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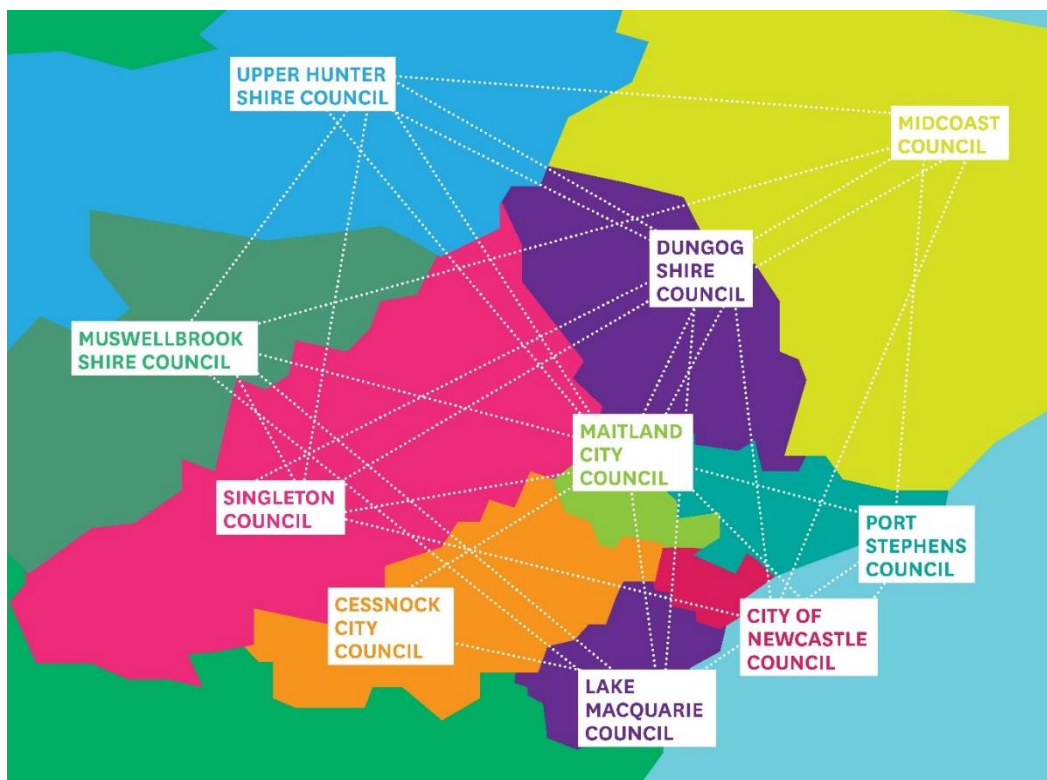
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FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Papers

11:00am, Thursday 14 October 2021



[Videoconference Details](#)

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1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Hunter Joint Organisation acknowledges the country and history of the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we meet today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, of our region, and of Australia.

1.2 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair asks for any potential Conflicts of Interest to be declared from members of the Board.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Minutes of Meeting 12 August 2021

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes

11:00 – 2:00pm, Thursday 12 August 2021

Hunter JO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Ave Thornton (videoconference)

Voting Directors Present

Cr Bob Pynsent,	Cessnock City Council
Cr John Connors,	Dungog Shire Council
Cr Kay Fraser,	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr Loretta Baker,	Maitland City Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council
Cr David West,	MidCoast Council
Cr Maurice Collison	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council
Cr Rod Scholes,	Muswellbrook Shire Council

Non-Voting Members Present

Lotta Jackson	General Manager, Cessnock City Council
Gareth Curtis,	General Manager, Dungog Shire Council
Adrian Panuccio,	General Manager, MidCoast Council
Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Greg McDonald,	General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council
Morven Cameron,	CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Fiona Plesman,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Alison McGaffin	Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW (DPIE)

Apologies

Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Newcastle City Council
Jeremy Bath, CEO, Newcastle City Council

Staff in attendance

Joe James, CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation
Steve Wilson, Director, Regional Policy and Program Division, Hunter JO
Melinda Curtis, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO
Tim Askew, Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO
Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)

Also Present

Virginia Errington Council Engagement Manager, Office of Local Government
Jacinta Ledlin Deputy Mayor, Muswellbrook Shire Council

The meeting opened at 11:00am.

Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting, and noted the apologies. The Chair welcomed Cr Rod Scholes to the meeting as the new Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Council.

Resolved:

- ***That the apologies be noted.***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

1.2 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair called for any conflicts of interest to be registered by members of the Board.

The Mayor of Port Stephens' standing declaration of interest on matters relating to the Newcastle Airport was noted. No other conflicts were noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Minutes of Meeting 10 June 2021

The minutes were taken as read.

2.2 Minutes of Extraordinary meeting 29 June 2021

The minutes were taken as read

3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes

Resolved:

- ***That the minutes of previous meetings of 10 June 2021 be adopted***
- ***That the minutes of previous meetings of 29 June 2021 be adopted***

Moved: Loretta Baker

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

4. Presentations

4.1 Hunter Central Coast Resource Recovery Strategy Presentation

Eloise Lobsey gave a presentation on the review and updating of the Regional Waste & Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy.

4.2 Updates – Circular Economy Roadmap & Procurement Projects

Tim Askew provided a presentation and overview of the directions and recommendation included in the draft Regional Circular Economy Roadmap.

5. Correspondence

The correspondence was taken as read. The Board noted that an attachment had been included in the papers that should be removed from the documents prior to their publication on the Hunter JO Website.

Resolved:

- ***That the update be received and noted***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

6. Reports

6.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy

The report was taken as read. The Board asked that the CEO seek feedback on the Hunter JO submissions to the BLER Fund, particularly those where the Hunter JO was unsuccessful.

Resolved:

- ***That the update be received and noted***
- ***That the CEO seek feedback on the Hunter JO's submissions to the BLER Funding***

Moved: Bob Pynsent

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

6.2 Hunter JO June 2021 EOFY Profit & Loss Statement

The CEO spoke briefly to the report.

Resolved:

- ***That the Profit and Loss Statement for period ending June 2021 be received and noted***

Moved: David West

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

6.3 Hunter JO Program Delivery Highlights

The Director RPPD spoke to the report.

Resolved:

- *That the report be received and noted*

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

6.4 Department of Regional NSW Standing Update

Alison McGaffin provided a verbal update to the Hunter JO Board, noting that the General Managers of each of the councils had been invited to the next Regional Leadership Executive Meeting on their Community Strategic Plans.

Resolved:

- *That the report be received and noted*

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

6.5 Transport for NSW Advocacy Update

The CEO spoke briefly to the report, providing an update on advocacy conducted since the previous meeting of the Hunter JO Board.

Resolved:

- *That the report be received and noted*

Moved: Loretta Baker

Seconded: Ryan Palmer

Carried.

7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Decision

7.1 Progressing the Economic Transformation Priority in 2021-22 to 2050

The CEO spoke to the report. The Chair asked Sue Moore to speak to the proposed Hunter Expert Panel, as Chair of the Hunter JO's Regional Economic Transition Committee.

Resolved:

That the Board endorse that the Hunter JO;

- *continue its advocacy and engagement on the regional transformation challenge as this remains an enduring strategic priority for the region*
- *seek to support and constructively influence the implementation of the Expert Panel and Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund, the Renewable Energy Zone, Special Activation Precinct, Catalyst Areas in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and other relevant initiatives based on member assessments of key regional needs; and*
- *retain a primary focus on advocacy and facilitation efforts aiming to:*
 - *secure significant private sector investment, including through the Hunter Venture Fund concept, into new industries that can reduce long term risk and create new jobs; and*
 - *maintain local leadership of solutions for the Hunter.*

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: David West

Carried.

7.2 Newcastle Airport Advocacy Opportunity

The CEO spoke to the report.

The Chair asked that the Mayor of Port Stephens declare his standing declaration of interest on matters relating to the Newcastle Airport. The Mayor of Port Stephens again flagged his standing declaration of interest for the Board to note.

Resolved:

That the;

- ***Hunter JO support the concept of a Regional Airport Summit to maximise the likelihood of and accelerate the delivery of regional benefits from the upgraded capacity and capability of the Airport;***
- ***Hunter JO lead the delivery of a Regional Airport Summit to utilise its independence and whole-of-region reach to demonstrate leadership and advocacy in achieving whole-of-region outcomes;***
- ***Board authorise the CEO to use the OLG capacity building funding, subject to finalisation of an approved project description with OLG, to support delivery of the Summit.***

Moved: David West

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried

7.3 World Masters Games Bid

Boyd Blackwell, Regional Policy & Program Manager, spoke to the report, noting the potential change of direction for this project, to a broader focus on regional events.

The Mayor of Port Stephens noted and endorsed the focus on a broad range of event opportunities for the region.

Resolved:

That the;

- ***That the Hunter JO consider the opportunities and challenges outlined of a bid for the 2029 WMG and move further consideration of a bid to be within the scope of the Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) project, where research and consideration of the WMG can be done alongside other significant event opportunities for our region.***

Moved: Ryan Palmer

Seconded: David West

Carried

8. Matters Raised by Members

No matters were raised within the meeting.

9. General Business

9.1 Hunter JO Board Induction Pack

The Executive Officer spoke briefly to the report.

Resolved:

- ***That the report be received and noted***

Moved: Sue Moore

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

9.2 Compliance & Governance Calendars

The Board noted these items as a standing update.

Resolved:

- ***That the report be received and noted***

Moved: John Connors

Seconded: Sue Moore

Carried.

Meeting closed 12:21 pm

3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes

Recommendation:

- **That the minutes of the previous meetings of 12 August 2021 be adopted**

3.1 Business Arising: Hunter JO Action Register

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-19-13	That a discussion of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees be added to the agenda for the HJO for discussion at a later date	29 Aug 2019	On hold	Revised Due date: March 2021 Revised Status: On Hold	GMAC have discussed and indicated to put on hold until the framework is finalised and provided from OLG GMAC 25 March 2021 meeting resolution is as follows: That no further investigation of shared resourcing of ARICs be completed until the OLG Framework has been finalised, and at that point only if member councils express interest in sharing resources (if this option is allowed within the Framework). A proposal regarding a consultancy on ARICs has been included within the Arrow Business Papers
HJO-20-55	<u>Hunter JO Waste Strategy Review and Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Hunter JO Board endorse development of a new Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2027 that creates an ambitious yet achievable plan to transition our resource recovery sector to a circular economy model. That the Hunter JO Board support future engagement of, and reporting to the GMAC and Hunter JO Board to facilitate input to the Strategy objectives and actions. 	Feb 21	Underway	December 2021	A presentation was provided to the Hunter JO Board at its August meeting on the process and timeframes for developing the new strategy. The next planning stages at which the Board will be engaged include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Directions Options Paper (December 2021) Draft Strategy and Action Plan (February 2022) Presentation of final draft Strategy to Board to consider for endorsement (April 2022)
HJO-20-60	<u>Regional Freight and Logistics - Initiatives and Opportunities</u> That a Summary Brief on this be brought back to the Board for endorsement.	Apr-21	Underway	Oct-21	Opportunities for Hunter JO involvement in this area to be considered by the Board in workshop session prior to October Board meeting. To be discussed by Hunter JO Board in a pre-meeting presentation "Review of Regional Economic

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
					Development Strategies and Opportunities” to be delivered by Boyd Blackwell This action item will be updated pending the outcomes of this engagement and feedback from the Board
HJO-20-61	<u>Summary Project Briefs – Hunter JO Delivery Program</u> That the Hunter 2050 Foundation project be revisited pending the success/failure of the BLERF funding.	Apr-21	Complete	Aug-21	Hunter JO Board endorsed repivoting of Hunter 2050 focus at t its August 2021 meeting.
HJO-20-63	<u>Cities Power Partnership Options</u> That the Board endorse the Hunter JO exploring a Regional Partner arrangement with CCP (the first region in Australia to do so) in line with Option 3: Collaboration Pledges Partnership.	Apr-21	Underway	Aug-21 December 2021	Collaboration with CPP to deliver regional initiatives has been the focus of engagement over recent months. Formalising the partnership agreement remains to be completed.
HJO-20-64	<u>Hunter JO Related Party Disclosure Policy</u> That the reference within the Policy, to Strategic Services Australia, be updated to with Arrow Collaborative Services.	Apr-21	Underway	May-21	
HJO-20-65	<u>World Masters Games</u> Establish a Regional Events Strategy Working Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review opportunities and costs associated with hosting the World Masters Games. • Scope out the development of a bid for the 2029 World Masters Games on behalf of the Hunter Region. • Review existing strategies and develop a roadmap for the implementation of key actions to attract major events to the region. 	Apr-21	Underway	Feb 2022	Hunter JO Board resolved August 2021 to integrate consideration of 2029 World Masters Games bid opportunities and challenges within the scope of the Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) project. Hunter JO staff currently finalising administrative details (project plans, payment milestones & funding agreement) with Regional NSW to enable project to proceed. Stakeholder identification and mapping against project processes and outputs is also underway.

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-20-66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That actions from the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee be included on the Hunter JO Action Register for future meetings. 	10 Jun 21	Complete	Aug-21	Following commencement in August 2021, actions from meetings of the GNMP Steering Committee will continue to be included in the Hunter JO Board Papers
HJO-20-67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board endorse the Hunter JO assuming responsibility for the secretariat of the GNMP Subcommittee. • That the Board endorse the proposed process and time frame for completing an evaluation of the GNMP Subcommittee 	10 Jun 21	Complete	Sep-21	<p>An update on this action has been included at Item 7.8.</p> <p>The next meeting of the GNMP Steering Committee is scheduled for 7th October 2021.</p>
HJO-20-70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THAT the confidential report be received and noted. • THAT the CEO remuneration be adjusted as outlined in the report. • THAT the CEO performance agreement for 2021-2022 be endorsed, noting the additions provided within the meeting to the agreement. 	10 Jun 21	Underway	Sep-21 Dec 21	<p><u>Sept-21 GMAC update</u></p> <p>It is proposed that a copy of the CEO Position Description be brought back to the Arrow and GMAC Meetings in September for review.</p> <p>The CEO Position Description is being reviewed by the Arrow Board out of session, to be brought to the Hunter JO Board at their October Meeting</p> <p><u>Oct-21 HJO update</u></p> <p>Revised PD yet to be circulated to Arrow Board. Arrow Board recommendation to be reviewed by the HJO board at its next meeting</p>
HJO-20-71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THAT the Hunter JO draft correspondence to the NSW Government regarding funding and action required on the Hunter Sports Precinct in Broadmeadow • That the drafted correspondence be reviewed out of session by the Board prior to sending. 	10 Jun 21	Underway		<p>A draft of the correspondence was provided to the Board at their last meeting, and was circulated to the Hunter JO Chair and the Chair of the GNMP Steering Committee for consideration.</p> <p>The original intent of the correspondence has been overtaken by a government announcement on Hunter Park, with feedback sought on if the correspondence is still to be</p>

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
					sent incorporating changes following this announcement.
HJO-20-72	That the EO remove both draft correspondence and commercial-in-confidence documents from the Hunter JO Board Papers when published on the Hunter JO website	12 Aug 21	Complete		
HJO-20-73	That the Hunter JO seek feedback on unsuccessful BLER Funding submissions to be taken into consideration in future grant applications	12 Aug 21	Underway	Dec-21	

3.2 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee Action Register

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
A 17.1 - 04/04/2021 & A 16.1 – 09/12/2020	A timeline be developed by HCCDC & JO from engagements with Action Item 187. Stakeholders and LGA's on the progress and implementation of an Identity and Positioning Strategy specially relating to the Greater Newcastle Metro Plan. Action Item 17.1 - Provide GNMPSC a timeline when the Identify and Positioning Strategy specific to the Newcastle Metro Plan will commence.	A 17.1 - 04/04/2021 & A 16.1 – 09/12/2020		Responsible: HCCDC & HJO	August 2021 update Stakeholder and LGA engagement is ongoing. The Project team has established a Council Reference Group to ensure all Councils can participate in the creation of the Identity and Positioning Project. <i>Please note: Responsibility for this project now sits with DRNSW - transferred from HCCDC in August 2021)</i>
A 16.3 – 09/12/2020	That an Options Paper be developed by the Hunter JO, in collaboration with GNMP Councils that:	A 16.3 – 09/12/2020	Complete	HJO	Meeting 09/12/2020 - Update provided – item ongoing

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews any existing analysis of the governance model for the GNMP as well as existing regional governance models and legislative mechanisms established to drive collaborative delivery of regional plans Identifies potential alternative governance models and legislative mechanisms that could also be appropriate for delivering on the principles established within the MoU for GNMP delivery Provides recommendations on a preferred model and a process for progressing its establishment in collaboration with the NSW Government. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 2021: Draft Options paper to be considered by Steering Committee at 7/10/2021 meeting
A 15.2 – 05/08/2020	DPIE to work with the five Councils on any future Department Acceleration Program applications and in addition, assist with a Local Acceleration Program Proposal for the Greater Newcastle Area.	A 15.2 – 05/08/2020	Update requested	DPIE	<p>Meeting 09/12/2020 – no update provided.</p> <p>August 2021: Update requested by Hunter JO and response pending</p>
A 15.4 – 05/08/2020	JO to prepare correspondence including attendance statistics regarding RMS & TfNSW regular absences at the GNMPSC meetings.	A 15.4 – 05/08/2020	Under review	HJO	<p>Joe James has commenced conversations with TfNSW. Update 5/8/2020 -Joe James has made representations to Minister for Transport. Working Group has been created, internal report has been completed and will be reported back to the minister in the coming month.</p> <p>Meeting 09/12/2020 – update provided – item ongoing.</p> <p>August 2021: Once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled suggest this action item be marked as superseded and removed.</p>
A. 14.1 - 04/06/2020	Joe James (CEO) from JO to arrange a briefing / presentation from TfNSW to GNMPSC.	A. 14.1 - 04/06/2020	Under review	HJO	Update 04-03-2021 - JO provided Briefing Paper to the GNMPSC – Exploring Regional Governance Options to support delivery of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
					<p>Update 12/8/21</p> <p>Updates provided to HJO Board at June Board Meeting from TfNSW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Damien Pfeiffer on Joint Action Plan by Hunter Development Group (TfNSW, HJO, UDIA and Property Council); 2. Sam Harding on the TfNSW Regional Transport Plan Review <p>August 2021: Once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled suggest this action item be marked as superseded and removed.</p>
A.13.5 – 06/02/2020	Dept of Regional NSW & HCCDC – once Fast Rail Strategy is released a presentation is sought for this Committee	A.13.5 – 06/02/2020		Dept of Regional NSW & HCCDC	<p>Update August 2021</p> <p>Fast Rail Network Strategy is yet to be a released. TfNSW will be invited to present to the SC if/when the Strategy is released</p>
A.12.3 - 2019	TfNSW/RMS to meet with HCCDC, Maitland City Council and Regional NSW for an update on Thornton Precinct transport modelling	A.12.3 - 2019	Complete	TfNSW, HCCDC, & MCC	<p>Update August 2021</p> <p><u>HCCDC</u></p> <p>Complete. This is an ongoing action item for the East Maitland Catalyst Area Steering Group.</p> <p><u>TfNSW</u></p> <p>TfNSW has been working with Maitland City Council on the Maitland Place Plan which is expected to be complete by the end of 2021. It has also commenced work on the East Maitland to Thornton Transport Study to develop an integrated planning vision for Raymond Terrace Road and surrounding network. This will include assessing future demands to meet the needs of residential growth and will seek alignment with</p>

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
					East Maitland Catalyst Area and Thornton Structure Plan. The work is expected to be completed in the second half of 2022.
A.12.4 - 2019	Regional NSW & TfNSW to ensure transport modelling is completed for the development of a master plan for North West Lake Macquarie Catalyst area.	A.12.4 - 2019	Under review	Regional NSW, TfNSW/RMS, LMCC	<p>Update August 2021</p> <p>TfNSW is continuing to work with Lake Macquarie Council on the integrated land use and transport plan associated with NW Lake Macquarie Catalyst Area. Transport modelling is underway with progress reported to the working group. The aim is to inform the plan with a set of transport initiatives to be recommended to Government for investment along with the prioritisation framework that recognises the benefits to future land use growth throughout the precinct. This work should be complete by the end of 2021.</p> <p>Consider that, once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled, this action item be removed.</p>
A.12.6 - 2019	Catalyst Area priority list to be developed by HCCDC – with advocacy led by 5 GNMPSC Mayors	A.12.6 - 2019	Under review	HCCDC	<p>HCCDC will share the priority work complete on the catalyst precincts to date at February 2020 meeting. Update 06/02/2020 – To be presented at April meeting.</p> <p>Update -04/06/2020 – presentation provided to GNMPSC on Lake Mac, Maitland and Broadmeadow Catalyst Areas.</p> <p>Update 05/08/2020 – Ongoing - updates will be presented to the group when major milestones have been achieved or key issues need to be raised. Further conversations with this Committee are to be had with regards to prioritising.</p> <p>Meeting 9/12/2020 – no update provided</p>

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
					August 2021: Review this action once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled. Possibly remove given ongoing nature.
A.11.1 -	GNMPSC Mayors make representations to the Transport Minister, Hon Andrew Constance MP. The relevant councils will provide details of their sites of interest to JJ. At the next Hunter JO meeting the correspondence will be tabled at the meeting.	A.11.1 -	Under review	HJO/LMCC	<p>LMCC tasked with co-ordinating. All info has been received and is being collated for correspondence to Minister. Subsequent meeting will be organized in early 2020. Meeting 9/12/2020 – no update provided.</p> <p>August 2021: This action underpinned the work undertaken with UDIA and Property Councils. Once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled suggest this action item be marked as superseded and removed.</p>
A.9.3	Representation to be made to Minister Stokes and Gary Barnes, Coordinator General for Regional NSW for a State Cabinet endorsed plan with a funding stream that takes in all of the catalyst areas.	A.9.3	Update requested	Dept of Regional NSW	<p>See A.9.4 - Update 06/02/2020 – Meeting scheduled with Hon. Robert Stokes Office.</p> <p>Update 04/06/2020 – Meeting scheduled for 18/06/2020</p> <p>August 2021: Update requested by Hunter JO and response pending</p>
A 9.4	Send letter to relevant Minister's and Officers seeking a holistic funding approach for the GNMP	A.9.4	Update requested	DPIE	<p>Update – DPC to advise following draft letter which was provided at the August meeting (on hold pending MoU)</p> <p>Update 06/02/20 - to be followed up by DPC (draft of MoU to be circulated to GNMPSC prior to April meeting).</p> <p>Update 04/06/2020 – MOU scheduled to be signed by Minister Stokes on 18/06/2020</p> <p>Update 5/8/2020 – The group agreed to amend the draft correspondence and distribute under the Mayors signature. Update 04-03-2021 by</p>

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
					Regional NSW - DPC/Regional NSW have no role in advocacy processes. August 2021: Update requested by Hunter JO and response pending
A 7.6	Freight Rail Bypass	A 7.6		TfNSW/RMS	Update August 2021 Lower Hunter Freight Corridor is out for consultation until 13 September 2021. The feedback will be important in helping TfNSW to refine, where possible the corridor before it is officially reserved. As well as working with land owners to minimise impacts where possible on them, TfNSW are also looking at how to minimise ecological impacts that will also deliver a viable freight corridor that will ease congestion on the current passenger line. Information available at trnsport.nsw.gov.au/LHFC
A 6.2	Invite new VC to attend May meeting and discuss UoN STEMM development	A.6.2	Under review	GNMPSC to invite	Meeting request has been sought – checking availability Meeting 9/12/2020 – no update provided. August 2021: Review this action once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled. Invitation previously extended. Possibly remove.
A 6.10	Redraft the Collaboration agreement with current principles and GNMPC Terms of Reference added	A.6.10		DPIE, HCCDC, Regional NSW and HJO	Update August 2021 Action completed August 2021: Review this action once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled.
A 5.6	Follow up AMGC visit to Sydney	A 5.6	Under review	Hunter JO & GNMPC	Ongoing

I.D.	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Responsible	Notes
					August 2021: Review this action once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled
A 5.7	Returning to Canberra (possibly late Feb) for future meetings and the signing of MoU, potentially with all levels of government	A 5.7	Under review	HCCDC & Hunter JO	Ongoing – see A.9.1, A.9.2, A.9.3, A.9.4, A.10.2 August 2021: Review this action once GNMPSC Review outcomes are tabled
	HJO CEO to enquire with HCCDC and Regional NSW about whether a decision has been made on whether further identity and positioning work would be undertaken in relation to Greater Newcastle (rather than the whole of Hunter), consistent with the action in the GNMP. If a decision has not been made, then clarity on the trigger and expected timing of decision should be provided.	7 Oct 21	Nov 21	Hunter JO	

4. Presentations

4.1 Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone

Matthew Sprott, Director - Planning and Policy with EnergyCo NSW (a NSW Government entity) will provide an update on the early stages of developing the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone. The presentation will provide an introduction to the strategic planning work that has commenced, including objectives of the Hunter-Central Coast REZ, the types of opportunities and investment it could provide to the region, and plans for Council, community and stakeholder engagement.

4.2 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Climate Change Package

Mel Curtis will be providing a presentation and update on the development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Climate Change Package, one of two sub projects of the Act Now on Adaptation Coastal Wise Communities (Act Now) Project being delivered by member Councils through the Hunter JO. Further detail provided in Item 7.7.

5. Correspondence

Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on correspondence sent and received in relation to the Hunter JO.

Correspondence Received:

- Attachment 1: Correspondence from NSW EPA re Proposal for Hunter JO to host the RID Squad, 30 August 2021
- Attachment 2: Correspondence from Regional NSW re Royalties for Rejuvenation, 22 September 2021
- Attachment 3: Correspondence from Cessnock City Council re Request for Support from Hunter JO on Pricing Review for NSW Stormwater Levy, 28 September 2021

Correspondence Sent:

- Attachment 4: Letter of Support for UTS re Electric Vehicle Test Drive Program, 12 August 2021
- Attachment 5: Correspondence to Minister Hancock re CMA Transitional Arrangements, 7 October 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

- **That the update report be received and noted.**

6. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision

6.1 LGNSW Advocacy on Infrastructure Contribution Reforms

Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

Background

Since the last meeting of the Hunter JO Board, a number of our Mayors have raised the issue of the proposed amendment on infrastructure contribution reforms.

The CEO of LGNSW, Scott Phillips, presented to our General Managers at their GMAC Meeting on Thursday 30 September 2021, to speak on this and other issues. In response, GMAC endorsed that this matter be brought to the Hunter JO Board for consideration.

LGNSW have made a submission to the Upper House Parliamentary Committee, and are encouraging Councils and Joint Organisations to support their advocacy on this topic. The below report has been adapted from LGNSW draft Mayoral Minute, to be used as a guide for Councils supporting this advocacy.

Report

The NSW Government introduced the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021 into Parliament on 22 June.

The Bill was subsequently referred on 24 June 2021 to the Upper House Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment for inquiry and report by 10 August 2021.

The Hunter Joint Organisation supports efforts to reduce complexity, cut red tape and improve transparency and equity.

However, implementation of the reforms will have far reaching financial implications for our ten member councils that are unknown at this stage, and there is concern that we may be worse off under the reforms.

These reforms may force our member councils to delay or completely remove projects from our expenditure plan with a detrimental impact not only on community wellbeing and participation in civic life, but also crucially on job creation.

It is premature to push forward with this legislation while so much of the infrastructure reform agenda remains unknown.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) has been advocating this position on our behalf and has met with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces the Hon Rob Stokes MP on several occasions to stress that councils and their communities must not be worse off under any reforms.

LGNSW has made a submission to the parliamentary inquiry, opposing the passage of the Bill, and on Friday 16 July LGNSW President Linda Scott spoke at the inquiry hearing alongside other local government representatives to present a united front on this issue.

LGNSW will continue its advocacy efforts on our behalf and is asking councils in NSW to add their voice in calling on the NSW Government to withdraw the Bill from the NSW Parliament.

The recommendations below reflect the positions adopted by LGNSW.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the Hunter JO calls on the NSW Government to withdraw the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021 (the Bill) from the NSW Parliament.**

2. That the Hunter JO calls on the NSW Government to undertake further consultation with the local government sector on any proposed reforms to the infrastructure contributions system.
3. That the Hunter JO calls on the NSW Government to de-couple the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal led review of the rate peg to include population growth from the infrastructure contributions reforms.
4. That the Hunter JO writes to its local State Members, the Premier the the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, the Treasurer Matt Kean MP, Minister for Planning, Public Spaces and Transport the Hon Rob Stokes MP and Minister for Local Government the Hon Shelley Hancock MP seeking them to withdraw the Bill.
5. That the Hunter JO writes to the Shadow Ministry,(Shadow Treasurer the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Mr Paul Scully MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government Mr Greg Warren MP), the upper house cross-bench (The Greens Mr David Shoebridge MLC, Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, Pauline Hanson's One Nation the Hon Mark Latham MLC, Animal Justice Party the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group) the Hon Fred Nile MLC, Independent Mr Justin Field,) and the Portfolio Committee (Portfolio Committee Chair The Greens Ms Cate Faehmann, Portfolio Committee Deputy Chair Animal Justice Party the Hon Mark Pearson MLC and Committee members Liberal Party the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC and the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, The Nationals the Hon Ben Franklin MLC and Australian Labor Party the Hon Rose Jackson MLC and the Hon Adam Searle MLC) seeking their support in securing the withdrawal of the Bill from the NSW Parliament and outlining council's concerns with the Bill.
6. That the Hunter JO alerts the local media to the threat of future ratepayer funds being expended rather than developer levies for new infrastructure brought about by increased development under the proposed legislation and shares and promotes these messages via its digital and social media channels and via its networks.
7. That the Hunter JO affirms its support to LGNSW and requests LGNSW continue advocating on our behalf to protect local government from any amendments to infrastructure contributions which leaves councils and communities exposed to expending ratepayer funds on new infrastructure made necessary by new development, currently the responsibility of developers.

Report Author: Melinda Curtis, Regional Policy and Program Manager - Environment

Responsible Officer: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy and Programs

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development and draft structure of the Hunter JO Strategy 2022-2026.

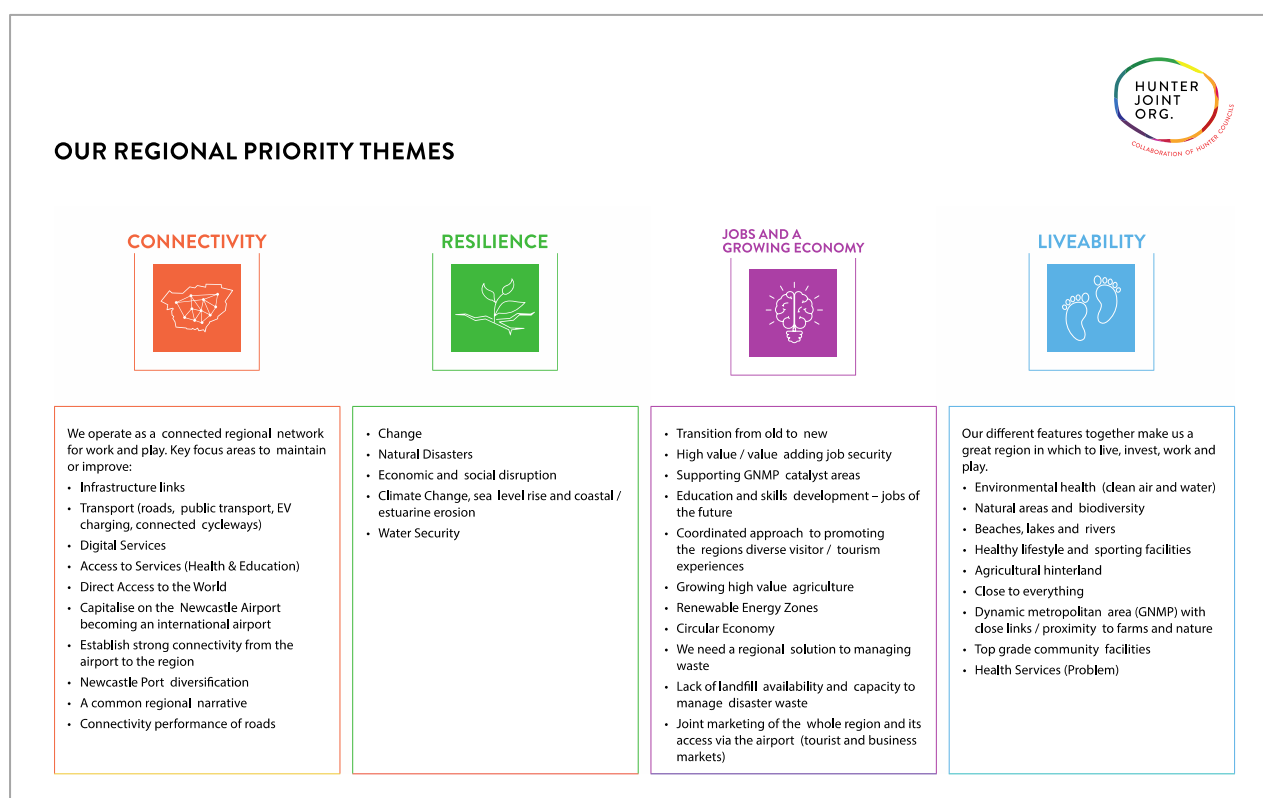
Background

This report is a continuation of previous briefings related to the development of the new Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

A primary outcome of the Hunter JO Board Strategic Workshop held on 21st May 2021, was the identification of 4 key Regional Priority themes around which to structure the next iteration of the Hunter JO Strategic plan:

1. Connectivity
2. Resilience
3. Jobs and a Growing Economy
4. Liveability

Refer Figure below for the focus areas identified within each of these themes

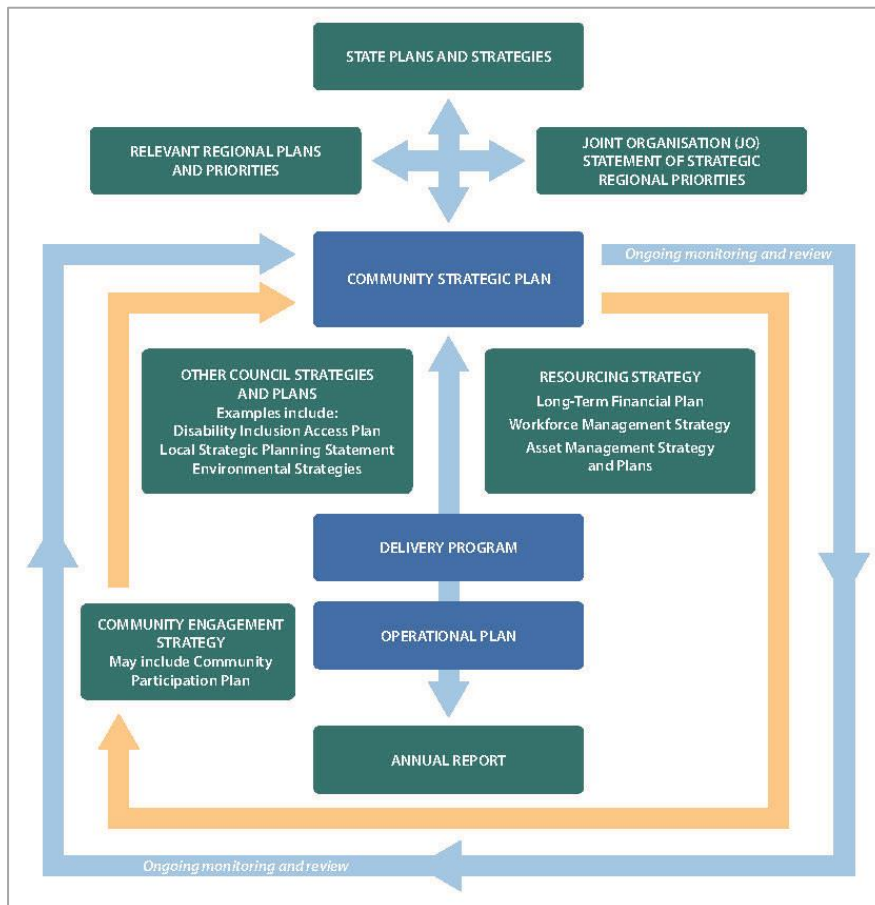


Report

Internal work on the development of the Hunter JO Strategy continues, and moving forward will include further engagement with the Hunter JO Board, to facilitate input to the drafting of the Strategy.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) released a new IP&R Handbook and IP&R Guidelines in September, which we are reviewing to ensure any changes are considered during the development of

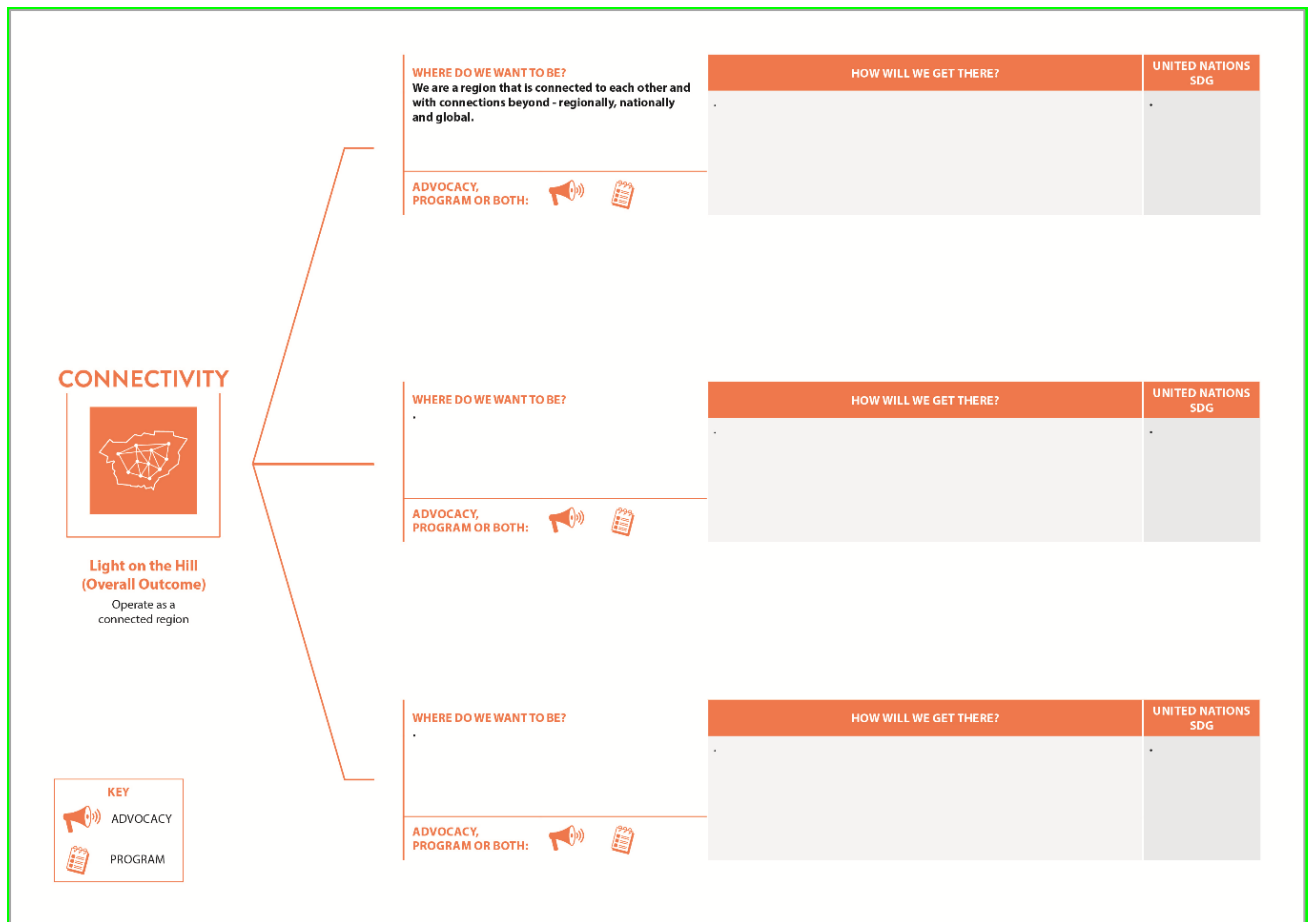
the Hunter JO Strategy. The amended IP&R Framework included in the new Guidelines is provided below.









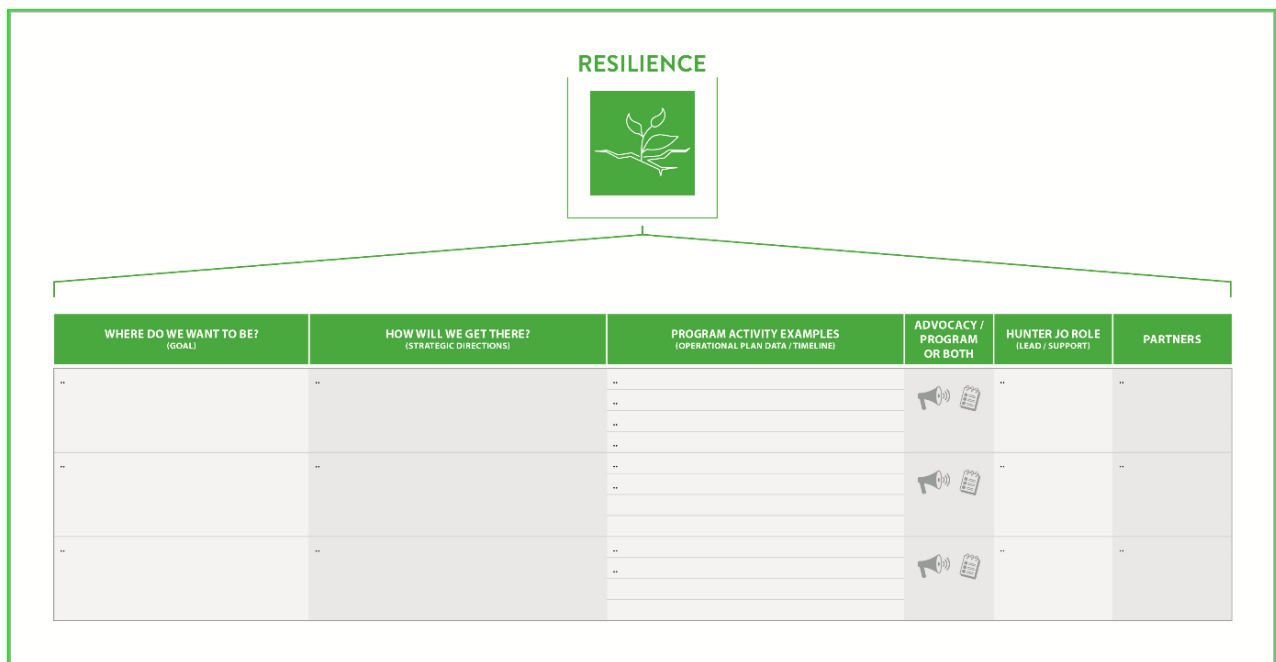
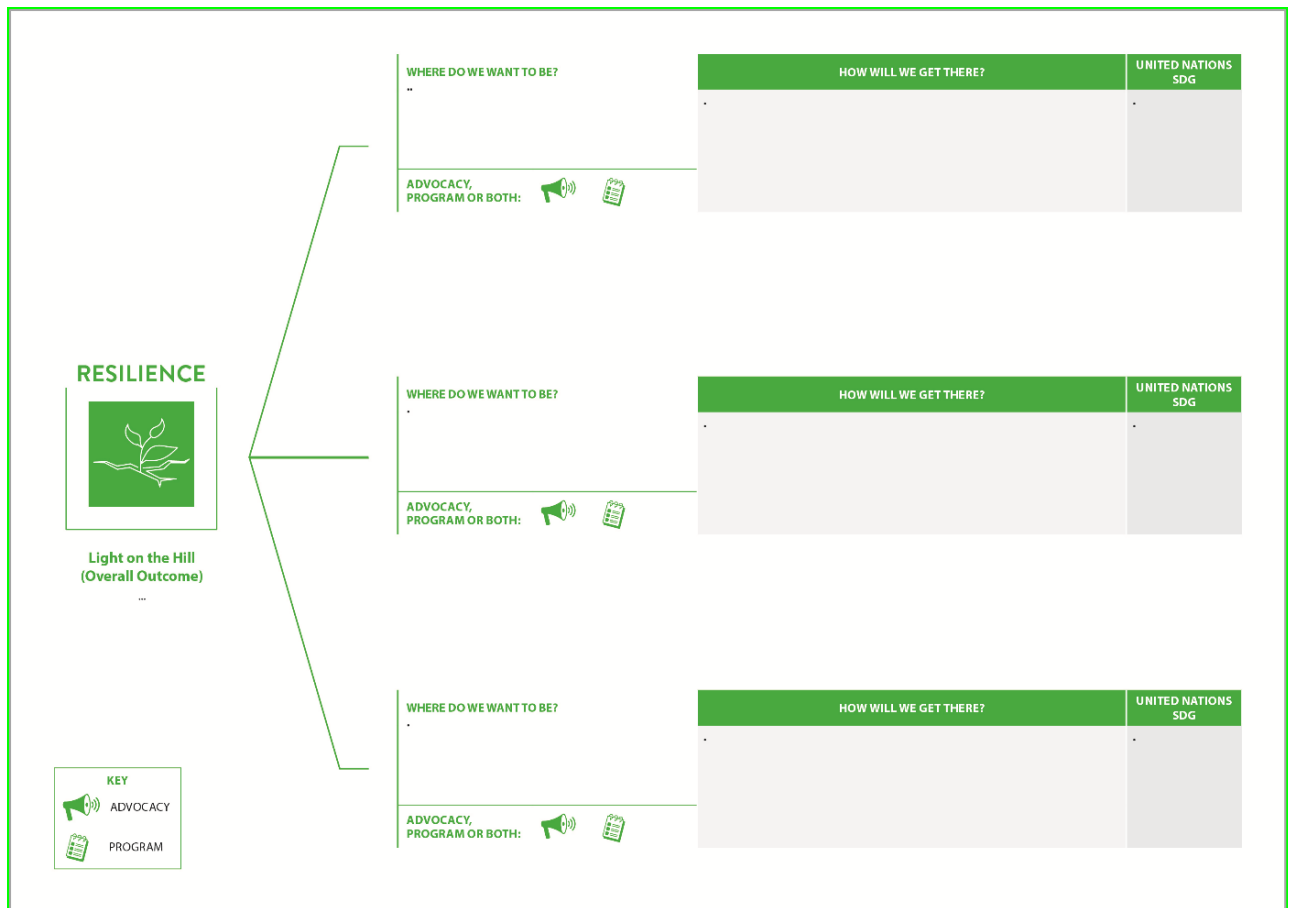
We have also developed an IP&R staff contact list for Hunter JO member Councils that will be utilised for engaging staff input to the Strategy development process. Initial briefings will be provided to these representatives at on-line drop in sessions being delivered on 30th September and 5th October for the Climate Change IP&R project.

A key step in the planning process on which we are now seeking input from the Board is the proposed framework for structuring the Strategic Plan. The four regional priority themes derived from the May planning workshop are being used to map the information needed for the Draft Strategy, using a similar approach to the development of a Council Community Strategic Plan. The feedback from the Strategy Day included the importance of being able to see the clear Advocacy priorities, which it is proposed will be identified for each key theme and high strategic priority area, as well as in the program activity information that will be used for the development of the Operational Plan.

An example of the draft frameworks for mapping each of the four Regional Theme Areas are included below for Connectivity and Resilience:



CONNECTIVITY					
WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE? (GOAL)	HOW WILL WE GET THERE? (STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS)	PROGRAM ACTIVITY EXAMPLES (OPERATIONAL PLAN DATA / TIMELINE)	ADVOCACY / PROGRAM OR BOTH	HUNTER JO ROLE (LEAD / SUPPORT)	PARTNERS
We are a region that is connected to each other and with connections beyond - regionally, nationally and global.	 
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It is proposed that early drafts of the mapped information for each of the Key Priority Themes will be brought the Hunter JO Board via workshop sessions, to obtain early feedback.

Recommendation:

- That the Hunter JO note the information and provide feedback.

7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Noting

7.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy

Report Author: Joe James, CEO

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of key collaboration and advocacy engagement since the last meeting of the Hunter JO. This includes key networks, meetings, workshops and forums in which the CEO and staff have recently participated in to facilitate and support intergovernmental collaboration.

The report provides an update for the last period on:

1. Advocacy (other than is reported in a project update or through a standing engagement)
2. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement
 - a. Political Engagements;
 - b. Existing Standing Engagements (convened by local government)
 - c. Existing Standing Engagements (convened by others)
 - d. Proposed New Standing Engagements
 - e. Additional Strategic Engagements (if any)
3. Submissions (in development or lodged)
4. Regional Funding Applications (status)

Advocacy

Current advocacy being undertaken by the JO includes:

Connectivity – Advocacy to leverage airport runway announcement

The Hunter JO is collaborating with Newcastle Airport, University of Newcastle, Committee for the Hunter and Hunter Business to develop a summit of key stakeholders for October 2021. An update on this initiative is included in Item 7.6.

Connectivity – Advocacy on integrated transport planning, delivery and funding

The update on this advocacy was provided to the board as an out-of-session briefing to the board on Wednesday 6 October 2021.

Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
Political Engagements	
No external political engagements since last board August HJO Board meeting	
Existing Standing Engagement (convened by Local Government)	
Hunter RMS Reference Group (Project) (convened by LMCC & Hunter JO)	This group has been engaging with Business Hunter and the Committee for Hunter on some potential joint regional advocacy. An out-of-session briefing to the board was held on 6 October 2021. The presentation was circulated to the Mayor and General Managers of Member Councils.

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	The advocacy policy content and process outlined in the presentation was supported with an additional request being that the proposed advocacy include a request for transparency on the Hunter Special Infrastructure Contribution.
Regional Planning Forum and Regional Economic Development Forum (convened by Hunter JO)	Combined meetings of these forums have continued, transitioning from a larger in person quarterly event to shorter on-line forums approximately 4 – 6 weeks apart. The most recent forum in August focused on providing Councils with an update on the status and directions of a number of important regional initiatives being delivered by the State Government, including the review of the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Plans, Hunter Regional Transport Plan and Hunter Identity and Positioning Project.
Planning Industry Workshop – Port Stephens Rezoning Reform and Placemaking	<p>The Hunter JO and Port Stephens Council collaborated to deliver an online regional workshop on 10 September 2021, which attracted nearly 50 participants from across Councils, State Government Agencies and the private planning and development industry. The workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided insights on the significant reform processes around local rezoning and placemaking processes implemented by Port Stephens Council, and their impact to date • Identified lessons arising from the reform process and potential opportunities for broader application in the Hunter region • Facilitated feedback and queries from council, agency and planning industry representatives
Hunter JO Circular Economy Sub-Committee (convened by Hunter JO)	The most recent meeting of the Sub-Committee was held 18 th August 2021. Updates were provided and feedback facilitated across a range of Circular Economy projects being delivered by member Councils through the Hunter JO with a range of project partners. These include the draft CE Roadmap, CE Procurement and City Scan projects.
• Hunter Regional Waste Strategy Group (convened by Hunter JO)	The Hunter JO has been hosting weekly sessions with Member Councils to share information and ideas around the public health order and its impacts on waste operations. The focus of this regular collaboration is to ensure the exchange of information across the region and to provide the opportunity for council staff during lockdown to discuss regional emergency management responses, as well as business continuity planning.

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
<p>Additional networks and regional forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter Circular Facilitators Group (jointly convened by Hunter JO & DPIE) • Regional Contaminated Land Working Group (convened by Hunter JO) • Committee for the Hunter (MOU monthly check-ins to discuss existing and potential collaboration opportunities) 	<p>Coordination of these regional forums continues to facilitate information sharing and collaboration across a range of shared interest focus areas between member councils, government agencies and other stakeholder organisations.</p>
Existing standing engagements (convened by others)	
<p>EPA Local Government Advisory Group (convened by NSW EPA)</p>	<p>The Advisory Group met on 27 August. The primary item was initial consultation on the Waste Delivery Plan. The Plan incorporates the commitments (specifically 5 year funding commitments) contained in the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy as well the EPA's Strategic Plan. Comment was sought in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The overall approach 2. Proposed sequencing and timing 3. Any obvious gaps that need to be addressed 4. Any opportunities that local government know of that can support this work. <p>This remains an important strategic relationship for local government generally. Strategic themes in the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning to a circular economy • Reducing carbon emissions • Managing risks of harmful and problematic waste • Supporting local government and communities in safely managing <p><i>Important strategic directions for the Board to be aware of are that the EPA is seeking to: (1) introduce a contestable funding model for local government; (2) facilitate joint procurement by councils of waste services</i></p>
<p>Regional Leadership Executive (convened by Regional NSW)</p>	<p>The RLE met on 31 August 2021. The main agenda items were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A briefing to the RLE on the Housing Taskforce 2. Partnering with Local Government – this session involved a presentation by OLG to state agencies on IP&R and then short presentations by each GM/CEO

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	on the priorities and opportunities for collaboration of each council.
Transition Hunter Central Coast (HCC) working group (convened by DPIE)	The Hunter JO has continued to participate in workshops and working group meetings convened over recent months to inform the development of region wide, multi-agency Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, to be considered by the Regional Leadership Executive by the end of 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Control Group Hunter Identity and Positioning • Hunter Identity and Positioning Local Government Reference Group (convened by Regional NSW) 	<p>The Hunter JO is represented on both the Project Control Group and the Local Government Reference Group for this initiative. Since the briefing provided to the August Hunter JO Board meeting, Regional NSW and HCCDC have determined to undertake further stakeholder / market based research prior to delivering the consultation sessions with Council Mayors and General Managers that was discussed.</p> <p>An action item has been raised in the GNMPSC for the CEO to enquire with HCCDC and Regional NSW about whether a decision has been made on whether further identity and positioning work would be undertaken in relation to Greater Newcastle (rather than the whole of Hunter), consistent with the action in the GNMP. If a decision has not been made, then clarity on the trigger and expected timing of decision should be sought.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Professional Officers Group NSW (convened by LGNSW) 	Mel Curtis has been invited by LGNSW to present to the next meeting of this state-wide network (comprising approximately 80 Councils) on the Act Now Climate Change IP&R Package.
<p>Additional networks and forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RLE Economic Development Sub-Committee (convened by Regional NSW) • RLE Human Services Sub Committee (convened by Regional NSW) • Metropolitan Regional Waste Coordinators Group (convened by NSW EPA) • Business Attraction Committee (convened by Regional NSW) • Local Government Climate Change Planning Toolkit Working Group (convened by DPIE) • Hunter Freight and Supply Chain Taskforce (convened by Committee for the Hunter) 	Participation in these regional forums continues to facilitate information sharing and collaboration across a range of shared interest focus areas between member councils, government agencies and other stakeholder organisations.
Proposed New Standing Engagements	

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
Regional Housing Task Group (to be convened by Regional NSW)	[Pending update from RNSW] To explore housing issues in further detail to identify specific actions that the RLE may consider piloting or how the experience in the Hunter and Central Coast may inform the broader policy work occurring within Government on this issue.
Additional Strategic Engagements	
Department of Regional NSW (Stephen Wills)	Resources for rejuvenation Expert Panel engagement
Planet Ark Circular Councils webinar (hosted by the Australian Circular Economy Hub).	On 24 th September Tim Askew presented to this seminar, alongside Edge Environment's Head of Circular Economy and Lifestyle Thinking, Jenni Philippe, and Sustainability Advantage's Senior Project Officer, Jonathan Wood. The focus of the webinar was on how local government organisations across Australia are embracing and leading the transition towards a circular economy.
Resilience NSW Workshop for Council Communicators	Mel Curtis is presenting to this Group on 23 rd September on the Local Disaster Communications Framework developed by the Hunter JO during 2020. Other presenters include Bureau of Meteorology, NSW Rural Fire Service and Resilience NSW.
NSW Waste Strategy Delivery Program	Hunter JO staff have been participating in a number of consultative workshops convened by the NSW EPA to communicate and invite feedback on the overall focus and breakdown of the NSW Waste Strategy Delivery Program.
Hunter Central Coast Regional Plan Review Steering Committee	<p>An overview of the “bronze” version of the draft Hunter Regional Plan was presented by DPIE to the Steering Committee at its meeting on 10 August, followed by a one week period in which to provide feedback on the document.</p> <p>Dan Simpkins from DPIE has been invited to provide an update to the board on the current status of the Regional Plan Review.</p>
Tesla	The Hunter JO has been approached directly by, and has met with Brett Murphy, Relationship Manager (Energy), Tesla, to explore the potential to work with the region’s councils through the Joint Organisation on a range of energy initiatives. The approach from Tesla was in recognition of the region being the first in Australia to have all Councils join the Cities Power Partnership program. Further meetings will be held to explore the opportunities that may be available.

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
NSW JO Chairs Forum	<p>JO Chairs Forum was held on 5th August 2021. Key Agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the OLG review of Joint Organisations • Report on LGNSW initiatives and advocacy • Overview of DPIE water training for Councillors • Namoi Regional Jobs Precinct • Regional Housing Taskforce (NB a combined submission from the JO Chairs Network to the Taskforce was subsequently prepared)
JO Network EOs Meetings	<p>The CEO and Director Policy and Programs continue to participate in fortnightly meetings of this network, which provides a valuable forum for understanding the issues being experienced across the NSW JO network, and a mechanism through which to collaborate with other JO's in areas of shared interest.</p> <p>As a collective this group recently engaged with the NSW EPA around delivery of the NSW Waste Strategy. This followed collaborative advocacy by the JO Chairs Network that encouraged the EPA to engage with JO's as a vehicle for facilitating the delivery of place based solutions to waste management.</p>

Regional Submissions

1. End to Transitional Arrangements under the NSW Coastal Management Act (2016)

Based on the advice of council staff and confirmation from General Managers, a letter has been forwarded (refer to Correspondence) to the Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock making a formal request for a 3-year extension to the transitional arrangements under the *NSW Coastal Management Act*, or that CZMP's still have effect until replaced by CMP's.

This follows the Hunter Central Coast Coastal Management Practitioners Roundtable (a regional council and agency staff forum), confirming the implications for councils of the 31 December 2021 end to the transitional arrangements. All Councils in the Hunter and Central Coast will have CMP's that are not completed by the cut-off date.

The implications for Councils include:

- Restrictions on the ability to apply for grant funding
- No requirement for Council's to consider existing Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP's) for either rezoning or development assessment processes in the gap period between the 31 December 2021 cut-off date and the adoption of a new CMP.
- A more resource intensive and lengthier approval pathway for some coastal protection works during this gap period.

2. NSW Regional Housing Taskforce Submission and Taskforce Report Key Findings

The Hunter JO participated in the Hunter region 'virtual roundtable' hosted by the NSW Housing Taskforce. While the Taskforce is focused on the 'barriers in the planning system' the JO took the

opportunity to communicate about the need to improve integrated land use planning, particularly focused on the need to reform transport planning and delivery within the Hunter and the deficit of investment. A number of other roundtable participants explicitly endorse the Hunter JO comments, leading to the taskforce asking the JO to provide a submission based on these issues.

A regional submission was subsequently lodged on behalf of member councils, which was a refresh of a previous Ministerial brief, sent to State Government in early 2020. The new submission reflected the improvement by TfNSW around resourcing and processing but highlighted the ongoing challenge presented by lack of integration, funding and delivery over many years.

The highlighted key findings of the Taskforce Findings Report (September 2021) are extracted below and are consistent with the advocacy of the Hunter JO:

- While housing issues in regional NSW need to be understood in the context of broader housing trends, there are also unique factors and challenges in regional housing markets that frustrate the delivery of the right types of homes in the right locations and at the right time.
- There is a need for improved upfront strategic planning to resolve issues earlier in the planning process, including better alignment of the work of planning and other State agencies, to ensure that subsequent planning processes can be streamlined, and that development can be timely and well co-ordinated.
- There is understood to be sufficient residential zoned land across most of regional NSW to accommodate forecast demand over a number of years, but not all land that is currently zoned for housing can or will be developed.
- Approaches to infrastructure planning, delivery and coordination need to be improved to unblock regional housing supply.

3. NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation

A workshop session was held with Council staff on 16th September to identify the potential for making a regional submission on proposed amendments to the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act regulation. A draft submission has been formulated based on the feedback provided at the workshop and further information received from Councils. Councils contributing information directly to the submission included Newcastle, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Port Stephens.

Status of Regional Funding Applications

There are currently no live funding applications on which advice is pending

Recommendation:

- **That the report be received and noted.**

Report Author: Lisa Lord, Head of Finance

Responsible Officer: Joe James - CEO

Summary

This month's financial reports see an update in the presentation and formatting of the reports. Whilst there is some change in the formatting and presentation, the information contained within the reports is largely the same as prior board reports supplied.

The purpose of the Financial report is to provide clear and concise financial information that allows more confident decision making within the company. Over the next few months, a Balance Sheet and consolidated Cashflow Report will be added to this monthly report. This reformatted report also ties in with the automation of the report building, moving away from the previous mechanical/manual method of collating the reports, with the aim of removing human error, with respect to the creation of the reports.

Financial Handover & Process Review

This report is for the period August YTD. Commencing employment at the beginning of a lockdown (I reside on the Central Coast and was previously classed as Greater Sydney), combined with Graham's personal circumstance, has led to a unconventional start with a disconnected handover (through no fault of the all the parties involved). During the handover period, I was only able to sit with Graham face to face on two occasions. This has led to a number of gaps in my knowledge which I have been diligently working through, by working backwards to move forwards and have been working with each of the Business Units to decrease those knowledge gaps. In addition to this I am undertaking a full review of the current financial gaps and processes to identify any gaps and work on solutions for the future. This is being undertaken over the next few months.

Items of note in this report include the following:

- Some revenue and expenses originally budgeted to all show in one month, have been spread across the year, to allow for better reporting and management of monthly margin reporting.
- Net leave provisions are being recorded for each business unit on a monthly basis, rather than at the end of the financial year. Leave provisions have not been accounted for in the budget, but it is expected that this will not have a significant impact over the Financial Year. The total of Salaries and Wages and Leave provisions is expected to stay reasonable within the total budget. This will however be monitored during the year and any significant change will be advised.
- Consultants fees included in this month in HJO that belong to FY21.

The Profit & Loss Statement is provided as Attachment 6.

Recommendation:

- **That the Profit and Loss Statement for period ending August 2021 be received and noted.**

Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director – Policy and Programs Division

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

PROGRAM DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS

Action Area 2. Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently

2.1 Continue to work together to deliver the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy.

Project / Program Name	Contaminated Land Capacity Building Program
Program / Project Lead	Peter Brennan
Capacity Building Workshops Workshops for Council staff recently delivered through the regional program include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contaminated Land Asset Management Workshop This workshop focused on building the awareness and capacity of council asset management staff to manage contaminated land issues. Initially delivered to Lake Macquarie City Council staff, the workshop will now be offered to other member Councils involved in the Regional Contaminated Land Program.2. Asbestos in Soils Workshop This workshop focused on how to manage asbestos in soils including how to ensure waste is appropriately classified and managed. Importantly, it sought to assist Councils effectively and efficiently manage contaminated land risks through the development application process. The workshop was attended by staff across a range of roles within Councils, helping to ensure the information provided transcends departmental boundaries and roles.	
Project / Program Name	Small Acts Big Change Program
Program / Project Lead	Eloise Lobsey
Mini-lockdown series The Small Acts Big Change program recently delivered a mini-lockdown series highlighting some simple tips and tricks to help our communities reduce their waste while at home. This mini-series was comprised of five social media tiles covering problems such as food waste, textiles waste, and plastic waste. This delivers on the program's thematic focuses. Tips and tricks included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boxing up charity shop donations while going through your wardrobe• Reducing your food waste by learning new recipes instead of ordering in• Reducing your food waste by writing a shopping list• How to practice sustainable fashion when online shopping during lockdown• Boxing up problem waste, such as batteries or oil bottles, for when CRCs reopen	
Good for the Hood community environmental workshops Due to continued COVID restrictions changes have been made to our upcoming "Good for the Hood" community environmental workshops. On the 30th of September (12:30-1:30pm), there will now be an online workshop hosted by Muswellbrook Shire Council that will be open to all Hunter region residents. This workshop will focus on what a more connected community could look like and	

how to tackle loneliness and improve social inclusion while helping the environment. The Upper Hunter, Cessnock, Maitland, and Port Stephens workshops are now being moved to February so they can be delivered in person.

2.2. Establish a Coastal Resilience Sub Committee, made up of representative from relevant Hunter JO Councils, to increase collaboration in planning for climate change.

Project / Program Name	Act Now on Adaptation Coastal Wise Communities (Act Now)
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis
<p>The Act Now project is funded under the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Grants Program, which is administered by LGNSW on behalf of DPIE. This project is delivering a proactive evidence based coastal adaptation communication and engagement resource for the Hunter and Central Coast region and a Climate Change IP&R Package which provides a pathway to embed Climate Change response into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework of Councils. Current project activities and outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Climate Change Package has been developed that provides 3 commitment level options for Councils to choose from, and accompanying resources for each. These resources include IP&R statements, objectives and actions, document text inserts and resources. • A contact list of Council staff working on IP&R and Climate Change has been created. This will be utilised to engage Council staff in the project, particularly in the review and refinement of the IP&R package • On-line drop in sessions for staff have been scheduled for 30 September and 5 October, to provide Councils with an overview of the package. Further drop in sessions will be held when the working draft version of the package is distributed to Councils in mid-late October • Two Project Fact Sheets have been developed and distributed to Council staff, to raise awareness of the project, facilitate and encourage participation and engagement in the project, and provide the opportunity to provide feedback <p>Refer Item 7.7 for a more detailed report on the project.</p>	

2.3 Work together to find an effective recycling solution for the region.

Project / Program Name	Circular Economy Program
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
<p>Planet Ark Circular Councils webinar</p> <p>Tim askew, Hunter JO Regional Policy and Program Manager, presented alongside Edge Environment's Head of Circular Economy and Lifestyle Thinking, Jenni Philippe, and Sustainability Advantage's Senior Project Officer, Jonathan Wood in Planet Ark's first Circular Councils webinar on 24th September. Hosted by the Australian Circular Economy Hub, the webinar series is focused on how local government organisations across Australia are embracing and leading the transition towards a circular economy. Tim's presentation focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The achievements from member councils working through the Hunter JO to progress Circular Economy initiatives • The importance of collaborative approaches • Actions your council can take • How to access existing resources including policy, research and government support 	

Action Area 3. Our economy is multifaceted, resilient and is Australia's leading regional economy

3.3 Deepen relationships with the Department of Planning and Environment and the Hunter Development Corporation and gain a commitment to a formal JO role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 and Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036. Be an effective and outcome-oriented committee member.

Project / Program Name	Population Scenario Planning
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
<p>The consultant working on this project has completed a draft regional population scenario planning report that will underpin consultation workshops with Councils, state agencies and key regional stakeholders to be fully completed during October. Internal planning on workshop design is currently being finalised. Four workshops will be delivered in total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 x subregional Council focused workshops (Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and Mid Coast)• 1 x Agency / stakeholder workshop	

3.4 Work with the Upper Hunter Regional Leadership Executive to deliver the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project Action Plan, monitor its success and review as needed

Project / Program Name	Hunter Venture Fund
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
<p>The purpose of establishing a Hunter venture Fund is to fill funding, investment and capability shortfalls to 2050, that are required to help the Hunter Region plan for change that is accelerated by advancing energy technologies that will reduce the world's reliance on coal over time.</p> <p>The focus of the current project being delivered includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development of a Pitch Deck that enables the Hunter JO to approach government and the funds management industry about investing in the Hunter Venture Fund (HVF)2. A Structuring Report that provides recommendations on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structure, function and design of the HVF; and• Any further investigations that might be required to support the evidence base for the need for the fund. <p>The consultant engaged to deliver the project, Henshall Capital PL, is currently undertaking initial consultation with key contacts in the local investment ecosystem including: HunterIF, MELT, Hunter Angels, InvestNSW and potential investment parties. Next steps will involve continuing consultations across the ecosystem from supply of funds to demand for funds, and synthesising those discussions to create a draft straw man as to what the components of a potential regional fund may look like.</p>	

3.6 Develop a sustainable model to coordinate council-run events across the region and showcase the Hunter and attract local, national and international visitors.

Project / Program Name	Accelerating Event Economies
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
<p>The aim of this project is to strengthen the region's collective voice and the capacity of Councils to collaboratively pitch for major events for the region. It includes undertaking an events and opportunity audit, and identifying, preparing and implementing shared destination and even management resources including an event managers toolkit, prospectus, website and integrated council shared services, approvals and event data.</p>	

It was announced in July 2021 that funding of \$861,000 would be provided to the project from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF). Since that time the focus of project activity has been finalising administrative details (project plans, payment milestones & funding agreements) with Regional NSW to facilitate the provision of funds to enable the project to commence. Stakeholder identification and mapping against project processes and outputs is also currently underway.

3.7 Work with Destination NSW, Newcastle Airport and other partners to more strongly promote the Hunter as a multifaceted visitor destination. Develop a regional destination management plan.

Project / Program Name	Airport Runway Upgrade Summit
Program / Project Lead	Steve Wilson
<p>Building upon the earlier 2021 announcement of the upgrade of the Newcastle Airport runway to Code E Status, the Hunter JO is leading a collaborative partnership between the Hunter JO, Newcastle Airport, Committee for the Hunter, Business Hunter and the University of Newcastle to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build collaborative processes and systems within the region to collectively identify and actively pursue key international opportunities for expanding the Airport's economic contribution to the Region 2. Directly support the expansion of international Airport related business and industry as a primary contributor to the Hunter Region's economic growth and diversification. <p>Project planning is well underway, with key outputs to be delivered including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An online roundtable workshop (November 2021) to build interest, awareness and engagement by key regional stakeholder organisations in the design and planning of the Regional Airport summit to be delivered in 2022 2. Regional Airport Summit (February 2022) – This major face to face (1-2 day event) will identify and develop deeper understanding of the knowledge gaps for sectors that will be enabled through the runway upgrade, and identify and target specific and real outcomes for key industry, community and government sectors that can capitalise on the improved international connectivity that will result from the airport runway upgrade. 3. Development of a regional "Flightpath to the Future" Opportunities Report, which will document the opportunities and aligned priorities identified through the roundtable and summit, and the actions needed to progress their delivery. 4. A suite of communication and advocacy collateral (print, social media, short videos) to provide an ongoing package of communication resources to support the JO and regional stakeholders continue to engage with and advocate to key decision makers at all levels of government and industry (domestically and internationally), of the importance and return to be realised from supporting or investing in the regional opportunities and investment priorities identified through the summit process. <p>Refer Item 7.6 for more detailed information on the airport summit project</p>	

Full Hunter JO Program Delivery Report

Refer Attachment 7 "Hunter JO Program Activity Report" for information on the full range of programs being delivered.

Recommendation:

- That the report be received and noted.

Report Author: Steve Wilson

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

7.4.1 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on recent processes and recommendations of the GNMP Sub Committee, which met on 7th October 2021. The focus of that meeting was considering and making recommendations regarding the following reports:

1. Evaluation of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Steering Committee
2. DRAFT Options Paper – Review of Governance Options for Delivery of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan

Background

Development of the above reports were developed in line with the following resolutions of the Hunter JO Board:

Date	Hunter JO Board Resolution
8 th April 2021	<p>That an Options Paper be developed by the Hunter JO, in collaboration with GNMP Councils that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviews any existing analysis of the governance model for the GNMP as well as existing regional governance models and legislative mechanisms established to drive collaborative delivery of regional plans• Identifies potential alternative governance models and legislative mechanisms that could also be appropriate for delivering on the principles established within the MoU for GNMP delivery• Provides recommendations on a preferred model and a process for progressing its establishment in collaboration with the NSW Government.
10 th June 2021	<p>That</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Board endorse the Hunter JO assuming responsibility for the secretariat of the GNMP Subcommittee.• the Board endorse the proposed process and time frame for completing an evaluation of the GNMP Subcommittee

Both reports also reflected the outcomes of individual consultation sessions held during August and September with each of the following organisations represented on the Steering Committee:

Organisation	Participants
City of Newcastle	Lord Mayor and CEO
Lake Macquarie City Council	Mayor and CEO
Port Stephens Council	Mayor and General Manager
Maitland City Council	Mayor and General Manager
Cessnock City Council	Mayor and General Manager

Organisation	Participants
Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation	Anna Chubb, Director, Strategy
Regional NSW	Alison McGaffin, Director
Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment	Dan Simpkins, Director - Central Coast and Hunter
Transport for NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Zycki, Regional Director, North • Paul McLachlan, Director Planning - North • Luke Homann, Director Northern Region Transport Planning

This consultation aimed to:

Committee evaluation

- Identify existing perceptions and expectations as to the role and functions of the GNMP Standing Committee in its current format;
- Understand the key benefits / outcomes for each organisation arising from the operation of the Standing Committee, including key achievements to date;
- Identify potential issues or limitations with the current structure and systems of the Standing Committee that are thought to be constraining its potential effectiveness; and
- Identify recommendations / opportunities for improving the Committee structure, systems or processes to provide enhanced support, coordination and monitoring to GNMP delivery.

Draft Options paper

- Identify / confirm and explore key issues being experienced by stakeholder organisations with existing governance arrangements surrounding implementation of the GNMP;
- Provide feedback on the potential advantages and disadvantages of alternative regional governance models and/or legislative mechanisms identified through the Options Paper drafting process;
- Identify the primary elements considered necessary for inclusion in any potential alternative governance model for driving delivery of the GNMP; and
- Identify potential additional governance models to those identified in drafting the Options Paper that could also be appropriate for delivering on the principles established within the MoU for GNMP delivery.

Report

The overall conclusions of each report and the recommendations endorsed by the Sub Committee in response to each at its 7th October meeting included:

1. Committee Evaluation

The consultation process identified that across both councils and state agencies represented on the Steering Committee, the role of the Steering Committee as a regional collaborative forum is valued. However, there currently exists a lack of clarity around the Committee's purpose, functions and level of authority in "overseeing" implementation of the GNMP, as defined by the current Committee Terms of Reference.

Addressing this foundational issue is considered the priority next step in reviewing the role and functions of the Committee. This is because the future form and processes underpinning the operation of the Committee will necessarily be aligned to its agreed purpose and role.

It is considered that core to identifying this purpose and role, will be the need to collectively analyse the current context of the Committee, to co-define the problem to be addressed by the Committee's ongoing operations, and to collaboratively identify the focus (the "light on the hill") for the Committee moving forward.

In response to these findings the Subcommittee resolved:

1. *That the Committee recognise the value of the Steering Committee as a regional collaborative forum, and agree on the need to refine and amend the Committee's purpose and Terms of Reference to ensure it continues to be an effective advocate and contributor to GNMP coordination and delivery*
2. *That the Committee recognise that the statutory authority to govern implementation of the GNMP sits outside of local government and the State Government agency (HCCDC) charged with its implementation. The Committee's role predominantly comprises:*
 - *Regional level advocacy by GNMP Councils through the Hunter JO*
 - *Facilitating collaboration among GNMP delivery partners across the breadth of focus areas encompassed within the GNMP**NB. The value of Local Strategic Planning Statements in delivering the GNMP is recognised.*
3. *That Committee representatives commit to participating in a dedicated workshop session in which to collaboratively align the expectations and directions of Committee members to redefine the focus, role, Terms of Reference and resourcing for the Steering Committee moving forward.*

2. Draft Options Paper – Review of Governance Options

The draft Options paper identifies a number of governance models already being implemented within NSW, or soon to be implemented within the Hunter region, that to varying degrees have the potential to address the issues raised by the GNMP Steering Committee and Hunter JO Board more broadly. From the high-level assessment undertaken, these options include a Metropolitan Planning Commission, Place based Infrastructure Compacts, A City Deal and the Place Delivery Group proposed within the draft Hunter Regional Plan 2041. The analysis also identifies that while each of these models may address a number of core planning principles and issues to a similar extent, there are also differences and nuances between each that would require more detailed analysis to determine the most suitable model for the GNMP region.

The outcomes from the consultation undertaken with all organisations represented on the GNMP Steering Committee, identified that while there is generally alignment across both Council and Agency stakeholders of the need to improve regional governance arrangements surrounding implementation of the GNMP, there is limited or no alignment (across both agencies and councils) as to what that preferred governance model should be. In regard to moving forward however, the consultation also confirmed a strong level of interest in improving collaboration and alignment around:

- Co-defining the core of the problem that needs to be addressed.
- Collaboratively developing a shared objective / consensus on the governance outcome that needs to be achieved (a "light on the hill"), and identifying the next steps on which to focus to progress toward that objective.

In response to the draft report the Committee resolved:

1. *That the Committee recognise that there are a range of governance mechanisms already in place surrounding implementation of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan, however at an overall level these remain fragmented. There is a need for:*

- *Greater regional input and influence in decision making on projects and initiatives that will principally shape the region and its future*
 - *Increased local (regionally based) leadership and involvement in tactical decision making, to facilitate understanding of and accountability around decision making at a local level, and to avoid a disconnect with place by State Government decision making around the delivery of local resources and programs.*
 - *Greater accountability around the prioritisation, sequencing and resourcing of delivery of the GNMP Implementation Plan by delivery partners. Responsibility and accountability for the delivery of actions within the GNMP is presently dispersed and fragmented across a range of agencies and stakeholder organisations. There would be substantial benefit in establishing a central coordinating body or model with responsibility for ensuring the diversity of actions included in the Plan are effectively and appropriately delivered within an appropriate timeframe.*
 - *Greater accountability within central government for prioritising the policy framework and resourcing needed to deliver key State Government Planning documents such as the GNMP.*
 - *More sophisticated approaches to planning and investment. Coordination of planning, infrastructure and budgets across delivery agencies will deliver better outcomes from public investment in the region. State-led innovations to integrate planning and investment in the Sydney metro provide a benchmark for best practice, yet they are not being applied in contemporary planning processes and outputs in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area.*
 - *Improving the currently fragmented governance approach to GNMP delivery to enhance strategic planning and investment in the region, at a time when such investment is critical to support the region transform and diversify its economy in the face of major structural adjustments in the energy, resources and manufacturing sectors.*
2. *That the Committee recognise that neither the GNMP Steering Committee or HCCDC have any statutory authority to compel delivery partners to implement aspects of the GNMP. Their role predominantly one of facilitating collaboration.*
 3. *That the Committee resolve to work collaboratively on developing a shared objective / consensus on the governance outcome that needs to be achieved (a “light on the hill”), and in identifying the next steps on which to focus to progress toward that objective.*
 4. *That a commitment be sought from the NSW Government to participate in a collaborative process of this nature, where ideally the outcomes is a governance model that will be the focus of a joint recommendation from the Committee to NSW Government Ministers.*
 5. *That the GNMP Steering Committee is an essential participant in the review of the GNMP*

7.4.2 Circular Economy Sub Committee

The most recent meeting of the Circular Sub-Committee was held 18th August 2021. Updates were provided and feedback facilitated across a range of Circular Economy projects being delivered by member Councils through the Hunter JO with a range of project partners. These projects include:

1. Circular Economy Roadmap

The purpose of this project is to:

1. Develop a common understanding and definition for the circular economy of the region relevant to all stakeholders – government, business and academia.
2. Gain broad regional support and engagement for the development of a circular economy in the Hunter and Central Coast region.
3. Develop a strategic roadmap for the region that is:

- aspirational and helps partners and stakeholders understand roles and measures of success
 - practical in that it manages and objectively prioritises the range of ideas and initiatives being put forward by stakeholders
4. Create an identity for the region as a leader in the transition to a circular economy and as a place to do Circular Economy activities, providing business attraction and local support for the circular economy
 5. Provide leverage and connect with other key circular economy frameworks and strategies at all levels of government

The draft Roadmap has now been developed, with its release pending an update (currently underway) of the Hunter Circular website to enable it to host the Roadmap and facilitate engagement with the Roadmap by Circular Economy stakeholders, both within and beyond the region.

2. Circular Economy Procurement Project

The purpose of this project is to support Councils to prioritise recycled materials and circular economy services in their procurement systems and processes, and to collaborate with the Hunter JO and other participating councils to develop a common framework for a joint regional procurement of recycled materials.

A consultant, Edge Environment, was engaged during August to deliver the project. A Council engagement plan has been developed and is now being implemented to support the initial stage of the project which is focused on data gathering.

3. City Scan Project.

Work has now been finalised on this collaborative project between the Hunter JO, Lake Macquarie City Council, Newcastle Council, Central Coast Council and the University of Newcastle. The project has used the City Scan tool as method to analyse circular economy data for the Hunter. A communications strategy with all parties is now being developed to communicate outcomes and how to access the data.

7.4.3 Regional Economic Transition Sub Committee

The principle work of the Committee under its Terms of Reference, addressing economic structural change, continues in light of the Board's decision in August to pivot from a singular focus on the implementation of a Foundation. See the update report at *Item 7.12 Progressing the Economic Transformation Priority in 2021-22 to 2050*.

The Committee Chair, Mayor Sue Moore, is working with the CEO to convene a Committee meeting before the Local Government elections and in light of the developments with the Hunter Expert Panel.

Recommendation:

- **That the Board note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees**
- **That a meeting of the Regional Economic Transition Sub-Committee be called prior to the Local Government elections in December 2021, to discuss the Hunter Expert Panel.**

A verbal update will be provided by Regional NSW as a standing item to the Board.

Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

Background

Correspondence (refer Item 5) has recently been received from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), on behalf of the Hunter Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping (HCCRID) Committee, inviting the Hunter JO to commence discussions regarding the potential support it could provide around hosting of the Hunter RID Squad.

This follows Lake Macquarie City Council identifying at its 26th July Council meeting that it is no longer appropriate for that Council to host the RID Squad, and resolving via a Notice of Motion to:

- A. commit to ongoing support for the RID Squad, noting the successes that they have had in reducing illegal dumping throughout our city, and bringing those who do break the law to justice.
- B. during the 3-month transition period, proactively assist the EPA with negotiations to enter into a new hosting arrangement with preferably the Hunter Joint Organisation, or alternatively other full member councils of the RID Squad to take over the Host Council function.
- C. provide Councillors with regular updates as to the progress of negotiations regarding this matter

Report

Subsequent discussions by the EPA with the Hunter RID Committee have identified that all members have expressed strong commitment to continuing a regional approach to illegal dumping. Member councils of the RID program have also expressed support in commencing discussions with the Hunter JO about the support it could offer in this regard.

In initially considering the request that has been made, it is considered that the Hunter JO:

- Is strategically aligned on the regional outcome (ie it is pre-disposed to support collaborative solutions to shared problems)
- Is not yet in a position to be able to make a decision as to whether it is the right organisational outcome for the Hunter JO to host the RID Squad. A recommendation of this nature cannot be made to member councils until the operational impact on management capacity and internal systems is understood. For the HJO it would be like taking on another small business.
- To make this decision will require adequate resources and time to undertake a due diligence process to determine the feasibility and most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were it to be hosted by the JO.

A preliminary discussion has been held between the EPA and Hunter JO which has confirmed that:

- Discussions with individual RID Squad Member Councils are underway to ensure the continued employment of RID Squad staff until a permanent hosting arrangement is determined

- The EPA supports an approach that enables the region to pause, in order to adequately review and evaluate the most appropriate RID Squad model and hosting arrangements for the region moving forward
- The EPA will be able to contribute resources to support the Hunter JO undertake a review and due diligence process prior to making any recommendations to member Councils.

A presentation was provided by the NSW EPA to GMAC at its 30 September meeting on the current situation, transitional arrangements that have been put in place, and confirming their commitment to partner with councils through the Hunter JO to find an alternative regional hosting arrangement for the RID Squad. This was accompanied by a report from Hunter JO staff outlining the information provided above, and recommending that, subject to adequate resourcing being provided by the NSW EPA that the Hunter JO initiate a due diligence assessment to:

- Review existing state-wide approaches to the management of RID Squads
- Determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the RID Squad
- Identifying the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were it to be hosted by the Hunter JO.

This recommendation was endorsed by GMAC. Hunter JO staff are now working with the EPA to confirm the level of resources available to complete this process. Subject to these resources being deemed adequate, a further report seeking a decision from the Board will be provided after completion of the due diligence assessment.

Recommendation:

- **That the report be received and noted.**

Report Author: Melinda Curtis, Regional Policy and Program Manager - Environment

Responsible Officer: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy and Programs

Purpose:

To provide an overview of recent changes to delivery of the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program.

Link to Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2018-21 (Aspire.Act.Achieve).

Action Area	Action Area 1. Our communities stay inclusive, proud and safe and celebrate diversity
Action	1.4. Continue to work together to deliver the programs to increase community resilience and preparedness for natural disasters through the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy

Background

The Hunter Regional Disaster Preparedness Project commenced in April 2020 as a two-year partnership between the Hunter JO and Resilience NSW to:

- Increase council capability to prepare, respond to and recover from disaster events
- Improve collaboration between local councils and agencies
- Strengthen local emergency management plans, based on rigorous assessment of risk
- Establish local recovery plans that are adaptable to a range of risks
- Identify priority systems, strategies and investments (within and across Council areas) to mitigate risks to the community, Council operations and critical infrastructure
- Integrate climate change adaption strategies into emergency management systems
- Enable councils to engage communities and businesses to prepare for / build resilience to disasters
- Establish regional networks focused on building Council and community resilience

The project was one of 3 similar pilots being delivered with Joint Organisations (Hunter, North Coast and Canberra region), which involved a Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer employed directly by Resilience NSW being hosted within the Joint Organisation to work with the JO and its member Councils on disaster resilience projects.

Report

Resilience NSW is currently undergoing a significant transformation to establish itself as the Executive Agency that leads and coordinates disaster prevention, management and recovery. Core to these changes is the establishment of a dedicated Local Coordination and Service Delivery (LCSD) Division, which will connect with local government, community groups and Joint Organisations to support the development and implementation of resilience and emergency management activities. The LCSD Division will operate across 6 Regions:

- Greater & Metro Sydney
- Illawarra-Shoalhaven & South East
- Mid Coast & North Coast
- New England, North West & Hunter Central Coast
- Central West, Orana & Far West
- Riverina Murray

Melissa Gore has commenced in the role of Director for the New England, North West and Hunter Central Coast LCSD Division in which she will be supported by a team of 10 staff, recruitment for which will be finalised by the end of October 2021. Skye Moore who was the Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer based in the Hunter JO has accepted and commenced the new role of Manager -Local Government Liaison for the New England, North West & Hunter Central Coast.

Implications for the Hunter Regional Disaster Preparedness Program

As a part of the implementation of Resilience NSW's new service delivery model under the LCSD Division, we have been advised that the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program will transition from a pilot program, to become part of the core business of the LCSD Division. This means all current programs and support being delivered through the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program, including funding of the Disaster Dashboards (until December 2022), will continue, albeit from a structural perspective from within Resilience NSW.

This reflects early insights from the Regional Disaster Preparedness Program evaluation (undertaken by Elton consulting) showing that Councils have valued having greater access to information and knowledge and have been able to strengthen their connection to other Councils and State Government agencies via the Regional Disaster Preparedness programs. Resilience NSW is looking to continue and build upon the relationships already formed with the Hunter JO and member Councils when developing further strategies and investment to reduce risk and strengthen the resilience of our local communities.

The immediate implications for the Hunter JO arising from the structural change that we have been able to identify include:

- The Regional Disaster Preparedness Officer will no longer be a co-hosted role based within the Hunter JO.
- There are no immediate financial implications. Resilience NSW have confirmed they will provide the Hunter JO with payment of \$13,300 (ex GST), committed via a Memorandum of Understanding, to support administration costs during the 2nd year (2021/22 financial year) of the Pilot Program
- It is anticipated that regional disaster preparedness projects delivered to Councils will no longer be co-badged as a Hunter JO and Resilience NSW initiative given that support of this nature will become structurally embedded as core business within the LCSD Division of resilience NSW.

Hunter JO staff will be meeting with the Director (Mel Gore) and Manager Local Government Liaison (Skye Moore) for the New England, North West & Hunter Central Coast, to discuss and define the operational relationship moving forward between the Hunter JO, member Councils and Resilience NSW.

Recommendation:

- **That the report be received and noted.**

Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy and Programs

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

At its 12th August 2021 meeting the Hunter JO Board endorsed the following:

- *Hunter JO support the concept of a Regional Airport Summit to maximise the likelihood of and accelerate the delivery of regional benefits from the upgraded capacity and capability of the Airport;*
- *Hunter JO lead the delivery of a Regional Airport Summit to utilise its independence and whole-of-region reach to demonstrate leadership and advocacy in achieving whole-of-region outcomes;*
- *Board authorise the CEO to use the OLG capacity building funding, subject to finalisation of an approved project description with OLG, to support delivery of the Summit.*

Since that time the following objectives have been established for the project:

1. To build the capacity of the Hunter JO to establish its reputation and credentials as a primary and sustained driver and facilitator of collaboration between all levels of government, business, industry and community groups in the Hunter Region.
2. To build and demonstrate collaborative processes and systems between the Hunter JO, state government agencies, business and industry groups to collectively identify and actively pursue key international opportunities for expanding the Airport's economic contribution to the Region
3. To directly support the expansion of international Airport related business and industry as a primary contributor to the Hunter Region's economic growth and diversification.

Project planning for the summit is also well underway, including:

- A Project Partner Planning Group has been established and is meeting weekly to plan and coordinate project delivery. Partner organisations include the Hunter JO, Newcastle Airport, Committee for the Hunter, Business Hunter and University of Newcastle
- An internal Hunter JO project management team meets weekly to plan and coordinate the Hunter JO project work program
- The project proposal has been submitted to the NSW Office of Local Government to consider for approval
- Kate Robinson from the University of Newcastle has been appointed in a consulting capacity to build the necessary capacity to support project design and delivery coordination given the relatively short time frame over which the project will be delivered.
- Determining the focus and structure of the first key project deliverable, an Airport Summit Roundtable to be delivered 16th November 2021 (see project deliverables below) has been completed
- Stakeholder identification and mapping pertaining to involvement in, and the nature of involvement in various project activities is underway, as is the crafting of the strategic communication messages through which to engage stakeholders in the roundtable and summit.

Key project deliverables will include:

Project Deliverable	Description
Airport Summit Roundtable	Online workshop to be delivered 16 th November 2021 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build interest, awareness and engagement by key regional stakeholder organisations in the design and planning of a Regional Airport summit to be delivered in February 2022.

Project Deliverable	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To capture the knowledge and expertise of a targeted group of industry experts / stakeholders to assist with shaping the summit design and processes, including identifying gaps and opportunities for exploring at the Summit in February.
Regional Airport Summit <i>NB Originally forecast for delivery in November 2021, the risk posed by COVID to such a large face to face gathering has resulted in the summit itself being rescheduled for February 2022, but now being preceded by the additional online "summit roundtable" in November 2021.</i>	This major face to face (1-2 day event) will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and develop deeper understanding of the knowledge gaps for sectors that will be enabled through the runway upgrade. Activate the region (business and community) to begin to plan and assess how they will leverage the new international air traffic possibilities Increase awareness of the opportunity and develop a strong positive narrative with government and international airline customers Identify and target specific and real outcomes for key industry, community and government sectors that can capitalise on the improved international connectivity that will result from the airport runway upgrade.
"Flightpath to the Future" Opportunities Report	The regional opportunities identified through the summit will be documented and further analysed within a regional "Flightpath to the Future" report. This will analyse the opportunities identified at the summit, to further explore and validate their relative merit and priority, and to identify the key "next steps" needed to effectively progress their delivery. This output will directly support the ongoing advocacy and program development work undertaken by the JO to continue to promote and develop the economic development opportunities for the region arising from the airport runway upgrade.
Regional Advocacy Collateral	A suite of communication and advocacy collateral (print, social media, short video's) will be developed in conjunction with delivery of the summit. These will provide an ongoing package of communication resources to support the JO and regional stakeholders continue to engage with and advocate to key decision makers at all levels of government and industry (domestically and internationally), of the importance and return to be realised from supporting or investing in the regional opportunities and investment priorities identified through the summit process. These resources will also include development of a regional advocacy plan. This will identify the advocacy pathway forward, including key messages to be communicated, audiences to be targeted, and strategies and timeframe for engagement.

To date, the Project Partner Planning Group has identified the following regional industry sectors and areas of opportunity / gaps as priorities to be targeted by the summit.

Sector	Areas of Opportunity / Gaps to be addressed
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism / Visitor, Friends and Relatives Travel Economy • Business & Education • Agribusiness and value add industries • Manufacturing • Defence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity • Freight • Ease of Access • Regulatory environment • Involvement of creative and technology industries
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Recommendation:

- **That the report be received and noted.**

Report Author: Melinda Curtis, Regional Policy and Program Manager - Environment

Responsible Officer: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy and Programs

Purpose:

To provide an update on the development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Climate Change Package, one of two sub projects of the Act Now on Adaptation Coastal Wise Communities (Act Now) Project being delivered by member Councils through the Hunter JO. (NB this report is also accompanied by a presentation).

Link to Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2018-21 (Aspire.Act.Achieve).

Action Area	Action Area 2. Our enviable environment is protected for future generations and our resources are used efficiently
Action	2.1. Continue to work together to deliver the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy 2.2. Establish a Coastal Resilience Sub Committee, made up of representative from relevant Hunter JO Councils, to increase collaboration in planning for climate change.

Background

The ACT NOW project is funded under the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Grants Program, which is administered by LGNSW on behalf of DPIE. This project will deliver a proactive evidence based coastal adaptation communication and engagement resource for the Hunter and Central Coast region and a Climate Change IP&R Package which provides a pathway to embed Climate Change response into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework of Councils.

The objectives for the overarching project are:

1. To develop an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Package which embeds resilience to Climate Change into Councils operations through incorporation into the overarching IP&R documents.
2. To provide a coastal adaptation communication framework, media templates and suite of practical resources to directly build the capacity of the coastal councils of the Hunter and Central Coast Councils.
3. To build capacity within Councils to reduce risks, increase resilience and reduce climate vulnerability by collaboratively building community understanding and literacy around coastal management and adaptation issues and bridging the gap between the IP&R framework and prioritisation of Climate Change resilience.

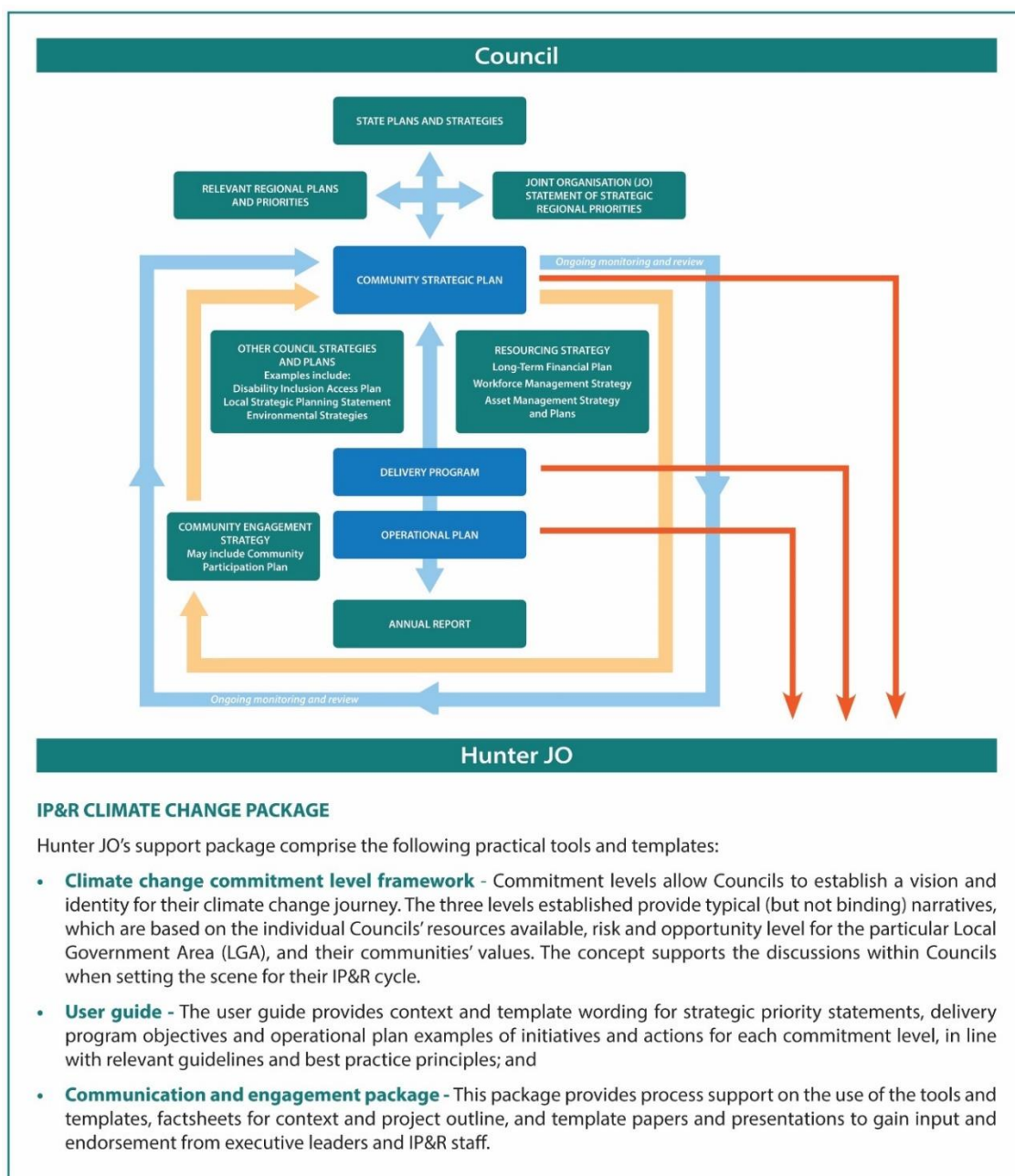
Report

The focus of this report (and accompanying presentation) are on sub project 2, the development of the Climate Change IP&R Package. It is important to note that while the IP&R Package has been developed within the broader context of coastal management, the Package itself is not coastal specific and can be utilised by all Hunter JO member Councils.

This sub project supports Councils and their Community's climate change journey by providing user friendly, practical tools and templates to embed climate change into the IP&R framework. The package provides 3 commitment level options and accompanying resources for each level. The IP&R statements, objectives and actions included in the package are in line with guidelines and best practice, which ensures there is support for staff developing the IP&R documents and working on climate change initiatives by providing relevant direction, document text inserts and resources.

This package provides a useful resource for council staff when seeking sponsorship and commitment from their leadership team, and for the executive sponsor when seeking commitment from their Council. It also seeks to guide IP&R and climate change staff during the preparation of IP&R documentation.

The figure below shows how the package links into the IP&R Framework.



Delivery of the project to date has included the development of a contact list of Council staff working on IP&R and Climate Change. Drop in sessions for staff have been scheduled for 30 September and 5 October, to provide them with an overview of the package. Further drop in sessions will be held when the working draft version of the package is distributed to Councils in mid-late October to provide the opportunity for questions and feedback, and to identify and participate in opportunities that support implementation by Councils.

Two Project Fact Sheets have been developed and distributed to Council staff, to raise awareness of the project, facilitate and encourage participation and engagement in the project, and provide the opportunity to provide feedback (refer Attachment 8 and Attachment 9).

Recommendation:

- **That the report be received and noted.**

Report Author: Boyd Blackwell, Director Regional Policy & Programs

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

At its August 2021 meeting the Board resolved to repivot the focus of efforts surrounding the 2050 Foundation so that the Hunter JO will:

- continue its advocacy and engagement on the regional transformation challenge as this remains an enduring strategic priority for the region
- seek to support and constructively influence the implementation of the Expert Panel and Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund, the Renewable Energy Zone, Special Activation Precinct, Catalyst Areas in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and other relevant initiatives based on member assessments of key regional needs; and
- retain a primary focus on advocacy and facilitation efforts aiming to:
 - secure significant private sector investment, including through the Hunter Venture Fund concept, into new industries that can reduce long term risk and create new jobs; and
 - maintain local leadership of solutions for the Hunter.

In line with this direction, the following programs and initiatives are currently being delivered:

Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund and Hunter Expert Panel Update

State Government is creating the Royalties for Rejuvenation (RfR) Fund through legislation.

The Hunter Expert Panel will also be anticipated to be a statutory role providing advice and recommendations on use of some portion of these funds within the Hunter region.

The Department of Regional NSW is preparing a suite of amendments to the *Mining Act 1992*.

An exposure draft of the Bill package will be available to make written submissions regarding the draft Bill before it is introduced in Parliament.

The Department of Regional NSW intends to hold a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders in the Hunter later in 2021. The roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss all key aspects of the fund in further detail.

The CEO met with Stephen Wills, Executive Director, Royalties for Rejuvenation. Stephen has indicated that the Hunter Joint Organisation will be a key partner in the Hunter Expert Panel.

The base level of annual RfR funding will be \$25 million. This funding is for all coal mining communities in NSW. Given that the Hunter region generates at least 70% of coal mining royalties within New South Wales, there is potential for significant recurrent funding for the region.

There is discussion of a potential *interim expert panel*, in advance of the legislation being passed and the statutory panel being established. There might be some initial funding associated with this also. This is to be confirmed.

Hunter Venture Fund

This project is strongly aligned with the Board's direction given its focus on securing significant private sector investment into new industries that can reduce long term risk and create new jobs.

The consultant, Henshall Capital PL, has been engaged to provide the following:

3. Development of a Pitch Deck that enables the Hunter JO to approach government and the funds management industry about investing in the HVF
4. A Structuring Report that provides recommendations on:

- The structure, function and design of the HVF, the purpose of which will be to fill funding, investment and capability shortfalls to 2050, that are required to help the Hunter Region plan for change that is accelerated by advancing energy technologies that will reduce the world's reliance on coal over time; and
- Any further investigations that might be required to support the evidence base for the need for the fund.

The consultant is now undertaking initial consultation with key contacts in the local investment ecosystem including: HunterIF, MELT, Hunter Angels, InvestNSW and potential investment parties. Next steps will involve continuing consultations across the ecosystem from supply of funds to demand for funds, and synthesising those discussions to create a draft straw man as to what the components of a potential regional fund may look like. The final report and pitch deck from the consultant are due for completion in December 2021.

Recommendation:

- **That the report be received and noted.**

8. Matters Raised by Members

Please refer to Correspondence from Cessnock City Council regarding Request for Support from Hunter JO on Pricing Review for NSW Stormwater Levy, for consideration by the Board.

9. General Business

9.1 Hunter JO December Board Meeting

Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

The NSW Local Government elections have now been scheduled for Saturday 4 December 2021, falling the week before the last Hunter JO Board Meeting for 2021, on Thursday 10 December.

Due to this timing, there are two issues that need to be taken into consideration ahead of the December Meeting of the Hunter JO;

- Cr Bob Pynsent's retirement as Mayor of Cessnock City Council will mean that the Hunter JO Board will have a Chairperson vacancy for this meeting, as well as there being at least one new Mayor as a Voting Member on the Board
- Three of our ten member councils have a model of Council-elected Mayors, meaning that at least three of our Mayors will not be sitting at this meeting in December (MidCoast, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter)

As a best-case scenario this will mean that our December meeting should still have a quorum of Voting Members, however will have at least one new Mayor sitting and are only likely to have seven Voting Members in attendance.

In light of this, we have proposed to the Chair of both Hunter JO and GMAC that the Hunter JO Annual General Meeting take place in line with the last GMAC meeting of the year on Thursday 25 November 2021, in order for the Audited Financial Accounts to be received by the current Hunter JO Board. This will also provide an opportunity for the Hunter JO Annual Performance Statement to be brought to the Board for endorsement prior to the local government elections.

The Board Induction Pack is currently in draft, and will be brought to the Hunter JO AGM in November 2021 for endorsement, prior to the local government elections, to support onboarding of new Board Members post-elections.

It is also proposed that no items that require the Board's decision be brought to its December meeting, and that only items for discussion be put on the agenda. This would allow any new Board Members to effectively have an introduction to the Hunter JO Strategy and its Programs and Projects, while also not disadvantaging the three Member Councils who will not have a sitting Mayor at this time. We would also seek to hold a Christmas Lunch at the December Meeting, to close out the year, as well as to mark the retirement of the Hunter JO Chair for his last meeting.

Recommendation:

- **That the Hunter JO provide feedback on the proposal for no new business to be brought to the December Hunter JO Board Meeting**
- **That the Hunter JO endorse the Annual General Meeting to take place on Thursday 25 November 2021, in line with the GMAC Meeting on that date**

9.2 Proposed Hunter JO Board Dates 2022

Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

In preparing for the 2022 calendar year, we have drawn up the proposed meeting dates for the Hunter JO Board's consideration.

Hunter JO Board

Thursday 10 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft 2022/23 Budget Presented, with proposed member council contributions• Roadshow to Member Councils on draft Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2022-26 to follow this meeting?
Thursday 14 April 2022	
Thursday 9 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022/23 Final Budget for endorsement• Hunter JO Strategic Plan for endorsement (2022-2026)
Thursday 11 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on 2021/22 financial performance• CEO Performance Review endorsement (will be done post-EOFY)
Thursday 13 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGM for Hunter JO incl. Annual Performance Statement• AGM for Hunter Councils Inc.• Table Pecuniary Interest Declarations
Thursday 8 December 2022	

Recommendation:

- **That the Board note the proposed dates for 2022 and provide feedback as needed**

9.3 Compliance & Governance Calendars

- Attachment 10 - HJO Board Forward Planner and Governance Calendar
- Attachment 11 - JO-Calendar-of-Compliance-and-Reporting-Requirements-2021-2022