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## MEDIA RELEASE

### THE HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST COLLABORATE ON ASPIRING CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROADMAP

**DISTRIBUTION DATE: 11/07/2022**

**The Hunter and Central Coast region is collaboratively working towards developing the local circular economy. With a view to our region's strengths and challenges, the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) and key regional stakeholders have co-developed the *Hunter and Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap*. The Roadmap showcases our successes, sets a path for the next 12 months and enables us to collaborate and accelerate towards our longer-term shared vision of being Australia's leading regional circular economy.**

This Roadmap provides an overview of the key circular economy projects already completed, projects currently happening or planned in the Hunter and Central Coast region and provides ways to connect with the project leaders. This is vital in maintaining the momentum in shifting towards this new economic model.

The Hunter is currently experiencing a time of economic evolution and the circular economy provides an opportunity for existing businesses to improve and diversify and new industries to blossom, creating new jobs in the region.

The circular economy represents a move away from our current linear system of take, make, use, waste, to systems in which materials are kept in use for as long as possible at their highest and best use. The concept involves reusing materials or designing out waste to create more economic value while reducing the impact on the environment, including \$1,860 billion direct benefit over the next 20 years, savings of 165 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, and an additional 17,000 jobs by 2047-48 in the food, transport and built environment sectors alone.

Chair of the Hunter JO, Cr Sue Moore Mayor of Singleton, said that the benefits of circular economy for the future of the region's industries presents opportunities for the Hunter and Central Coast to attract investment, industries and jobs, capitalising on the Hunter as Australia's most dynamic regional economy.

"We support circular economy initiatives because of the pivotal role it can play in helping to evolve the region economically," she said.

Cr Kay Fraser, Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy Sub-Committee and Mayor of Lake Macquarie, said Local Government representatives are uniquely placed to provide strategic direction and connect stakeholders.

"We have the opportunity to break down some of the barriers preventing us from adopting a circular economy on a much larger scale," she said.



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“Moving to a circular economy is a collaborative effort. Local government, the Hunter JO and all levels of government need to work together as project partners to support this important shift.”

The Roadmap was advanced through the leadership of the Hunter Central Coast Circular Economy Facilitators Group, a partnership of local circular economy champions, from a broad cross section of the community. The group coordinated broader regional consultation, and with funding from NSW EPA programs, helped develop the roadmap to provide a good foundation for our journey toward a circular economy.

The Roadmap is a living document that will be kept updated through a quarterly review process developed by the Circular Economy Facilitators Group. It lays out the methodology for adding, maintaining, and prioritising initiatives. The Hunter JO will be seeking further funding from the NSW Government to ensure the initial success of this Roadmap can be leveraged, improved, and maintained into the future.

The full document and interactive Roadmap on the [Hunter Circular website](#) provide users with links to more information on each project. To keep up to date, the website also has a newsletter signup option and information on future events.

### Contact details

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### About the Hunter JO

The Hunter Joint Organisation is a collaborative body that brings together the ten councils in the region to provide a united and local voice for our communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, our statutory mandate includes identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities, and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, industry and community. Find out more at [www.hunterjo.com.au](http://www.hunterjo.com.au)

### Acknowledgements



Proudly funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority