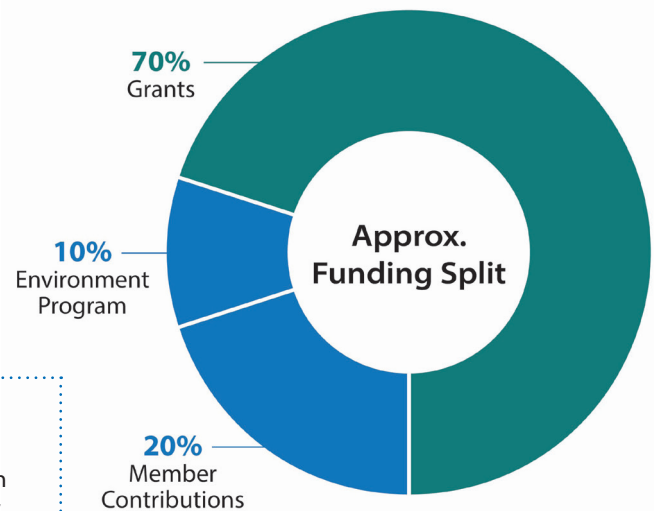
How we deliver

Capacity Building

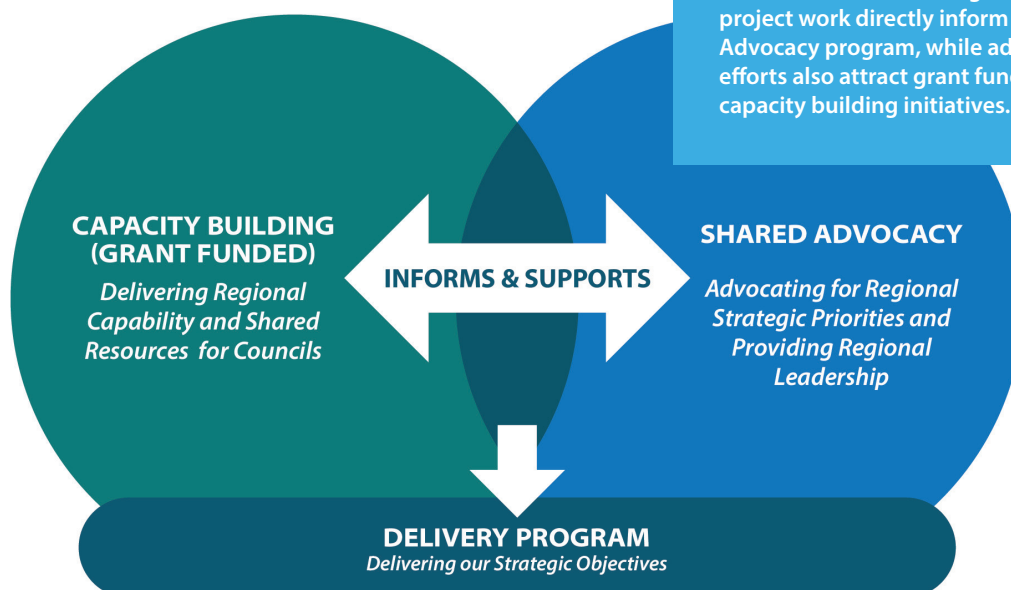
Hunter JO's Capacity Building program (including the Environment Program) delivers policy and program development, collaboration and capacity building activities for Member Councils to directly achieve the objectives of the Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2035. Hunter JO seeks out State and Federal Government grants to fund our Capacity Building program.

Advocacy

Hunter JO's Advocacy program is predominately funded through Member Council contributions and is supported by the Capacity Building program. Each year, the Hunter JO Board prioritises the advocacy focus areas within the resources that are available.



The Advocacy and Capacity Building programs support and inform each other. Council insights, findings and recommendations from grant-funded project work directly inform the Advocacy program, while advocacy efforts also attract grant funding for capacity building initiatives.



Reporting our progress

Our progress on delivering the Hunter JO Strategic Plan and Delivery Program will be reported through:

- Annual audited financial reports • Annual Performance Statement
- Six-monthly Performance Statement

Strategic Objective (How will we get there?)	Project	Funding Source	Housing & Population Growth	Economic Transformation & Jobs	Infrastructure & Connectivity	Environmental Sustainability & Resilience	Financial Sustainability & Funding Reform	Community Liveability & Wellbeing	Project Objective (What will we do to get there?)	Funding Status			
										Funded	Likely to be funded	Seeking funding	
										2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	2029/2030
HOUSING & POPULATION GROWTH													
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION & JOBS													
2.3 Evolution towards renewable energy, circular economy and future industries	Circular Economy Procurement Project	NSW EPA							To support Member Councils to prioritise recycled materials and circular economy services in their procurement systems and processes, with a particular focus on low carbon concrete in 2027.				
	Regional Economic Evolution Project	Hunter JO							To create a clear place-based, whole of government approach to create a clear vision and plan for the region's economic evolution.				
	Hunter Circular Materials Data Project	NSW EPA							To create datasets and material flow analysis that is sustainable and for long term to help develop the Circular Economy in the region.				
INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY													
3.1 Integrated cross-agency infrastructure planning	Regional Priority Infrastructure List	Hunter JO							To progress implementation of a methodology and process for determining regional infrastructure priorities to build a stronger advocacy case for investment in our region.				
	Regional transition funding	Hunter JO							To gain alignment and commitment across all levels of government on an infrastructure plan for the region to unlock economic evolution.				
	Regional Waste Infrastructure Strategy	NSW EPA							To develop a longterm roadmap for the waste infrastrucutre of the region. To reduce risks and improve financial outcomes for our councils.				
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE													
4.1 Climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster resilience	Disaster Risk Reduction	NEMA							Develop regional Disaster Adaptation Plans in collaboration with all councils and NSW Reconstruction Authority				
	Net Zero Acceleration	NSW DCCEEW							To support Member Councils reduce their carbon emissions to achieve their part in the State's Net Zero target of 50% reduction by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050.				
	Embedding Climate Risk in Council Enterprise Risk Management	NSW DCCEEW							Assist councils update and develop climate change risk assessments, embed within councils' broader enterprise risk framework and develop instructional best-practice methodology and toolkit.				
4.2 Circular materials and waste management	Regional Waste Coordination	NSW EPA							To build circular economy knowledge through education, data sharing and capacity building opportunities for Hunter JO Member Councils and Central Coast Council.				
	Community Recycling Centres	NSW EPA							To deliver a regionally coordinated approach to promoting community awareness of Community Recycling Centres (CRC).				
	Regional Illegal Dumping Program	NSW EPA							To support Member Councils manage and reduce the impacts of illegal dumping on local communities and the environment.				
	Hunter Circular Value Chains	NSW EPA							To tackle waste management issues by building on previous circular economy projects through a coordination of efforts, including value chain analysis and updating the Circular Economy Ecosystem.				
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & FUNDING REFORM													
COMMUNITY LIVEABILITY & WELLBEING													

Strategic Objective (How will we get there?)		Advocacy Priority	Housing & Population Growth	Economic Transformation & Jobs	Infrastructure & Connectivity	Environmental Sustainability & Resilience	Financial Sustainability & Funding Reform	Community Liveability & Wellbeing	Advocacy Objective	State or Federal	Resourcing 2026 / 2027			
											Opportunistic	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
HOUSING & POPULATION GROWTH														
1.1	Housing affordability, density, diversity and availability	Housing							Integrated planning to increase viability of housing in Transport Oriented Development (TOD) and Low and Mid-Rise areas, and opportunities to reduce construction cost by increasing feasibility and quality of modular homes.	State				
1.2	Integrated planning and enabling infrastructure to support housing development in priority growth areas								Funding for enabling infrastructure, State Government integrated planning, and improved biodiversity mapping.	State				
1.3	Supporting population growth and demographic shifts	Regional population projections							An agreed population vision as a foundation to support advocacy for State and Federal Government service planning.	State				
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION & JOBS														
2.1	Activate the reuse of mining related lands	Mining land reuse / redevelopment							Investment to pilot the reactivation and repurposing of current and former mining lands and infrastructure, and to de-risk industry investment and strategically inform and accelerate industry attraction, skills development and job creation.	State & Federal				
2.2	Leveraging regional and global industries	Airfreight precinct							Investment of \$1m for Detailed Design for the Newcastle Airport air freight precinct to grow high value export products from the Hunter and MidCoast	State & Federal				
		Hunter Global Tourism Marketing Strategy							Investment of \$3.85m over three years to increase international tourism through the implementation of Business Case findings	State & Federal				
		Port of Newcastle							Improve road and rail infrastructure to activate diversification, i.e. container terminal, clean energy precinct, and support establishment of the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).	State & Federal				
2.3	Evolution towards renewable energy, circular economy and future industries	Circular Economy Futures Hub							Alignment and commitment across all levels of government on a Circular Economy Futures Hub to accelerate the region towards a circular economy.	State & Federal				
		Economic transformation							Federal and NSW Governments work with Local Government on a clear plan and place-based governance to coordinate and collaboratively drive the Hunter’s economic transformation and provide a greater level of investment (including from NSW mining royalties) to directly support this.	State & Federal				
INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY														
3.1	Integrated cross-agency infrastructure planning	Transport planning							Planning a more equitable, future-focused transport system (e.g. public transport based on projected demand, active transport, road funding, freight, high-speed rail integration).	State				
		Water infrastructure							Commitment from Federal and State Government to an equal three way funding model for infrastructure to ensure a reliable, safe and secure water supply for the Hunter and MidCoast Region.	State				
3.2	Safe and efficient road networks	Road funding reform							Commitment from the Federal and State Governments to collaboratively develop and apply a more equitable model for allocating roads funding across metropolitan and regional local government areas.	State & Federal				
3.3	Multimodal, low-emission transport connectivity	Transport improvement							Improved low-emissions transport solutions for the region, including electric vehicle infrastructure, park and ride, and investment to implement the NSW Strategic Cycleway Corridors Plan.	State				
		Shiraz to Shore							Delivery of the Shiraz to Shore cycle trail from the Hunter Valley to Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.	State & Federal				
3.4	Digital connectivity improvements	Digital connectivity							Investment in infrastructure to improve digital connectivity.	State & Federal				
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE														
4.1	Climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster resilience	Disaster resilience							Sustainable and strategic place-based planning and resourcing of local and regional disaster resilience and recovery activities.	State & Federal				
4.2	Circular materials and waste management	Waste levy							Return of waste levy funds to implement local and regional circular economy and waste management initiatives.	State				
4.3	Water security and waterway health	Regional waterway management							Establish a regional waterway management authority with responsibility for waterway and catchment health.	State				
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & FUNDING REFORM														
5.1	Ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of Local Government	Financial sustainability of Local Government							Ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of local government, including addressing challenges such as inadequate Financial Assistance Grants, rate capping by IPART, cost shifting, rising audit fees, increased service delivery and waste management costs, and the growing financial burden of recurring natural disasters.	State & Federal				
5.3	Reforming grant funding processes to secure sustainable funding models	Grant funding reform							Strategic block funding of grants aligned to IP&R Framework provided to Local Government from both State and Federal Governments to allow effective planning and delivery of community interests.	State & Federal				
COMMUNITY LIVEABILITY & WELLBEING														