Economic Transformation

Strategic Objective

The evolution of our region toward renewable and future focused industries, maximising our mining related and industrial lands and leveraging our regional strengths to drive innovation and economic growth, create jobs and protect our natural assets and environment.

According to both State and Federal Governments, we are expecting a global decline in coal demand over the next couple of decades, impacts close to 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Hunter region (FIJA Issues Paper, 2023 and Commonwealth Treasurery, 2025).

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. The ten councils of the Hunter region are firmly committed to partnering with both the Federal and NSW governments to deliver outcomes for our communities, to successfully transition away from coal.

We're advocating for the Federal and NSW Governments to come together with our Member Councils to properly recognise the scale and urgency of the Hunter's transition, to agree on a set of shared commitments, and to work together on their delivery to assist the Hunter region and its people, jobs and businesses.

Similar to the successful Western Sydney Agreement, we're asking for a similar focus for the Hunter, to provide specific economic focus and support to urgently catalyse business investment and jobs to support a transitioning economy. Revenue from mining royalties provides an opportunity to catalyse investment in this approach to support mining impacted communities.

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 years.
- 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.
- Planning partnerships to support housing growth to meet the NSW targets.
- Long-term Federal, State and Local Government agreement, governance and funding.
- 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	Long-term plan agreed with Federal, State and Local Governance and funding for economic transformation in the Hunter region.
Lack of Direct Funding Support	Increase the NSW Future Jobs Investment Fund to $150m per year, or 5% of mining royalities to plan for the economic transformation of mining impacted communities with expected downturn in coal.