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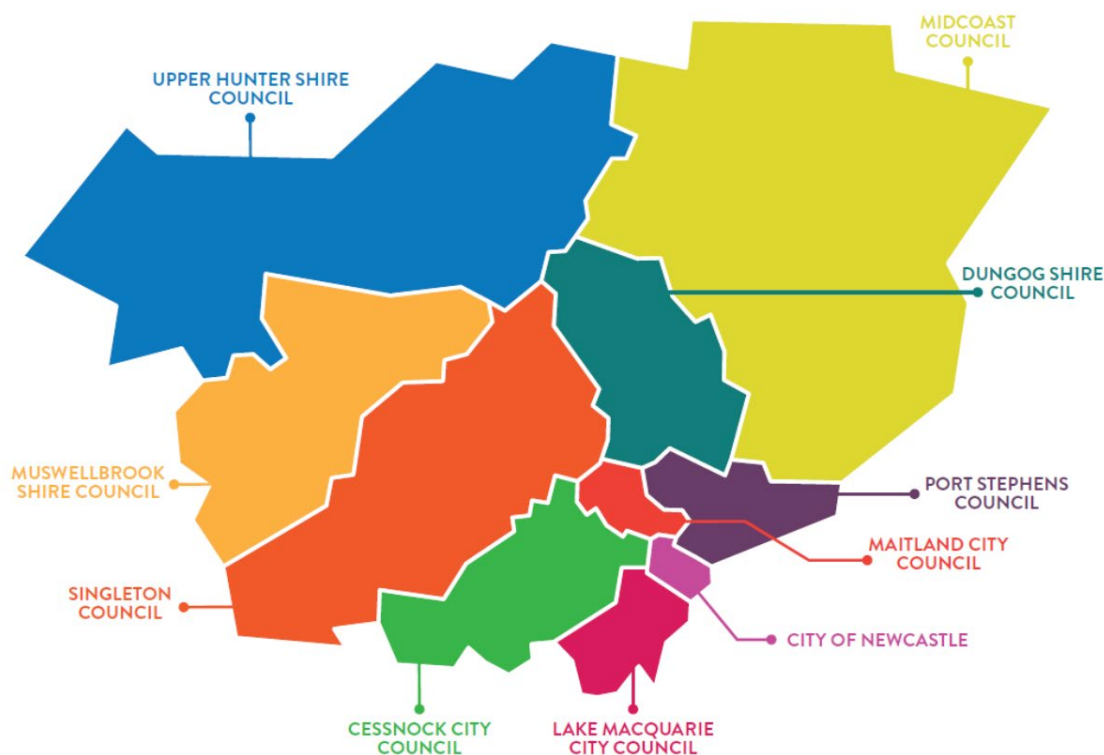
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## Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Papers

### 10:30am, Thursday 16 February 2023



#### Videoconference Details

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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## 1. Welcome and Apologies

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

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*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

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

### 1.3 Closed Session

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*At the Chair's request, a closed session of the Board will be held at the beginning of the meeting, prior to opening the public Hunter JO Board Meeting.*

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

### 2.1 Minutes of 8 December 2022

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#### **Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes**

**11:00am – 1:00pm, Thursday 8 December 2022**

**Hunter JO Boardroom, 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton**

#### **Voting Directors Present**

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cr Jay Suvaal,     | Cessnock City Council           |
| Cr John Connors,   | Dungog Shire Council            |
| Cr Kay Fraser,     | Lake Macquarie City Council     |
| Cr Nuatali Nelmes, | Newcastle City Council          |
| Cr Steve Reynolds, | Muswellbrook Shire Council      |
| Cr Sue Moore,      | Singleton Shire Council (Chair) |
| Cr Ryan Palmer,    | Port Stephens Council           |
| Cr Claire Pontin,  | MidCoast Council                |

#### **Non-Voting Members Present**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Ken Liddell      | General Manager, Cessnock City Council      |
| Gareth Curtis,   | General Manager, Dungog Shire Council       |
| Adrian Panuccio, | General Manager, MidCoast Council           |
| Greg McDonald,   | General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council |
| Morven Cameron,  | CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council            |
| Jeremy Bath,     | CEO, Newcastle City Council                 |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Wayne Wallis,   | General Manager, Port Stephens Council         |
| David Evans,    | General Manager, Maitland City Council         |
| Jason Linnane,  | General Manager, Singleton Council             |
| Alison McGaffin | Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW |

### **Apologies**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Cr Maurice Collison, | Upper Hunter Shire Council                         |
| Cr Phillip Penfold,  | Maitland City Council                              |
| Derek Finnegan,      | Acting General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council |

### **Staff in attendance**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Joe James, CEO,  | Hunter Joint Organisation                                |
| Steve Wilson,    | Director Regional Policy and Programs, Hunter JO         |
| Louisa Bulley,   | Executive Officer, Hunter JO (Secretariat)               |
| Tim Askew,       | Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO                    |
| Kali Somerville, | Media and Communications Officer, Hunter JO              |
| Lisa Lord,       | Manager of Finance and Administration, Arrow & Hunter JO |

### **Also Present**

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Greg Warren MP | Shadow Minister for Local Government |
| Peree Watson   | Candidate for Upper Hunter           |

*The formal meeting opened at 11.00am.*

## **Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies**

### **1.1 Acknowledgment of Country**

*The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Board with an Acknowledgement of Country.*

#### ***Resolved:***

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

***Moved: Ryan Palmer***

***Seconded: Jay Suvaal***

***Carried.***

### **1.2 Conflicts of Interest**

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

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

### **2.1 Minutes of Meeting 13 October 2022**

*The Board noted that the minutes incorrectly marked Fiona Plesman as being present, and asked that this and the location of the meeting be updated in the minutes.*

#### ***Resolved:***

- ***That the minutes of previous meeting of 13 October 2022 be adopted.***

***Moved: Jay Suvaal***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes**

#### **3.1 Business Arising: Hunter JO Action Register**

*The register was taken as read.*

***Resolved: That the register be noted.***

***Moved: Jay Suvaal***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

#### **3.2 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee Action Register**

*The register was taken as read.*

***Resolved:***

- ***That the register be noted.***

***Moved: Jay Suvaal***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

#### **3.3 Subcommittee for Economic Evolution**

*The register was taken as read.*

***Resolved:***

- ***The update report be received and noted.***

***Moved: Jay Suvaal***

***Seconded: Ryan Palmer***

***Carried.***

### **4. Presentations**

#### **4.1 Hunter JO Recap & Delivery Highlights from 2022**

The CEO and Director Policy & Programs provided a presentation on the achievements and outcomes from the 2022 calendar year.

### **5. Correspondence**

*The Correspondence was noted.*

***Resolved:***

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

***Moved: Ryan Palmer***

***Seconded: Nuatali Nelmes***

***Carried.***

### **6. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision**

#### **6.1 Endorsement of draft Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032**

Steve Wilson spoke briefly to the report, and noted that this would be a formal ratification of the decision made via circular resolution by the Board. The Chair noted the amount of work of the team, and particularly of Melinda Curtis, in preparing and consulting on the document.

**Resolved:**

- That the Board ratify the Strategic Plan, amended in response to the submissions received through the consultation process, which was published on the Hunter JO website and provided to the Office of Local Government by the statutory due date of the 4 December 2022

**Moved: Claire Pontin**

**Seconded: Jay Suvaal**

**Carried.**

## **6.2 Endorsement of Hunter JO 2021-22 Annual Performance Statement**

The CEO spoke briefly to the report.

**Resolved:**

- That the Board endorse the Hunter JO Performance statement for the 2021/22 period, and its submission to the Office of Local Government, excluding the financial statements until these have been separately endorsed by the Board
- That the Board endorse publication of the Hunter JO Performance Statement for the 2021/22 period on the Hunter JO website, excluding the financial statements until these have been endorsed

**Moved: Claire Pontin**

**Seconded: Kay Fraser**

**Carried.**

## **6.3 Hunter JO – Arrow Funding Agreement**

The CEO spoke to the report, noting that this would be addressing the questions raised by the Auditor-General in the Hunter JO financial audit for the 2021-22 financial year.

The Chair of the Arrow Board, Jason Linnane, spoke to the Arrow Board's endorsement of the intent of the agreement in formalising the arrangement between the entities.

**Resolved:**

- That the Board endorses, in principle, the intent that the funding arrangement between Arrow and the Hunter JO is formalised, consistent with the manner and intent outlined within the report
- That the final draft of the Funding Agreement be provided to the Board out of session for final approval and endorsement as a circular resolution

**Moved: Claire Pontin**

**Seconded: Jay Suvaal**

**Carried.**

[At this point the Chair welcomed both Greg Warren MP and Peree Watson to the meeting, noting that they would take the opportunity to speak to the Board following the formal meeting]

## **6.4 Regional Circular Materials Strategy**

Eloise Lobsey spoke to the report and proposed recommendations.

Cr Nelmes proposed an additional set of points as part of the recommendation, advocating for return of the waste levy to Councils. The proposed additions were supported by the Board and resolved as below.

**Resolved:**

***That the Hunter JO Board;***

- ***Endorses the draft Regional Circular Materials Strategy;***
- ***Affirms its support for the return of 100% of section 88 Domestic Waste Management Service Charge (the "waste levy") funds to be returned to local government for reinvestment in recycling facilities, landfill diversion, community education, technology improvements, landfill rehabilitation and circular economy opportunities;***
- ***Seeks to understand the waste levy collected at each member council and the funding received in return from State Government for resource recovery projects, to underpin proactive regional advocacy for waste levy hypothecation.***
- ***Calls on both the NSW Government and Opposition to commit to the full return of 100% of the waste levy local councils to fund waste diversion from landfill initiatives, and fund the implementation of the Regional Circular Materials Strategy for Hunter Central Coast.***

***Moved: Nuatali Nelmes***

***Seconded: Steve Reynolds***

***Carried.***

### **6.3 Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) in the Hunter**

Steve Wilson spoke to the report briefly.

***Resolved:***

***That the Board:***

- 1. Note the key outcomes achieved to date in delivering the A2E project***
- 2. Endorse the Hunter JO and Member Councils' staff continuing to collaborate to review and progress implementation of the recommendations generated from the review of event licencing processes.***

***Moved: Claire Pontin***

***Seconded: Jay Suvaal***

***Carried.***

## **7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Noting**

### **7.1 CEO Report: Collaboration & Advocacy**

*The CEO spoke to the report, adding that he has been formally appointed to the Hunter Regional Expert Panel, providing opportunities for further intergovernmental collaboration. The Chair congratulated the CEO on his appointment.*

***Resolved:***

- ***That the Board receive and note the report***

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: John Connors***

***Carried.***

### **7.2 Hunter JO Financial Reports – October 2022 YTD**

*The report was taken as read.*

***Resolved:***

- ***That the Financial Reports for year-to-date October 2022 be received and noted.***

***Moved: Kay Fraser***

***Seconded: John Connors***

*Carried.*

### **7.3 Hunter JO Sub-Committees Standing Update**

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

- **That the Board note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees**

*Moved: Kay Fraser*

*Seconded: John Connors*

*Carried.*

### **7.4 Contaminated Land Council Regional Capacity Building (CRCB) Program**

*The report was taken as read.*

**Resolved:**

- **That the Board note the report.**

*Moved: Kay Fraser*

*Seconded: John Connors*

*Carried.*

### **7.5 Hunter JO Program Delivery Highlights**

Steve Wilson spoke to the report and gave an update on the IP&R framework project.

**Resolved:**

- **That the Board note the report.**

*Moved: Kay Fraser*

*Seconded: John Connors*

*Carried.*

### **7.6 Standing Update from the Department of Regional NSW**

*Alison McGaffin spoke to the report.*

**Resolved:**

- **That the Board note the update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW relating to the Regional Leadership Executive Regional Development Forum and the status of various State government funding programs.**

*Moved: Jay Suvaal*

*Seconded: Claire Pontin*

*Carried.*

## **8. Matters Raised by Members**

### **First Nations Voice to Parliament:**

Cr Nelmes noted that she had circulated the First Nations Voice to Parliament to the Mayors for discussion prior to the meeting. Cr Nelmes proposed that a joint statement be considered by the ten Mayors of the Hunter JO in support of the statement.

The Board discussed and agreed that they would like to first consult with the indigenous communities in their respective LGAs, and asked that the item be deferred to the February 2023 meeting of the Hunter JO Board for further discussion.

**Resolved:**



- That the in principle support of the Hunter JO Board for the First Nations Voice to Parliament be noted, and that a further discussion regarding joint support be added to the agenda as part of the February 2023 Hunter JO Board Meeting

*Moved: Nuatali Nelmes*

*Seconded: Claire Pontin*

*Carried.*

### **Country Mayors Meeting in Newcastle**

The Hunter JO Chair noted that the March 2023 meeting of the Country Mayors is set to be held in Newcastle, and that as part of this meeting the Port of Newcastle would be providing a presentation to the Country Mayors Meeting.

Cr Nelmes noted that this would be the first time that Country Mayors has been hosted outside of Sydney, and proposed that a delegation of Hunter JO Mayors host them during their visit to the region.

The CEO proposed that, as the JO Chairs Network usually coincides with the Country Mayors, the Hunter JO reach out to host them in the region to align to the Country Mayors Meeting in March 2023.

The Chair asked that the Hunter JO Executive Officer engage with the Lord Mayor's Office to invite a delegation of the Hunter JO Mayors to welcome the Country Mayors to the region in March 2023.

Cr Palmer asked that the Hunter JO engage with both the Port of Newcastle and the Newcastle Airport requesting a presentation to the Hunter JO Board in the February 2023 meeting of the Board, to update the Mayors on current strategic priorities for the respective entities.

The Chair asked that this request be made to the Port of Newcastle and the Newcastle Airport to present to the Hunter JO Board in early 2023.

## **9. General Business**

### **9.1 Compliance & Governance Calendars**

*The calendars were noted.*

*The Chair thanked the Board for their engagement over the course of 2022, and wished the Board a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

Meeting closed 12.29pm.

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes

#### Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the previous meetings of 8 December 2022 be adopted
- That Actions HJO-20-55, HJO-20-60 and HJO-20-84 be removed from the Action Register

#### 3.1 Hunter JO Board 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<br><br>Revised Status: On Hold (no update since March21)           | Feb 2023: OLG has advised that the Guidelines that give rise to the requirement for an ARIC must be complied with from 1 July 2024. The CEO will assess the requirements once the relevant regulations (giving force to the Guidelines) are passed and any increased costs as a result of the need for an ARIC will be built into the Budget for FY23/24<br><br>Mar2021: GMAC have discussed and indicated to put on hold until the framework is finalised and provided from OLG<br><br>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). |
| HJO-20-55 | <b><u>Hunter JO Waste Strategy Review and Development</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> | Feb 21      | Complete (and Recommend removal from Action Register) | <del>April 2022</del><br><del>August 2022</del><br><del>October 2022</del><br><br>December 2022 | Feb 2023: Hunter JO Board endorsed the Circular Materials Strategy at its December 2022 meeting.<br><br>December 2022: the Draft Regional Circular Materials Strategy will be tabled for endorsement at the Board's December 2022 meeting.<br><br>September 2022: The EPA have now released funding for the engagement of consultants to develop and review the draft Regional Circular Materials and Waste Strategy to ensure alignment with WaSM. All regional strategies are to be completed by December 2022.  |

| I.D       | Action  | Mtg Date | Status                                   | Due   | Notes   |
|-----------|---|----------|--|---|---|
|           |   |          |  |   | <p>August 2022: The problems identified and endorsed at the April 2022 Board meeting are continuing. The NSW EPA have still not supplied the funding guidelines for developing the strategy. The NSW EFePA have offered additional support that will assist us in these delays. The revised completion date is now October 2022.</p> <p>April 2022: Refer report included in Agenda Item 8.2 - Regional Circular Materials and Waste Strategy</p> <p>Jan2022: The EPA released their finalised NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy (WaSM) Delivery Plan as well as their Draft Regional Response to WaSM Guidelines in December 2021. There are some specific changes to guidelines that the Hunter and Central Coast strategy will need to address and align with. This will mean a rearrangement of tasks and timelines within the project, however the work undertaken to date is broadly in alignment with the intent and detail of these strategic documents and the project remains on track to be completed by June 2022. It is anticipated that further engagement will be undertaken with the Board at the meeting in April 2022.</p> |
| HJO-20-60 | <p><b><u>Regional Freight and Logistics - Initiatives and Opportunities</u></b></p> <p>That a Summary Brief on this be brought back to the Board for endorsement.</p> | Apr-21   | (Recommend removal from Action Register) | <p><del>Oct-21</del></p> <p><del>June 2022</del></p> <p><del>December 2022</del></p> <p>December 2023</p> | <p>Feb 2023: Funding application to the Regional Business Case and Strategy Development fund for development of a Regional Airport Freight Strategy has been successful. It is recommended that this action now be removed from the action register to facilitate available Hunter JO resources focusing on delivery of the Airport project, given its strong alignment with the new strategic directions identified in the Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2022-2032 endorsed by the Board in December 2022. Regular updates on the Regional Airport Freight Strategy will be provided through the bi-monthly Program Report, Program Highlights report, and specific papers at key project milestones.</p> <p>December 2022: No update from previous report. Advice remains pending as to the outcome of funding application.</p>  |

| I.D       | Action   | Mtg Date | Status   | Due  | Notes   |
|-----------|--|----------|----------|--|---|
|           |  |          |          |  | <p>September 2022 – The Hunter JO continues to participate in the Committee for the Hunter Freight &amp; Supply Chain taskforce, which will be releasing a report by the end of 2022 which will assist us shape the focus of the Hunter JO in this area of interest.</p> <p>A funding application has recently been submitted to the Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund to prepare a Regional Airports Strategy that if successful will develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategy &amp; business case for airfreight infrastructure investment and connectivity infrastructure for passenger and airfreight logistics (LIP) for the region.</li> <li>• An integrated airports strategy for the region (IRAS) including assessments of passenger, airfreight and transport (PAT) links to each airport across the region.</li> </ul> <p>August 2022 – as per previous update</p> <p>Jan2022: As reported to the Board in December 2021, this action will now be addressed directly within the draft Hunter JO Strategic Plan currently under development.</p> |
| HJO-20-63 | <p><b><u>Cities Power Partnership Options</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> | Apr-21   | Underway | <p><del>December 2021</del></p> <p><del>May 2022</del></p> <p><del>December 2022</del></p> <p>April 2023</p> | <p>February 2023: A draft Regional Partnership Agreement has been drafted on which we are awaiting the outcomes of a final review from CPP. Pending this feedback it is expected that the Agreement will be provided to the April 2023 Hunter JO Board meeting for consideration. The draft Agreement is strongly aligned to the strategic priorities included in the Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2022-32</p> <p>December 2022: No change from previous update</p> <p>September 2022 - Following the 11 Councils in the Hunter joining the Cities Power Partnership Program, the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) in March 2021 accepted an invitation from the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) to become its first</p>  |

| I.D       | Action   | Mtg Date | Status   | Due   | Notes  |
|-----------|--|----------|----------|---|--|
|           |  |          |          |   | <p>'Regional Partner'. We are the first region nationally to achieve this and were acknowledged in the NSW Parliament.</p> <p>The CPP pledges established have been linked and incorporated into the Climate Change IP&amp;R Package. Hunter JO staff are currently collaborating with CPP to prepare a draft MOU. The intention of this partnership is to formalise collaboration between the organisations in order to support informed and coordinated local government climate initiatives in the Hunter region. The aim would be to ensure we enter into a partnership with mutual commitments and benefits that will support each party to achieve its aims.</p> <p>June 2022 - No change from previous update</p> <p>April 2022: The focus moving forward will be to complete formalising the partnership agreement. During the regional mapping of the CSP's as part of the Hunter JO Strategy project, we will also review the CPP Program links and objectives identified in the region. Discussion will continue with the Climate Council to formalise the draft regional priorities, engage with Council staff, bring them back to the Board and incorporate them into the Hunter JO Strategy and Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>Jan2022: The collaboration with CPP, has included the incorporation and embedding of the CPP information and pledges into the Climate Change IP&amp;R Package as a preparation step. The focus moving forward will be to complete formalising the partnership agreement.</p> |
| HJO-20-65 | <p><b><u>World Masters Games</u></b></p> <p>Establish a Regional Events Strategy Working Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review opportunities and costs associated with hosting the World Masters Games.</li> <li>• Scope out the development of a bid for the 2029 World Masters Games on behalf of the Hunter Region.</li> <li>• Review existing strategies and develop a roadmap</li> </ul> | Apr-21   | Underway | <p><del>Feb 2022</del></p> <p><del>June 2022</del></p> <p>June 2023</p> | <p>Feb 2023: In progress (as per previous updates)</p> <p>December 2022 – In progress, as per previous updates</p> <p>September 2022 – As per previous update</p> <p>August 2022 – As per previous update</p> <p>July 2022: As reported to the April 2022 Board meeting, the Major Event Feasibility component of the Accelerating Event</p>   |

| I.D       | Action  | Mtg Date  | Status   | Due    | Notes   |
|-----------|---|-----------|----------|--------|---|
|           | for the implementation of key actions to attract major events to the region.  |           |          |        | <p>Economies project will be assessing the feasibility, technical requirements and gaps in our region for running major sporting event e.g. Commonwealth Games, World Masters etc.</p> <p>April 2022: Refer report included in Agenda Item 7.8 - Accelerating Event Economies (A2E)</p> <p>Nov2021: 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.</p> <p>Jan2022: Project Officer has been recruited to deliver Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) project, commencing 17 Jan 2022. Stakeholder engagement and development of consultant briefs also commencing regarding undertaking a regional event and asset audit, which will underpin this action.</p>   |
| HJO-20-71 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THAT the Hunter JO draft correspondence to the NSW Government regarding funding and action required on the Hunter Sports Precinct in Broadmeadow</li> <li>• That the drafted correspondence be reviewed out of session by the Board prior to sending.</li> </ul> | 10 Jun 21 | Underway | Sep-22 | <p>February 2023: Draft correspondence has been newly reviewed by GMAC, with updated draft provided to the Board in draft as part of Board Pack.</p> <p>December 2022: CEO to provide draft correspondence to GMs/CEOs in advance of Nov GMAC meeting for feedback.</p> <p>September 2022: Still awaiting advice from the Hunter JO Board on if this matter should still be pursued.</p> <p>Mar2022: The CEO has now met with the Venues NSW Project lead, Phil Paris, on two occasions to discuss his process for building a business case for Hunter Park and exploring how the Hunter JO can support the business case and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Nov2021: Propose to revisit this matter in 2022 once the GNMPSC has reformed post-local government elections</p> <p>Sep2021: A draft has been completed by the CEO and has been included in Correspondence. The original intent of the correspondence has been overtaken by a government announcement on Hunter Park</p> |

| I.D       | Action  | Mtg Date  | Status   | Due    | Notes  |
|-----------|---|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| HJO-20-78 | <p>That subject to adequate resourcing being provided by the NSW EPA to undertake, a due diligence assessment be initiated by the Hunter JO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing state-wide approaches to the management of RID Squads</li> <li>Determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the RID Squad</li> <li>Identifying the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were it to be hosted by the Hunter JO.</li> </ul> | 30 Sep 21 | Complete | Mar-22 | <p>Feb 2023: While report completed, this item has been left on the action register until the GMs choose their preferred direction to resolve the item.</p> <p>December 2022 – Based on the findings and recommendations of the due diligence report, the final stages of consultation with Member Councils and negotiation with the NSW EPA are underway with a view to establishing a Regional Illegal Dumping Program Model.</p> <p>August 2022 – Due diligence report completed and provided to NSW EPA for consideration. Currently awaiting response from EPA.</p> <p>June 2022 – Refer presentation and report included in GMAC Agenda regarding outcomes and recommendations arising from the review</p> <p>April 2022: EPA confirmed late February 2022 that that Hunter JO will now need to identify, engage and manage consultant to deliver the due diligence review.</p> <p>We have since received a quotation to complete the due diligence work, and a request for \$46,775 has been submitted to the EPA to undertake this work. Advice is pending on the outcome of this request.</p> <p>Jan2022: The EPA have commenced a review of RID squad models across the state as part of their RID Program evaluation and planning work for the next 5 years of funding (from July 2022 under the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy). This work will inform the Hunter RID squad model and strategic objectives going forward, and the process will include consultation with stakeholders (including the HJO).</p> <p>HJO officers are meeting with EPA representatives 17 January to progress the due diligence assessment work, focusing on the logistical and resourcing implications for HJO hosting the Hunter RID squad.</p> |

| I.D       | Action  | Mtg Date | Status                                  | Due         | Notes  |
|-----------|---|----------|---|-------------|--|
| HJO-20-84 | <p>That the Hunter JO Board endorse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further developing the concept of delivering a regional event which would require the active commitment and participation of all Mayors, Deputy Mayors &amp; General Managers in its delivery</li> <li>Continuing to engage with key regional stakeholders, including with the Board, to further guide design and development of the concept to ensure delivery of a unique signature event for the region that promotes, symbolises and celebrates genuine examples of local and regional collaboration and leadership.</li> </ul> | Apr 22   | Recommended that this action be removed | August 2022 | <p>Feb 2023:</p> <p>The intent of this initiative was to grow the profile of the collaborative leadership of the Mayors and Councils, however, given , the need to focus core staff resources to the priorities identified in the new Strategic plan, , it is recommended that this action be removed from the Action Register.</p> <p>The importance of growing the profile of the collaborative leadership of the Mayors and Councils remains an important outcome, critical to enhancing the effectiveness of Hunter JO advocacy, and will continue to be embedded in all our communication and engagement.</p> <p>December 2022 – no change from previous update</p> <p>September 2022 – no change from previous update</p> <p>August 2022 – no change from previous update</p> <p>June 22 - Hunter JO team has commenced initial internal exploration of further concepts in line with the Board's resolution. Further development of concepts is required prior to engaging with the Board and other key stakeholders.</p> |
|           | That the Board ratify the Strategic Plan, amended in response to the submissions received through the consultation process, which was published on the Hunter JO website and provided to the Office of Local Government by the statutory due date of the 4 December 2022  | Dec 22   | Complete                                |             | Complete and published on Hunter JO website  |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Board endorse the Hunter JO Performance statement for the 2021/22 period, and its submission to the Office of Local Government, excluding the financial statements until these have been separately endorsed by the Board</li> <li>That the Board endorse publication of the Hunter JO Performance Statement for the 2021/22 period on</li> </ul>   | Dec 22   | Complete                                |             | Complete and published on Hunter JO website excluding financials   |



| I.D | Action   | Mtg Date | Status   | Due      | Notes   |
|-----|--|----------|----------|----------|---|
|     | the Hunter JO website, excluding the financial statements until these have been endorsed   |          |          |          |   |
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Board endorses, in principle, the intent that the funding arrangement between Arrow and the Hunter JO is formalised, consistent with the manner and intent outlined within the report</li> <li>• That the final draft of the Funding Agreement be provided to the Board out of session for final approval and endorsement as a circular resolution</li> </ul>  | Dec 22   | Underway | Feb 2023 | Update included at Item 6.1 in advance of Hunter JO Annual General Meeting.   |
|     | <p>That the Hunter JO Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorses the draft Regional Circular Materials Strategy;</li> <li>• Affirms its support for the return of 100% of section 88 Domestic Waste Management Service Charge (the "waste levy") funds to be returned to local government for reinvestment in recycling facilities, landfill diversion, community education, technology improvements, landfill rehabilitation and circular economy opportunities;</li> <li>• Seeks to understand the waste levy collected at each member council and the funding received in return from State Government for resource recovery projects, to underpin proactive regional advocacy for waste levy hypothecation.</li> <li>• Calls on both the NSW Government and Opposition to commit to the full return of 100% of the waste levy local councils to fund waste diversion from landfill initiatives, and fund the implementation of the Regional Circular Materials Strategy for Hunter Central Coast.</li> </ul> | Dec 22   | Complete |          | <p>Strategy has been endorsed, with correspondence in draft to Central Coast Council re: their participation.</p> <p>Further advocacy planned re: waste levy.</p> |

| I.D                                     | Action   | Mtg Date | Status   | Due      | Notes  |
|---|--|----------|----------|----------|--|
|   | <p>That the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the key outcomes achieved to date in delivering the A2E project</li> <li>Endorse the Hunter JO and Member Councils' staff continuing to collaborate to review and progress implementation of the recommendations generated from the review of event licencing processes.</li> </ol> | Dec 22   | Complete |          | Update on project provided as part of Presentations at February 2023 Board Meeting, with final report to be circulated to Member Councils out of session.  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the in principle support of the Hunter JO Board for the First Nations Voice to Parliament be noted, and that a further discussion regarding joint support be added to the agenda as part of the February 2023 Hunter JO Board Meeting</li> </ul>   | Dec 22   | Complete | Feb 2023 | Placed on agenda for discussion at Item 8.2.   |
| Informal request under General Business | The Chair asked that the Hunter JO Executive Officer engage with the Lord Mayor's Office to invite a delegation of the Hunter JO Mayors to welcome the Country Mayors to the region in March 2023.   | Dec 22   | Underway | Mar 2023 |  |
| Informal request under General Business | The Chair asked that a request be made to the Port of Newcastle and the Newcastle Airport to present to the Hunter JO Board in early 2023.   | Dec 22   | Underway | Apr 2023 | EO has approached both Port of Newcastle and Airport CEOs re: presenting to Hunter JO Board Meeting as part of February meeting. Due to other commitments neither CEO is available, but other dates are being explored for presentations to Hunter JO Board Meeting in early 2023. |

### 3.2 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Action Register

**Date: 8 December 2022**

Delivery Status

Complete

In progress

Stalled / Off track

| Mtg Date         | Responsibility            | Action  | Status                  |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 8 December 2022  | Hunter JO                 | Frequency of meetings of the GNMP Subcommittee to be reduced from monthly to two monthly, to be held in person prior to the Hunter JO Board meeting.  | Complete                |
| 8 December 2022  | Greater Cities Commission | Concerns raised by Cr Suvaal about minimum lot sizes in the Huntlee development to be escalated by the Commissioner to Geoff Roberts, Greater Cities Chief Commissioner.  | In progress             |
| 10 November 2022 | Greater Cities Commission | The Commissioner to contact each Council General Manager post meeting to identify the most appropriate Council staff with whom Claire Swan should engage re catalysts areas.  | Complete                |
| 17 August 2022   | Hunter JO                 | That the Subcommittee write to the Hon Rob Stokes, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport outlining that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Subcommittee provides a formal governance mechanism that will support the Commissioner in their role</li> <li>it is the expectation of the GNMP Mayors that the Commissioner participate in the Subcommittee once they are appointed.</li> </ul>  | Complete. Reply pending |
| 17 August 2022   | Hunter JO                 | A workshop of the Subcommittee to be scheduled for 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 (10.00am) to determine agreed advocacy agenda and priorities prior to meeting with the new Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle City Cities Commissioner.  | Complete                |
| 17 August 2022   | Hunter JO                 | An invitation be extended to GCC Chief Commissioner Geoff Roberts, for the new Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle City Cities Commissioner, to participate in a meeting of the Subcommittee at 8.30am on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October (prior to the Hunter JO Board meeting), subject to confirmation of their appointment by that time.<br><br><i>NB should the Commissioner not yet be appointed a normal meeting of the Subcommittee will still occur from 9am prior to the full Board meeting.</i> | Complete                |
| 17 August 2022   | Hunter JO                 | Meetings of the Subcommittee to be scheduled for the second Thursday of each month as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At 9.00am prior to the full Hunter JO Board meeting</li> <li>At 10.00am (online) in the alternate month when there is no Board meeting</li> </ul>   | Complete                |

| Mtg Date       | Responsibility | Action   | Status   |
|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| 17 August 2022 | Hunter JO      | <p>A forward schedule of state agency briefings be drafted, and invitations extended to agencies to participate periodically in future meetings in accordance with the schedule. Priority agencies identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Planning &amp; Environment (DPE) - Planning</li> <li>• NSW Treasury - Energy</li> <li>• Transport for NSW (TfNSW)</li> <li>• Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC)</li> <li>• Department of Regional NSW</li> <li>• Greater Cities Commission (GCC)</li> <li>• Newcastle Airport</li> <li>• NSW Health</li> <li>• Venues NSW</li> <li>• Hunter Water Corporation</li> </ul> <p><i>NB Key agencies (e.g. TfNSW, HCCDC &amp; DPE to potentially be invited two times per annum.</i></p> | In progress. Clarification on focus and frequency of briefings confirmed by Subcommittee at its 8th December 2022 meeting. |

### 3.3 Subcommittee for Economic Evolution Action Register

**Date: 8 December 2022**

|                 |          |             |                     |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|
| Delivery Status | Complete | In progress | Stalled / Off track |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|

| Mtg Date                       | Responsibility                                | Action   | Delivery Status   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 8 December 2022                | Hunter JO                                     | Wording in the Hunter JO Advocacy Framework and priorities document seeking changes to legislation and policy to provide clarity, certainty and a clear pathway for reuse of mining and industrial lands be updated to remove reference to “former” mining lands.  | In progress   |
| 8 December 2022                | Morven Cameron, Jason Linnane, Derek Finnigan | Provide information on each Council’s current approach / policy / processes for facilitating land use change to facilitate reuse of mining and industrial lands  | In progress   |
| 8 December 2022                | Morven Cameron                                | Invite Blackrock to present to the Subcommittee on the processes they have undertaken, and lessons learned in seeking approvals for their development involving reuse of former mining / industrial land.  | Invitation to be extended pending the Blackrock development commencing. |
| 8 December 2022                | Hunter JO                                     | Distribute PowerPoint slides presented by HunterIF at the 8 December meeting and the Hunter Innovation Festival Evaluation Report to members of the Subcommittee   | Complete  |
| 13 October 2022                | Boyd Blackwell, Hunter JO                     | Boyd Blackwell to provide an overview / presentation on examples of government led domestic and international venture funds to a future meeting of the Subcommittee.   | In progress   |
| 13 October 2022                | Hunter JO                                     | Reporting of the Subcommittee’s activities and progress to the full Hunter JO Board to include the Subcommittee Action Register being included in the Board Papers, along with a synopsis of progress in the Hunter JO Subcommittees Standing Update.  | Complete  |
| 13 October 2022                | Hunter JO                                     | In consultation with the Chair, where it is considered that a monthly meeting of the Subcommittee may not be required, that a written update on the status of actions be distributed in place of a meeting.  | Ongoing   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 | Hunter JO                                     | Prior to providing the Hunter Venture Fund report to the full Hunter JO Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to engage more broadly to both further test the concept, and to attempt to leverage commitments from other levels of government and stakeholders to support establishment of the Entity and Fund to ideally minimise/avoid the need for local government financial contributions</li> <li>Document brief examples of where this concept has worked- domestically and internationally</li> </ul> | In progress   |

| Mtg Date       | Responsibility               | Action  | Delivery Status   |
|----------------|------------------------------|---|---|
|                |                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a clearer narrative as to the “why and what” of the entity and fund and the benefits to Member Councils and their communities</li> </ul>   |   |
| 11 August 2022 | Shaelee Welchman / Hunter JO | Shaelee Welchman, will provide for distribution to Committee members the body of work completed by NSW Government, along with consultant brief and Project ToR (NB these materials have been distributed with the minutes)  | Complete.<br>Information distributed with minutes of 11 August meeting.   |
| 11 August 2022 | Hunter JO                    | That the Hunter JO seek to have a representative nominated to participate on the Expert Panel, and that this representative be Joe James, CEO.  | Complete.<br>Nomination submitted 5 September 2022.   |
| 11 August 2022 | Hunter JO                    | Update NSW election advocacy asks to reflect a “policy commitment” to a regional transition authority   | Complete.<br>“Policy commitment” integrated into draft Hunter Advocacy Framework and Priorities documentation currently under development |
| 11 August 2022 | Hunter JO                    | Establish a subgroup of the Subcommittee to assist with development of State and Federal Government advocacy strategies   | Complete<br>Subgroup met 14th September 2022  |
| 11 August 2022 | Hunter JO                    | Develop and internal strategy for advocacy, including direct engagement with NSW parliamentarians by the Hunter JO Chair and Deputy Chair (i.e. walking the halls of Parliament, ideally by end of September), to canvass the ideas and approach of the Subcommittee, and to invite the input of MP’s to these (i.e. framed along the lines of “we need your assistance and we think this is the right thing for the region - what do you think?”). | Complete<br>Advocacy strategy currently being implemented.  |
| 11 August 2022 | Hunter JO                    | Include Hunter Venture Fund on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Subcommittee to further explore the appetite for the Venture Fund and to frame the next steps needed to progress its development.   | Complete.<br>Included and discussed during 8 <sup>th</sup> September meeting.   |

## 4. Presentations

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### 4.1 Hunter Urban Development Program Committees

*Presenter: Dan Simpkins, Director - Central Coast and Hunter, Department of Planning and Environment.*

This presentation will provide information on governance surrounding delivery of the new Hunter Regional Plan 2041, including a focus on the establishment and role of Urban Development Program Committees for Greater Newcastle, Upper Hunter and MidCoast.

### 4.2 Outcomes of KPMG Analysis – Hunter Regional Events Economy

*Presenter: Kim Carland, Regional Projects Co-ordinator (Tourism and Events) and Chad Gardiner, Director KPMG*

This presentation will provide an overview of the key outcomes of the economic analysis work completed by KPMG which analysed the Hunter regional event economy, including current economic value, opportunities for growth, return on investment and business case data.

### 4.3 Proposed Hunter JO Advocacy Priorities and Activities - NSW State Government Election

*Presenters: Joe James, CEO and Steve Wilson, Director – Hunter Joint Organisation*

This presentation will provide and seek input from the Board on proposed priority advocacy messages and activities to be delivered by the Hunter JO in the remaining period of the NSW Government Election campaign.

This presentation relates to Agenda Item 6.2

## 5. Correspondence

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**Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

### Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on correspondence sent and received in relation to GMAC and the Hunter Joint Organisation Board.

### Correspondence Sent:

- Attachment 1: Correspondence to Transport for NSW re regional submission on the draft Hunter Region Transport Plan

### Correspondence Received:

- Attachment 2: Correspondence received from The Hon. Paul Toole MP, NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW re Letter of Notification - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund for Regional Airports Strategy, December 2022
- Attachment 3: Correspondence received from The Hon. Paul Toole MP, NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW re Letter of Notification - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund for Circular Economy Precincts, December 2022

- Attachment 4: Correspondence received from The Hon. Paul Toole MP, NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW re Letter of Notification - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund for Shiraz to Shore & Hunter Global Tourism, December 2022
- Attachment 5: Email from Stephen Wills, Executive Manager Regional Programs, advising that Regional Transition Masterplan funding application submitted to the Business Case and Strategy Development Fund was unsuccessful, 20 December 2022
- Attachment 6: Email from Stephen Wills, Executive Manager Regional Programs, advising that the Regional EV Strategy funding application submitted to the Business Case and Strategy Development Fund was unsuccessful, 20 December 2022
- Attachment 7: Email from the Office of the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, requesting further information on the advocacy priorities on which the Hunter JO would like to raise in a r meeting with the Minister, 19 December 2022
- Attachment 8: Email from Senior Policy Advisor, Julia Cassuben, Office of the NSW Premier, re organizing a meeting to discuss the Hunter Venture Fund and other priorities leading into the 2023 election, 21 December 2022
- Attachment 9. Correspondence received from Simon Wallace-Pannell, NSW Office of Energy & Climate Change re success of Hunter JO funding application to the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Grant, 22 December 2022.
- Attachment 10. Correspondence received from Dan Simpkins, Department of Planning & Environment re Hunter Urban Development Program Committees
- Attachment 11. Correspondence from Craig Carmody, CEO Port of Newcastle re thanking Hunter JO for participation in Port of Newcastle briefing session
- Attachment 12. Correspondence from Colby Taylor, Director Strategic Engagement – Greater Cities Commission re opportunity for new Greater Cities Commission CEO attend Hunter JO Board meeting.

**Recommendation: That the update report be received and noted.**





30 November 2022

Hunter Regional Transport Plan  
Locked Bag 2300  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2302  
Email: [HunterRTP@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HunterRTP@transport.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Hunter Joint Organisation - SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT HUNTER REGION TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Councils of the Hunter region, through the Hunter Joint Organisation (JO), acknowledge the efforts of Transport for NSW in preparing the draft Hunter Region Transport Plan (the Plan), and welcome the opportunity to review and provide a submission.

Efficient and effective transport networks and services across the region are critical to achieving the vision, of the our 10 democratically elected Mayors, that the Hunter is a region that:

- Is globally connected and whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities
- Is prepared for change and ready to withstand, adapt and recover from natural and human induced risks
- Has an economy that continues to grow and evolve as a powerhouse of the state and national economies, providing more and higher quality jobs
- Will protect, preserve and improve the high standard of liveability and pristine environments.

The Hunter JOs Strategic Plan 2032 identifies four priority themes, all of which require the foundations of an efficient and effective regional transport network and services to achieve the regional strategic priorities identified for each. These themes include:

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

#### **Intraregional connectivity**

Of particular importance is the need for significant enhancements to **intra-region connectivity**, specifically public transport. The metropolitan heart of the region immediately needs a vision and credible concept plan for an integrated public transport solution, followed by a staged delivery plan. The surrounding strategic centres need the same vision, concept plan and staged delivery plans for consistent, rapid services into the metropolitan heart, with sufficient increased frequency to make them a practical commuter option.

Increased certainty on this issue is critical to equity and productivity for current and future citizens as well as to retain and attract talent in a global marketplace that sees a viable public transport option as a critical marker for liveability.



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FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS  

The following submission provides further detail on the strategic opportunities, directions and priorities on which the region's ten Councils, are aligned, as identified in the Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2030 and Hunter JO Regional Advocacy Framework and Priorities. In addition, the submission provides key input drawn from individual Member Council submissions, and review by Hunter JO staff of the draft Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Plan and look forward to continuing to collaborate with Transport for NSW to achieve the transport outcomes that are critical to the region's future economic evolution, resilience and liveability.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our comments and recommendations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission. Should you require any further information, please contact Tim Askew [tima@hunterjo.com](mailto:tima@hunterjo.com).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James", written in a dark ink.

Joe James  
CEO



## Submission by the Hunter Joint Organisation on the draft Hunter Region Transport Plan

### 1. Introduction

The Hunter Joint Organisation is a statutory local government entity established by the NSW Government, through the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, to support councils work together for better rural and regional outcomes, and to enhance the way local and state governments work together to plan and deliver important regional infrastructure and investment.

Member Councils of the Hunter JO include:

- Cessnock City Council
- Dungog Shire Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Maitland City Council
- MidCoast Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- City of Newcastle
- Port Stephens Council
- Singleton Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council

The core statutory functions established for the Hunter JO are:

1. **Strategic planning and priority setting** – to establish strategic regional priorities for the Joint Organisation area and to establish strategies and plans for delivering those priorities
2. **Intergovernmental collaboration** - to identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental cooperation on matters relating to the Joint Organisation area.
3. **Shared leadership and advocacy** - to provide regional leadership for the Joint Organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities.

The information provided in this submission focuses on those regional scale transport connectivity issues, priorities and responses on which Member Councils are aligned.

### 2. Regional Strategic Priorities: Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032 (Strategy 2032)

The Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032 outlines the themes, priorities, objectives and strategic directions of our 10 member councils of the region. Efficient and effective intraregional transport networks and services will be critical to achieving the aligned vision established in the plan; that the Hunter is a region that:

- Is globally connected and whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities
- Is prepared for change and ready to withstand, adapt and recover from natural and human induced risks
- Has an economy that continues to grow and evolve as a powerhouse of the state and national economies, providing more and higher quality jobs
- Will protect, preserve and improve the high standard of liveability and pristine environments.

The Strategic Plan 2032 identifies four priority themes, of which the theme of **connectivity** is paramount. This is because connectivity, particularly an efficient and effective intraregional transport network, will provide the core foundation needed by the other themes to achieve the regional strategic priorities identified for each. The four themes include:



The Strategic Plan identifies the following 12 strategic directions within the theme of Connectivity:

| <b>Connectivity</b><br>A globally connected region whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities. |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1.1.1<br>Support local government having a collective voice in the planning and delivery of major transport infrastructure and systems.  | 1.1.2<br>Proactively facilitate collaboration with key state agencies to support delivery of connectivity solutions that suit the regions current and future needs.   | 1.1.3<br>Support Member Councils to influence other levels of government on a sustainable model for delivery and maintenance of road infrastructure.  |
| 1.1.4<br>Support a Regional Integrated Transport Plan linking key services and centres.  | 1.1.5<br>Identify and facilitate regional approaches for active transport outcomes that deliver connectivity, health, liveability and economic benefits.  | 1.1.6<br>Private and public transport solutions operate on a net zero basis.  |
| 1.2.1<br>Partnering with airport and port to identify and pursue priority actions to enable access to international markets for the benefit of the region.                         | 1.2.2<br>Influence government policy to prioritise the importance of access to international markets for the benefit of the region.   | 1.2.3<br>Leading collaboration in the region between government, industry and community to ensure the benefits of international markets are region wide.  |
| 1.2.4<br>Support a transport access strategy for regional connectivity to and from the airport.  | 1.3.1<br>Support and encourage investment in equitable and competitive digital connectivity and the elimination of mobile black spots across the region to ensure community access to core health and education opportunities, and to enable business development, growth and innovation. | 1.4.1<br>Embed the direction of net-zero in all our connectivity strategies to provide a pathway and level of confidence to investors and community to support the transition to more sustainable transport outcomes. |

Success under the theme of Connectivity is identified as:

- Competitive access to and from global gateways for residents and business.
- Integrated public transport linking key services and centres.
- A sustainable model for delivery and maintenance of road infrastructure.
- Private and public transport solutions operate on a net zero basis.
- A regional network of cycleways and walkways that is accessible to all residents

### 3. Hunter JO Advocacy Framework and Priorities 2022

The Hunter JO Advocacy Framework and Priorities 2022 identifies a series of policy statements and “advocacy asks that reflect the aligned interests, advocacy priorities and directions of the Hunter region’s 10 democratically elected Mayors. The framework identifies six priority regional focus areas, of which a key one includes **“Infrastructure and transport systems that connect the region”**. The six focus areas include:



The specific policy directions identified in relation to the “Infrastructure and transport systems that connect the region” priority include:

1. Addressing the existing infrastructure deficit and improving intra-regional transport connectivity is key to realising the broader aspiration and strategic goals for the region, which are focused around: Jobs & A Growing Economy; Connectivity; Liveability; and Resilience.
2. Investment in digital connectivity and the elimination of mobile black spots across the region are fundamental to ensure community access to core health and education opportunities, and to enable business development, growth and innovation.
3. Uptake of electric cars, bicycles and other vehicles is increasing rapidly and will continue to accelerate over the coming years. Providing a pathway and level of confidence for private and commercial users is needed to support the transition to Electric Vehicles, and in doing so, improve intra and inter regional connectivity and accessibility for EVs in a way that supports regional liveability, local place making, economic activity and the visitor economy.
4. Improving connectivity of the region’s cycling experiences and networks and increasing cycle tourism provides clear benefits to local communities and economies, including new jobs





within the visitor economy, preventive health outcomes, enhanced recreational opportunities and social connectivity, and environmental benefits such as reducing car use and contributing towards net zero emissions targets.

The Advocacy Framework also articulates several 'advocacy asks' that we recommend be considered in finalising the Hunter Region Transport Plan. These include:

*1. Integrated Transport Planning*

Develop an Integrated Transport Plan for the Hunter Region that identifies and delivers:

- Clear priorities and funding for transport infrastructure and services to support a population of 1 million people by 2041
- Frequency and accessibility to a diversity of transport services and systems that provide a truly sustainable "15-minute region" via genuine multi-modal, fast and efficient non-car based intra-regional connections, particularly between key facilities including Newcastle Airport, tertiary educational facilities (University & TAFE), health and medical services and regional transport nodes.
- \$500M to establish an Enabling Infrastructure Fund to invest in urban infrastructure that will free up land capable of supporting the construction of over 25,000 homes and generate an annual economic output of \$12.9 billion including the creation of 15,700 jobs.

*2. Local and Regional Road Network*

- Confirm the process and timeframe for completing a review of the road classification system across all of NSW.
- Streamline the process for Councils to apply for the reclassification of roads from regional to state status and local to regional status

*3. Cycle Based Tourism*

- \$1M investment in Stage 1 of "Shiraz to Shore", a region-wide recreational and tourism initiative that connects and amplifies a collection of already outstanding cycle experiences that span mountain, road and leisure riding across the Hunter. Stage 1 will develop the Shiraz to Shore concept as a nationally and internationally recognised destination for recreational and high value cycling tourists.
- Contribution to the \$71M build program for Shiraz to Shore, to link existing and planned cycleway infrastructure, local businesses and points of interest across all council areas to create an integrated region wide network. Connecting the picturesque Hunter wine country to the spectacular coastal beaches and lakes through this initiative, will activate cycle tourism as a significant contributor to our local and regional economies, and to the Hunter's broader economic evolution.

*4. Transition to Electric Vehicles*

Develop a Regional Strategic Plan for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure to support a region-wide transition to EV's. The plan will identify:

- Priority locations and types of recharging stations to provide a strategic and consolidated network across the region that is integrated with community, business and tourism facilities. This will provide confidence to local communities of access to

recharging facilities and underpin increased visitation to the region based on the Hunter being “EV friendly”.

- Priority actions (and collaborative opportunities) for Councils to transition their own corporate fleets to EV, and to identify the mechanisms through which this could be delivered in a collaborative manner (e.g. policy alignment, regional monitoring, regional procurement).

#### 4. Direct feedback on the draft Plan collated from Member Council submissions and review by Hunter JO staff

The following table incorporates the feedback received from member councils as well as Hunter JO team feedback.

| Page / Section | Comments   |
|----------------|--|
| Overall        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The plan appears strategically comprehensive covering the main areas of transport and we are broadly supportive.</li> <li>2. The plan appears to have been based on a lower population projection than recently released figures. The new DPE figures show that the 2041 population for the region is 949,000 not the 863,000 shown in this plan. This is nearly a doubling of increases predicted in this plan. This will obviously underestimate our transport needs for the region. The report needs to have the figures updated and a statement made around meeting the needs of this increase in population through this plan. The Upper Hunter Councils are also indicating that the new DPE figures are still not including anticipated growth in the town centres of Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Council areas.</li> <li>3. Given the cultural dependence on private motor vehicles in the region, there needs to be notable emphasis placed on assisting the push of modal shift for the region. For example in Newcastle’s western corridor growth corridor, which includes the communities of Minmi, Thornton, Beresfield, Tarro, Wallsend, Fletcher and Maryland has development that is a car dominant, with minimal transport opportunities for the residents. The plan seems aligned on this point, however we would like to emphasise the options for travel on modes other than the private vehicle should not be seen as alternatives, they should be strongly promoted as the most viable and effective travel options for most trips. To meet (and exceed) the targets set in the Plan and other supporting state, regional and local plans and strategies, significant resourcing and support will be required to address the existing deficit and enable progression in line with the volume and pace of development and investment seen in the private and commercial sectors in the region.</li> <li>4. The action plan is comprehensive but there is no clear guide on how this will be implemented. Most actions are set at 0-3 or 0-10 years giving a wide range for implementation but no understanding of how that could be achieved. What sort of funding and team will be allocated to deliver these actions. How will they</li> </ol> |

| Page /<br>Section | Comments   |
|-------------------|--|
|                   | <p>collaborate and partner with local government are key questions for local government.</p> <p>5. The Draft Plan does not align to the Hunter Regional Plan (HRP) in that it doesn't provide for an infrastructure first framework, it doesn't specifically identify where the transport priorities are and it doesn't provide for flexible decision making as the Place Planning under the HRP takes place. The draft HRP identified the need to apply an infrastructure assessment framework to investigation areas to understand the servicing and staging of infrastructure to support significant growth areas and corridors. The integration of land use and infrastructure is critical to ensuring place planning is coordinated and delivered to meet the demands of growth across all infrastructure sectors.</p> <p>6. The Plan should include an initiative to enhance the amenity and safety of towns, villages and neighbourhoods on main road and rail transport routes, particularly where traffic volumes have increased significantly over time. For example, safe pedestrian crossings are required on the New England Highway at Aberdeen.</p> <p>7. The plan should consider the role that smaller airports, such as Scone, Cessnock and Taree, can play in freight and passenger services and the opportunities for developing these airports into transport hubs.</p> <p>8. The discussion throughout the document on the repurposing of rail networks and post mining changes must take into consideration the current post mining transport infrastructure that will be in place once mining winds down (current forecast is commencing 2035, within the life of the Transport Plan) and how this infrastructure will be used and/or integrated into the future of transport. Specifically, the Transport Plan must recognise and plan for the number of rail load outs that could provide for future distribution centres (reducing trucks on roads), the existing 3 rail line from Ulan to Newcastle and its future use for freight, the road network inter-relationships between local government and future land uses, including consideration of reuse of lines for passenger services or repurposing for cycling rail trails.</p> |
| <b>P8-10</b>      | The Transport Challenge: Underestimates all the statistics and have included old DPE population and GRP figures not the most recent which will underestimate our transport needs (as mentioned above). Every statistic is incorrect in this section.   |
| <b>P 11</b>       | Missing some growth areas (mentions Morisset – but should say Morisset and South West Growth Area), spelt Tomago and East Maitland incorrectly.  |
| <b>P22-30</b>     | Objectives 1-3 are critical to a growing region and significant support and leadership is required at a state level to achieve these objectives. The need to improve intra-regional connections between town centres, key attractors and key employment nodes is especially important. Improving the regularity of services between upper and lower Hunter centres will future proof the region and meet expected growth. This could include faster rail, rapid bus network between centres and key attractors, park and ride hubs, bike storage in key nodes connected by efficient public transport;   |



| Page /<br>Section | Comments  |
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|                   | <p>and a defined shift in support of walking and cycling through guidelines and assessments to support effective infrastructure changes.</p> <p>A holistic response led by TfNSW in partnership with the region is required to address challenges, with a particular focus on making active and public transport viable and effective options for most trips. A holistic review of all transport services in the region is strongly supported and must be done in collaboration with local councils. Improvements to the existing bus network needs to be prioritised as a short-term measure, with a focus on improved connectivity to jobs, health, education, and visitor attractions; reduced travel times through the introduction of new express services and bus prioritisation, increased frequency of services of key routes, and expanded operating hours in areas with no current evening services.</p> <p>In the support of the 15-minute neighbourhood, there needs to be a notable reduction on the emphasis on network efficiency being based / assessed on vehicle volumes, with a shift toward connectivity improvements for active transport modes, as well as the corresponding increase in safety for all users of the transport network.</p> <p>It is good to see that a connected Greater Newcastle cycleway network is on the agenda. There are also great opportunities to extend cycleway networks into some growing Upper Hunter and Mid Coast centres as well.</p> <p>The road space hierarchy is supported. Councils will need support from Transport for NSW to implement a similar hierarchy.</p> |
| <b>P31-41</b>     | <p>Generally supportive of objectives 4-7.</p> <p>The government needs to increase funding in the Upper Hunter to implement targeted improvements to our rural and regional local road networks (eg increase funding allocated to the remote roads upgrade program). Lowering the default speed limit for all gravel rural roads to 80km/hour is supported to help reduce road fatalities and serious injuries in rural areas.</p>  |
| <b>P42-48</b>     | <p>Support the objectives 8, 9, 10 and 11. Councils will need significant support from Transport for NSW to implement.</p> <p>The Hunter JO supports the utilisation of the Movement and Place framework, and these principles are being implemented in forward infrastructure projects in the region. The importance on public information and wayfinding should also be integrated into these outcomes, to support people understanding their options and choices when assessing transport. Additionally further acknowledgement on the benefits of natural shade canopy and tree integration into infrastructure projects should be highlighted.</p>   |
| <b>P53-58</b>     | <p>Broadly supportive of objectives 12 and 13. Councils will need significant support from Transport for NSW to implement, including investment in services and corresponding behaviour change programs.</p> <p>The Hunter JO would support stronger emphasis on initiatives such as secure bike storage at transport nodes, influence on effective planning law change to further</p>  |

| Page /<br>Section                  | Comments   |
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|                                    | <p>require additional and improved end of trip facilities for new developments, and increased funding allocation towards walking and cycling outcomes.</p> <p>The City of Newcastle believes that improvements in micro mobility access, when coupled with appropriate infrastructure, will deliver a positive impact in modal shift and acceptance of various users within the road envelope.</p> <p>Please note that the Newcastle e-Bike case study is incorrect. This service trial was not extended, with the provider pulling much of their assets out of Newcastle during the COVID period. The current state of much of the infrastructure is poor, with few bikes remaining on the service. It is recommended that this case study is removed, with potential alternates being the bike share service in Lake Macquarie or the upcoming e-scooter trials for Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.</p>  |
| <b>P59-66</b>                      | <p>Broadly supportive of objectives 14, 15 and 16. Productive capacity and service will be critical to the evolution of our economy.</p> <p>The discussion around the Hunter Expressway Corridor ends at the Weston interchange and does not discuss future growth opportunities for the Branxton interchange, down to Whittingham and the existing zoned industrial estate. It is recommended that the strategy include content which highlights the important connection between the Hunter Expressway and the New England Highway. Planning for these respective roads should not be done in isolation. Proper consideration needs to be given to the broader road network.</p> <p>Key hubs for Newcastle include the John Hunter Health precinct, the University of Newcastle, key industrial precincts at Beresfield, Black Hill and Mayfield West (Steel River Estate), and the planned expansion of the Fern Bay and Williamstown areas surrounding the Airport. Additionally, development of the Broadmeadow precinct will require significant transport upgrades to provide the required connectivity to ensure that current deficient infrastructure outcomes are not continued through the future development of this precinct.</p> |
| <b>Initiatives<br/>Action Plan</b> | <p>The member councils and Hunter JO can play an important role in assisting with the implementation of the plan. It is critical that we are included in the implementation process, and given the right budgetary assistance from Transport for NSW, can provide resources to help facilitate and fast track this plan as a valued partner.</p> <p>The Plan should include actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Shiraz to Shore Cycle Trail proposal. The project aligns closely with a broader regional initiative that focuses on cycle tourism across the region. This unique opportunity links planned cycleway infrastructure across numerous council areas; to create an integrated region wide network. The Shiraz to Shore Cycle Trail, will connect the picturesque wine country region to the spectacular coastal beaches and lakes of the Lower Hunter.</li> <li>• The Singleton Bypass project, which is a significant upcoming infrastructure project for Singleton and the broader Hunter Region, is not included within the Draft Plan - Initiatives Action Plan. It is assumed that this is an oversight as the</li> </ul>   |



| Page /<br>Section | Comments   |
|-------------------|--|
|                   | <p>plan discusses the project on page 44</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To increase the number of overtaking lanes on State and regional roads to improve the efficiency and safety of the road network.</li><li>• Add funding for pavement strengthening, required to expand the B-double network and allow more efficient freight and livestock movements from rural areas to markets.</li><li>• To include an express bus service along the key Hunter Expressway corridor to connect people between town centres and key trip attractors in the Lower Hunter area as part of the Rapid Bus Package - It is envisaged that the 'Hunter Express' route could include stops at Singleton, Branxton, Heddon Greta, Wallsend, Newcastle University, John Hunter Hospital before terminating at Broadmeadow. The Broadmeadow interchange would provide access to the nearby Entertainment and Sporting Precinct as well as connect people to intercity train services, offering access to many places across the State including Sydney and the Central Coast</li></ul> |



**The Hon. Paul Toole MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Police

OFFICIAL

22/51#58

Dr Boyd Blackwell  
Regional Policy and Program Manager  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
PO Box 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Dear Dr Blackwell,

**Letter of Offer – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund**

Thank you for your support of the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

I appreciate the time and effort it takes to prepare applications and I thank you for applying to this program. I am excited about the great potential of these projects to enhance our regional communities.

It is my pleasure to confirm the following project submitted by your organisation has been successful:

| <b>Application ID</b> | <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>Grant Value</b>     |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| BCSD1 - 0112          | IRAS: PAT-LIP - Integrated Regional Airports' Strategy - Passenger, Airfreight and Transport and Logistics Infrastructure Plan | \$500,000.00 excl. GST |

The NSW Government may make a public announcement about the funding of your project and you are encouraged to contact the media unit at the Department of Regional NSW via [media@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@regional.nsw.gov.au) with any planned media opportunities regarding your project.

I ask that the funding offer is kept confidential until it has been announced by the NSW Government. **Please sign the attached Confidentiality Undertaking and email back to [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au) within 5 business days of receipt of this letter.**

Please note that the NSW Government is under no obligation to pay Hunter Joint Organisation any funding unless, and until, both parties execute an agreed Funding Deed.

It should also be noted as part of receiving NSW Government funding, you will be required to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities and processes.

Should you wish to discuss this offer further, please contact Fin McDonough, Manager Programs on 02 6650 3154 or [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au).

We look forward to working closely with you to facilitate this important project in regional NSW.

Yours sincerely,

**The Hon. Paul Toole MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Police

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## CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

**Program:** Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

**Applicant:** Hunter Joint Organisation

**Project ID and Title:** BCSD1 - 0112 IRAS: PAT-LIP - Integrated Regional Airports' Strategy  
- Passenger, Airfreight and Transport and Logistics Infrastructure Plan


**Grant value:** \$500,000.00 excl. GST

On behalf of Hunter Joint Organisation, I confirm and will ensure, that the Hunter Joint Organisation will:

- maintain strict confidentiality on the outcome of this funding application until after the NSW Government has made a public announcement; and
- keep information pertaining to the funding outcome and other program information confidential and secure at all times.

It is acknowledged that this undertaking does not apply to disclosing confidential information that:

- is required under any law or any administrative guideline, directive, request or policy having the force of law; or
- which is already in the public domain.

Signed  .....

Name ..... Steve Wilson

Position ..... Director Policy & Programs

Organisation ..... Hunter JO

Date ..... 21 December 2022

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**The Hon. Paul Toole MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Police

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22/51#58

Mr Tim Askew  
Policy and Program Manager  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
PO BOX 3137  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Dear Mr Askew,

**Letter of Offer – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund**

Thank you for your support of the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

I appreciate the time and effort it takes to prepare applications and I thank you for applying to this program. I am excited about the great potential of these projects to enhance our regional communities.

It is my pleasure to confirm the following project submitted by your organisation has been successful:

| <b>Application ID</b> | <b>Project Title</b>                       | <b>Grant Value</b>     |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| BCSD1 - 0113          | Circular Economy Precincts and Futures Hub | \$878,600.00 excl. GST |

The NSW Government may make a public announcement about the funding of your project and you are encouraged to contact the media unit at the Department of Regional NSW via [media@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@regional.nsw.gov.au) with any planned media opportunities regarding your project.

I ask that the funding offer is kept confidential until it has been announced by the NSW Government. **Please sign the attached Confidentiality Undertaking and email back to [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au) within 5 business days of receipt of this letter.**

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It should also be noted as part of receiving NSW Government funding, you will be required to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities and processes.

Should you wish to discuss this offer further, please contact Fin McDonough, Manager Programs on 02 6650 3154 or [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au).

We look forward to working closely with you to facilitate this important project in regional NSW.

Yours sincerely,

**The Hon. Paul Toole MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Police

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## CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

**Program:** Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

**Applicant:** Hunter Joint Organisation

**Project ID and Title:** BCSD1 - 0113 Circular Economy Precincts and Futures Hub

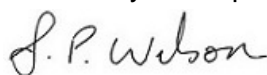
**Grant value:** \$878,600.00 excl. GST

On behalf of Hunter Joint Organisation, I confirm and will ensure, that the Hunter Joint Organisation will:

- maintain strict confidentiality on the outcome of this funding application until after the NSW Government has made a public announcement; and
- keep information pertaining to the funding outcome and other program information confidential and secure at all times.

It is acknowledged that this undertaking does not apply to disclosing confidential information that:

- is required under any law or any administrative guideline, directive, request or policy having the force of law; or
- which is already in the public domain.

Signed ..... 

Name ..... Steve Wilson

Position ..... Director Regional Policy & Programs

Organisation ..... Hunter Joint Organisation

Date ..... 21 December 2022

OFFICIAL





**The Hon. Paul Toole MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Police

OFFICIAL

22/51#58

Ms Kim Carland  
Project Coordinator  
Hunter Joint Organisation  
4 Sandringham Avenue  
THORNTON NSW 2322

Dear Ms Carland,

**Letter of Offer – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund**

Thank you for your support of the Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

I appreciate the time and effort it takes to prepare applications and I thank you for applying to this program. I am excited about the great potential of these projects to enhance our regional communities.

It is my pleasure to confirm the following projects submitted by your organisation have been successful:

| Application ID | Project Title         | Grant Value            |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| BCSD1 - 0006   | Shiraz to Shore       | \$387,500.00 excl. GST |
| BCSD1 - 0308   | Hunter Global Tourism | \$500,000.00 excl. GST |

The NSW Government may make a public announcement about the funding of your projects and you are encouraged to contact the media unit at the Department of Regional NSW via [media@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@regional.nsw.gov.au) with any planned media opportunities regarding your projects.

I ask that the funding offer is kept confidential until it has been announced by the NSW Government.

**Please sign the attached Confidentiality Undertaking and email back to [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au) within 5 business days of receipt of this letter.**

Please note that the NSW Government is under no obligation to pay Hunter Joint Organisation any funding unless, and until, both parties execute an agreed Funding Deed.

It should also be noted as part of receiving NSW Government funding, you will be required to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities and processes.

Should you wish to discuss this offer further, please contact Fin McDonough, Manager Programs on 02 6650 3154 or [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au).

We look forward to working closely with you to facilitate this important project in regional NSW.

Yours sincerely,

**The Hon. Paul Toole MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Police

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## CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

**Program:** Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

**Applicant:** Hunter Joint Organisation

**Project ID and Title:** BCSD1 - 0006 Shiraz to Shore


**Grant value:** \$387,500.00 excl. GST

On behalf of Hunter Joint Organisation, I confirm and will ensure, that the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils will:

- maintain strict confidentiality on the outcome of this funding application until after the NSW Government has made a public announcement; and
- keep information pertaining to the funding outcome and other program information confidential and secure at all times.

It is acknowledged that this undertaking does not apply to disclosing confidential information that:

- is required under any law or any administrative guideline, directive, request or policy having the force of law; or
- which is already in the public domain.

Signed .....  


Steve Wilson  
Name .....

Director Regional Policy & Programs  
Position .....

Hunter Joint Organisation  
Organisation .....

21 December 2022  
Date .....

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## CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

**Program:** Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

**Applicant:** Hunter Joint Organisation

**Project ID and Title:** BCSD1 - 0308 Hunter Global Tourism


**Grant value:** \$500,000.00 excl. GST

On behalf of Hunter Joint Organisation, I confirm, and will ensure, that the Hunter Joint Organisation will:

- maintain strict confidentiality on the outcome of this funding application until after the NSW Government has made a public announcement; and
- keep information pertaining to the funding outcome and other program information confidential and secure at all times.

It is acknowledged that this undertaking does not apply to disclosing confidential information that:

- is required under any law or any administrative guideline, directive, request or policy having the force of law; or
- which is already in the public domain.

Signed  .....

Name ..... Steve Wilson

Position ..... Director Regional Policy & Programs

Organisation ..... Hunter Joint Organisation

Date ..... 21 December 2022

**From:** [Boyd Blackwell](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund - Outcome Notification  
**Date:** Wednesday, 21 December 2022 2:54:28 PM

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**From:** Regional NSW Economic Activation Programs <noreply@smartygrants.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 December 2022 3:41 PM  
**To:** Hunter Councils Admin <admin@ssalimited.com.au>  
**Cc:** Boyd Blackwell <boydb@hunterjo.com.au>  
**Subject:** Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund - Outcome Notification

Good Afternoon Hunter Joint Organisation of Council,

Thank you for taking the time and effort to apply for the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund. I regret to inform you that your application - BCSD1 - 0114 was unsuccessful.

We understand applications require significant resources to develop and we appreciate the effort you have made to submit your detailed application.

Should you wish to discuss your application and reasons why it was unsuccessful, please email [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au) to set up a time for a feedback session.

Sincerely

**Stephen Wills**

**Executive Director, Regional Programs**

Regional Development and Programs | Department of Regional NSW

---

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**From:** [Chris Dart](#)  
**To:** [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au)  
**Cc:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Tim Askew](#); [Anna Flack](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund - Outcome Notification  
**Date:** Wednesday, 21 December 2022 10:03:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Stephen,

Thanks for your email. That is disappointing news, but I understand that this was a competitive process and acknowledge your team's work in assessing our application.

I would appreciate the opportunity for a feedback session. Can we please set up a time?

Kind regards,

Chris

## Chris Dart

REGIONAL PROJECT OFFICER (SIMTABLES)  
REGIONAL POLICY & PROGRAMS

[chrisd@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:chrisd@hunterjo.com.au) | 0460 038 197

4 Sandringham Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322

P (02) 4978 4040

Follow our progress

[hunterjo.com.au](https://hunterjo.com.au)



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

---

**From:** Regional NSW Economic Activation Programs <noreply@smartygrants.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 December 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** RPPD <rppd@hunterjo.com.au>  
**Cc:** Chris Dart <chrisd@hunterjo.com.au>  
**Subject:** Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund - Outcome Notification

Good Afternoon Hunter Joint Organisation,

Thank you for taking the time and effort to apply for the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund. I regret to inform you that your application - BCSD1 - 0150 was unsuccessful.

We understand applications require significant resources to develop and we appreciate the effort you have made to submit your detailed application.

Should you wish to discuss your application and reasons why it was unsuccessful, please email [economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.programs@regional.nsw.gov.au) to set up a time for a feedback session.

Sincerely

**Stephen Wills**

**Executive Director, Regional Programs**

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**From:** [Joe James](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Louisa Bulley](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Meeting Request: Hunter JO Priorities for the 2023 NSW Election - Ref: MX22-002642  
**Date:** Wednesday, 21 December 2022 9:53:27 PM

---

FYI

Joe James  
M: +61 405 217 249

---

**From:** Griffin Office Email <office@griffin.minister.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2022 2:59:10 PM  
**To:** Joe James <ceo@hunterjo.com.au>  
**Subject:** Meeting Request: Hunter JO Priorities for the 2023 NSW Election - Ref: MX22-002642

Dear Joe

Thank you for your invitation to the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Please provide further information on the matters you wish to discuss in order to consider the meeting request.

Yours sincerely

Office of the Hon James Griffin MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage

e-Contact form: [nsw.gov.au/ministergriffin](https://nsw.gov.au/ministergriffin)



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

---

**From:** Joe James <ceo@hunterjo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 October 2022 9:53 AM  
**To:** Griffin Office Email <office@griffin.minister.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Meeting Request: Hunter JO Priorities for the 2023 NSW Election

Dear Hon. James Griffin, MP,

The purpose of this email is to request a meeting with you in your position as Minister for Environment & Heritage to discuss the shared interests, priorities and directions of the Hunter region's 10 democratically elected Mayors in the lead up to the 2023 NSW Government election.

We are particularly interested in exploring with you the idea of a regional entity based in the Hunter, with the authority and resources necessary to drive, coordinate and deliver the substantive and rapid economic evolution needed to maintain the Hunter's resilience, liveability, and economic prosperity in the face of a rapidly growing population and decline of our traditional coal and energy-based industries.

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) is the collaborative body that brings together ten regional councils to provide a united and local voice for the communities of the Hunter region. Our statutory role includes identifying key regional strategic priorities and supporting collaborations to deliver these priorities with key partners, including other levels of government, industry and community.

If you could please confirm your interest in a meeting with myself and other representatives from the Hunter JO it would be greatly appreciated. We are interested in meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards

**Joe James**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

[ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au) | 0405 217 249

59 Bonville Avenue | PO Box 3137 | Thornton NSW 2322

P (02) 4978 4040

Follow our progress

[hunterjo.com.au](https://hunterjo.com.au)



---

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**From:** [Joe James](#)  
**To:** [Julia Cassuben](#)  
**Cc:** [Hunter Councils Admin](#); [Steve Wilson](#); [Louisa Bulley](#); [Blake Almond](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with the NSW Premier's Office  
**Date:** Tuesday, 20 December 2022 1:43:29 PM

---

Hi Julia

Thanks for getting in touch.

Let me check with one or two of my colleagues who I would like to involve.

What are your movements this week or in early January. (I am fairly flexible through the back end of this week - Thursday on teams or Friday in person - or the week of 9 January - either teams or in person depending on the day).

Kind regards

Joe James  
M: +61 405 217 249

---

**From:** Julia Cassuben <[Julia.Cassuben@premier.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Julia.Cassuben@premier.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 12:52 pm  
**To:** Joe James <[ceo@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:ceo@hunterjo.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Hunter Councils Admin <[admin@ssalimited.com.au](mailto:admin@ssalimited.com.au)>  
**Subject:** Meeting with the NSW Premier's Office

Hi Joe,

I hope you're well. I'm writing in response to your request to meet with the Premier regarding the Hunter Joint Organisation's recommendation re a Hunter Venture Fund, and other priorities leading into the 2023 election.

Whilst the Premier is unable to meet at this time, as the Premier's relevant policy advisor I would be pleased to meet with your organisation to discuss.

If this is suitable on your end, can you please send through some times that might work for a meeting? I can offer a meeting either at our Martin Place offices, or via Teams.

Regards,  
Julia

**Julia Cassuben**  
Senior Policy Adviser  
Office of the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP  
NSW Premier

---

M 0429 598 943  
E [Julia.cassuben@premier.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Julia.cassuben@premier.nsw.gov.au)



---

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Our ref: SCJONZAG

Dear Applicant

---

Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Grant

22 December 2022

The NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC) has finalised its funding decision for the 2022 pilot *Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration grants* program. I am pleased to advise that your application to the program for Hunter Joint Organisation was successful.

There were strong claims for funds in this pilot grant round, with a diverse range of net zero outcomes proposed across regional NSW. OECC received 9 applications, requesting total funding of \$1.395 million. Following a rigorous assessment process against the identified grant criteria, 9 grants with a total value of \$1,395,000 were approved.

Attached to this letter is a Funding Agreement which you *must* complete and sign to accept the Grant and commence project implementation. Please ensure you can meet the conditions of the Funding Agreement and return this no later than 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The Funding Agreement outlines your obligations in entering into an agreement with OECC including committing to complete project activities, reporting requirements, payment instalments schedule and identification of performance outcomes. Project commencement is due to occur on the successful recruitment of the internal resource and no later than 30 May 2023, with an implementation period of 12 months. Project finalisation is due by May 2024. If you have any further questions, please contact Sam Gardner or Cathy Semmler at [SCC@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SCC@environment.nsw.gov.au).

**Simon Wallace-Pannell**

Manager, Sustainable Councils, OECC

---

The Office of Energy and Climate Change is part of the **Treasury Cluster**

Mr Joe James  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hunter Joint Organisation

Via email: [admin@hunterjo.com.au](mailto:admin@hunterjo.com.au)

21 December 2022

---

*Subject: Hunter Urban Development Program Committees*

Dear Mr James,

I am seeking an opportunity to brief the Hunter Joint Organisation Board on the delivery governance of the new *Hunter Regional Plan 2041*, and seek nominations to sit on the Urban Development Program Committees.

The regional plan acknowledges that at present, strategic land use decisions, including those relating to state infrastructure contributions, often precede capital investment planning by infrastructure and service delivery authorities. Consequently, decisions on infrastructure investment often lag behind the identification and development of new growth areas and increased housing in existing places.

For a growing Hunter, uncoordinated provision of services and infrastructure is not sustainable, efficient, cost effective or equitable.

An infrastructure-first and place-based approach to development requires infrastructure providers, the development industry, local government and public authorities to take an integrated and coherent place-based approach to land use planning. This place-based approach includes an urban development program, infrastructure assessment and place strategies for areas undergoing change.

The Urban Development Program Committees will

- identify and remove barriers and disincentives for infill housing.
- oversee a pipeline of housing and employment land supply across Greater Newcastle and Upper Hunter and Mid Coast.
- track the supply of infill and greenfield land supply, completions, whether the land is serviced or contains biodiversity constraints/values, and infrastructure servicing data of housing and employment land.
- identify opportunities to accelerate the supply of land for housing and employment including improvements to land rezoning, release, and servicing.
- make land use and infrastructure sequencing recommendations that may result in more cost-effective housing and job delivery.
- monitor the density of development across the Hunter.
- provide annual updates on the implementation of the *Hunter Regional Plan 2041*.
- provide annual updates to a sequencing plan and delivery report.

As the hub for local government collaboration and the local voice for our communities, the Department is seeking nominations from the Hunter Joint Organisation members to be on the Urban Development Program Committees for Greater Newcastle and Upper Hunter and MidCoast.

Over the life of the program, the nominee(s) are expected to represent local government, having appropriate delegations to make informed yet decisive decisions, whilst providing executive oversight to obtain related data from their organisation(s) to inform evidence-based recommendations on infrastructure and housing supply priorities for the Hunter.

The Department intends on hosting the meetings of the Urban Development Program Committee early in 2023 to commence this work.

Should you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Mr Thomas Holmes, Manager, Regional Housing Program, at the Department on 9860 1583.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Simpkins", followed by a horizontal line.

**Dan Simpkins**  
**Director, Central Coast and Hunter**  
**Department of Planning and Environment**

**From:** [Joe James](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Cc:** [Louisa Bulley](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: THANK YOU  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 February 2023 2:43:52 PM

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Joe James  
M: +61 405 217 249

---

**From:** Craig Carmody <Craig.Carmody@portofnewcastle.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2022 1:52:01 PM  
**To:** Sheena Martin <sheena.martin@businesshunter.com>; Anita Hugo <AHugo@propertycouncil.com.au>; Joe James <ceo@hunterjo.com.au>; Alice Thompson <ceo@hunter.org.au>; Richard Anicich <Richard.Anicich@sparke.com.au>; matt.endacott@gcc.nsw.gov.au <matt.endacott@gcc.nsw.gov.au>; Claire Swan <Claire.Swan@gcc.nsw.gov.au>; Neil Petherbridge <neil@northrop.com.au>  
**Cc:** Stephen Crowe <Stephen.Crowe@portofnewcastle.com.au>; Lucas Coleman <Lucas.Coleman@portofnewcastle.com.au>  
**Subject:** THANK YOU

Dear all,

Thank you again for taking to the time to come to the Port for yesterday's briefing. Particularly given how busy you are at this time of year.

As I mentioned, without the overwhelming third-party support and advocacy we received from within and beyond our region, our recent political successes would not have been possible.

I hope I was able to demonstrate that our aspirations are very clearly aligned with yours. Whilst our view, that we will be the most diversified Port on the east coast within the next decade is ambitious, it is achievable with hard work and the perseverance that our organisation and our region have become known for.

It also requires at best, a supportive State Government ... at worst, a neutral State Government. And, this is where, you all come to the fore. To ensure that, whichever side wins in March 2023, they know that the community of the Hunter will be vocal in calling out efforts to prevent our regional economy from diversifying (while we can afford it and plan for it).

I know many of you had the chance to raise questions yesterday. Could I ask that if you have any further queries, issues you would like clarified or would like access to more data, please reach out to Stephen Crowe or Lucas Coleman at any time.

There is clearly much to be done, particularly over the next 6 months, including ensuring our future container terminal is allowed to proceed in the manner that Parliament's decision last month intended it to.

Any assistance you can provide in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again.

Craig

**Craig Carmody**

Chief Executive Officer



**EA:** Gabrielle Fitzgibbon

**M:** [0412 429 370](tel:0412429370)

**E:** [gabrielle.fitzgibbon@portofnewcastle.com.au](mailto:gabrielle.fitzgibbon@portofnewcastle.com.au)

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**From:** [Joe James](#)  
**To:** [Colby Taylor](#)  
**Cc:** [Louisa Bulley](#); [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: New CEO Board meeting introduction and meeting for Greater Cities Commission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 February 2023 9:42:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Colby

Thanks for reaching out.

Next meeting is now next week (was pushed back). **Our agenda and papers go out tomorrow, so let us know if Chris could be available next Thursday (at some point between 10:45am and 12pm).**

Subsequent meeting is still 13 April.

I think getting Chris to do a short introduction next Thursday (if he is available) and then return for a deeper engagement on 13 April would be the optimal outcome.

We will be testing a few key advocacy ideas next week (happy to walk Chris through those so he is aware)

I also think, in an introduction, it will be useful to ensure we specifically articulate the role of the GCC in the Region Plan .... this is probably key to engaging the board beyond the lower Hunter councils.

Chris should also be aware that Dan Simpkins, DPE, is presenting to the board next week on Urban Development Program Committees (one for each of Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter, and Mid-Coast) ... definitely some cross-over there.

Cheers

Joe

Joe James  
M: +61 405 217 249

---

**From:** Colby Taylor <colby.taylor@gcc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:58 am  
**To:** Joe James <ceo@hunterjo.com.au>  
**Subject:** New CEO Board meeting introduction and meeting for Greater Cities Commission

OFFICIAL

Good Morning Joe

I hope you have had a great start to the new year!

Just touching base as I am sure you are aware we have a new CEO on board here at the GCC, and in the interest of trying to be cautious of everyone's time and availability I was wondering if there is an opportunity for Chris to attend the next HJO meeting (in person) on 13 April to introduce himself and provide a quick update on the Commission for the Region and City Plans? We are aiming to be up in the Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle City for other engagement activities as well, and thought this would be a good start to the day.

I know that your next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and if your GMs and Mayors would not like to wait until April, we can work together to arrange a quick half an hour introduction session in the next weeks if there is interest for a meet and greet and then we can get right into it at the meeting on 13 April.

Would love to hear your thoughts.

Thanks  
Colby

## Colby Taylor

Director, Strategic Engagement  
Thought Leadership and Engagement

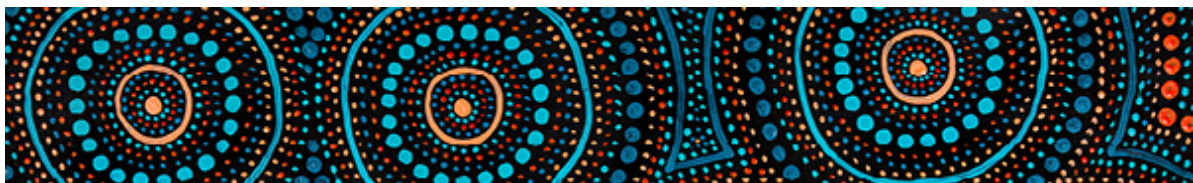
M 0455 444 685 E [colby.taylor@gcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:colby.taylor@gcc.nsw.gov.au)

[www.greatercities.au](http://www.greatercities.au)

Level 11, 6PSQ, 10 Darcy Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

## Greater Cities Commission

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**The Greater Cities Commission proudly acknowledges Australia's First Peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters of what we call the six cities. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and value the extraordinary and ongoing contribution of First Nations peoples and communities to Australian life, and how this enriches all Australians.**

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OFFICIAL

## 6. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision

### 6.1 Arrow – Hunter JO Funding Deed

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**Report Author: Louisa Bulley, Executive Officer**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

#### Executive Summary

As discussed in Item 6.3 of the December meeting of the Hunter JO Board, a draft Funding Deed has been developed, with the intent to formalising the funding relationship between Arrow Collaborative Services and the Hunter Joint Organisation.

A copy of the draft Funding Deed has been provided at Attachment 13.

The operative provisions of the Funding Deed are in Clause 3 and have the effect that:

1. Arrow must provide written notice to the Hunter JO, by no later than 30 June each year, as to the amount it will provide to Hunter JO for the follow financial year; and
2. the amount notified constitutes a legally binding commitment from Arrow to the Hunter JO for that period.

#### Background

This Funding Deed, in providing further clarity on the relationship between the two entities, also seeks to address questions raised in the Hunter JO audit as to the auditors assessment of Hunter JO as a going concern. This issue has also been raised in discussion at the Hunter JO board in relation to the level of reliance that the voting members of the Hunter JO Board must make in relation to Arrows funding 'promise'.

A draft of the Funding Deed has been provided to the Auditor-General to provide feedback and comments. Specifically, we are seeking the Auditor-General's confirmation that she will recognise the funding contribution from Arrow as revenue for the purposes of the assessment of Hunter JO as a going concern. The Hunter JO Audited Financials for the 2021-22 financial year have not yet been finalised, with an extension provided by the Office of Local Government for these to be received by the Board while this issue is resolved.

Once the audited financials have been signed off by the Auditor-General, the Hunter JO Board will then be able to hold its Annual General Meeting for the 2021-22 financial year (planned before the end of February 2023).

It is proposed that, following feedback from the Hunter JO Board, the Deed will be circulated to the Arrow Board for its own endorsement out of session.

#### **Recommendation:**

- **That the Hunter JO Board endorse the draft Funding Deed ;**
- **Pending confirmation that the Auditor General will recognise revenue from Arrow for purposes of assessment of Hunter JO as a going concern, that the Hunter JO Chair is authorised to execution the Funding Deed on behalf of Hunter JO**
- **That, the Hunter JO Annual General Meeting be called, to take place virtually on a date after the execution of the Funding Deed and by 28 February 2023 (or such other date as OLG agrees to extend the lodgement deadline).**

**DATED                    DAY OF                    2023**

**BETWEEN**

**ARROW COLLABORATIVE SERVICES LIMITED  
(ARROW)**

**AND**

**HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION  
(HUNTER JO)**

---

**FUNDING DEED**

---

**Local Government Legal**

4 Sandringham Avenue

Thornton NSW 2322

Phone: 4922 2301

THIS FUNDING DEED is made the

day of

2022

**BETWEEN**      **ARROW COLLABORATIVE SERVICES LIMITED** of 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton  
(**Arrow**) of the first part

**AND**            **HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION** of 4 Sandringham Avenue, Thornton (**Hunter JO**) of  
the second part

## **WHEREAS**

- A. Arrow was established in [###] and its objectives, as set out in its constitution, include to:
  - improve the quality and efficiency of local government service; and
  - enhance the social, economic, cultural and environmental interests of regions.
- B. The Hunter JO is a body corporate, established by proclamation under the *Local Government Act*, on 11 May 2018.
- C. Arrow's objectives are, in part, achieved through financial support of the Hunter JO, with which Arrow shares common membership.
- D. In the absence of any consideration to Arrow, Arrow has been providing Hunter JO with annual, operational funding support, paid on a monthly basis, since the establishment of the Hunter JO.
- E. The funding support by Arrow to the Hunter JO is not subject to any existing, legally binding arrangement.
- F. In signing off the annual financial accounts for the Hunter JO, the amount and timing of the annual funding support by Arrow to Hunter JO is material to both the board and auditor assessing the Hunter JO as a going concern.
- G. In signing off the annual financial accounts for Arrow, the amount and timing of the annual funding support by Arrow to Hunter JO is material to both the board and auditor assessing the Arrow as a going concern.
- H. To assist with the financial planning and management of each party, this deed establishes a process by which Arrow may make a binding funding commitment to Hunter JO.

**NOW THIS DEED WITNESSES** that in consideration of the premises the parties hereto hereby mutually covenant and agree as follows:

## **1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

**1.1** In this Deed, unless the contrary intention appears:

**Deed** means this document and the commitments contained within it between Arrow and the Hunter JO, as varied from time to time in accordance with its terms;

**Audit** means the financial audit conducted of the Hunter JO each year in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*

**Business Day** means a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, public holiday or bank holiday in NSW;

**Commencement Date** means the day of 2023;

**Confidential Information** means any information that is:

- (a) by its nature confidential;
- (b) is designated by a Party as being confidential; or
- (c) a Party knows or ought to know is confidential;

but does not include information which is or becomes public knowledge other than by breach of this Deed or by an unlawful means;

**Funding Commitment** means the annual, binding funding commitment from as notified by Arrow to Hunter JO, from 1 July to 30 June each year or for such other period as specified in the notice, under clause 3.1(b).

**Funds** means an amount of money that Arrow commits to pay as part of the any Funding Commitment from Arrow to the Hunter JO.

**GST Law** has the same meaning as in the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Cth)*;

**Law** means any applicable statute, regulation, bylaw, ordinance, subordinate legislation or rule in force from time to time in Australia, whether made by a State, Territory, the Commonwealth, regulatory body, recognised stock exchange, or a local government, and includes the common law and rules of equity as applicable from time to time;

**Party** means a party to this Deed;

**Payment Date** means the date due for payment of the Funds;

**Term** means the period from the Commencement Date until the date on which this Deed is terminated.

## **1.2 Interpretation**

- (a) In this Deed, except where the contrary intention is expressed:
- (b) Words importing the singular number include the plural and vice versa. Any gender includes the other genders. Any reference to a person includes a reference to a corporation, firm, authority, government or governmental agency.
- (c) A reference to legislation or to a legislative provision includes all regulations, orders, proclamations, notices or other requirements under that legislation or legislative provision. It also includes any amendments, modifications or re-enactments of that legislation or legislative provision and any legislation or
- (d) legislative provision substituted for, and any statutory instrument issued under, that legislation or legislative provision.
- (e) The clause headings in, and index to, this Deed are for reference purposes only and do not in any way influence or affect the meaning of this Deed.
- (f) Where under or pursuant to this Deed or anything done under this Deed the day on or by which any act, matter or thing is to be done is not a Business Day such act, matter or thing must be done on the immediately preceding Business Day.

- (g) Where under or pursuant to this Deed or anything done under this Deed the day on or by which any act, matter or thing is to be done is the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> day of any month in which such a day does not occur, such act, matter or thing must be done on the last day of that month.
- (h) References to clauses are references to clauses of this Deed.
- (i) A reference to a document or instrument includes the document or instrument as novated, altered, supplemented or replaced from time to time;
- (j) A reference to a party is to a party to this Deed, and a reference to a party to a document includes the party's executors, administrators, successors and permitted assignees and substitutes;
- (k) A rule of construction does not apply to the disadvantage of a party because the party was responsible for the preparation of this Deed or any part of it;
- (l) A reference to an obligation includes a warranty or representation and a reference to a failure to comply with, or breach of, an obligation includes a breach of warranty or representation; and
- (m) the meaning of general words is not limited by specific examples introduced by 'including', 'for example' or similar expressions.

## **2. TERM OF DEED**

This Deed commences on the Commencement Date and continues until the date on which this Deed is terminated.

## **3. FUNDING PROCESS**

### **3.1 Provision of Funding**

- (a) During the Term of this Deed Arrow may provide the Hunter JO with Funds at its complete discretion.
- (b) Arrow must provide written notice to the Hunter JO by no later than 30 June each year as to the amount of Arrow's Funding Commitment to the Hunter JO for the following financial year or such other period as specifically nominated by Arrow within the notice.
- (c) Arrow must use its reasonable endeavours to provide a notice under clause 3.1(b) by 30 March each year to enable Hunter JO to prepare an annual budget for the following financial year.
- (d) The parties acknowledge and agree that a notice of a Funding Commitment by Arrow under clause 3.1(b) is a legally binding commitment by Arrow to Hunter JO for the amount and duration specified in that notice.
- (e) The parties acknowledge and agree that a Funding Commitment is intended as a donation as a gift to Hunter JO and Arrow receives nothing in return.
- (f) For the avoidance of doubt, a notice under clause 3.1(b) may specify a 'nil' funding amount by Arrow for any given financial year.

### **3.2 Use of Funding**

- (a) Arrow acknowledges and agrees that the Hunter JO may use any funding provided under this Deed as its complete discretion.
- (b) Without in any way restricting Hunter JO's discretion under clause 3.2(a), Hunter JO acknowledges that:

- (i) a Funding Commitment under this Deed is one of a number of revenue sources for the Hunter JO, along with contributions from Hunter JO member councils and grant funds, as well as other miscellaneous sources;
- (ii) it is the intent of the Hunter JO to plan and operate a balanced budget each year, having regard to its reasonably anticipated revenue sources, including the Arrow Funding Commitment .

### **3.3 Further Funding**

The Parties agree that the Hunter JO may request funding beyond any notified under clause 3.1(b) and the provision of further Funds is at the complete discretion of Arrow.

## **4. PAYMENT OF FUNDS**

- 4.1** Unless otherwise specified in a notice under clause 3.1(b) or otherwise agreed in writing between the parties, the Payment of the Funds set out in any Funding Commitment will be made monthly, in equal instalments, no later than the last day of the month, for the period specified in the notice..

## **5. RECORDS AND REPORTS**

### **5.1 Accounts and records**

Each party agrees to keep full and accurate accounts and records so that:

- (a) all accounting and financial transactions, including receipts and payments relating to the Funds, are clearly separate and identified from the each party's financial and operational accounts and records;
- (b) financial statements must be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards;
- (c) if required by Law or the Council, the accounts and records must be audited in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards;
- (d) proper operational records are able to verify the each party carrying out or performance of its obligations under this Deed; and

### **5.2 Record keeping**

Each party agrees to keep its accounts and records referred to in clause 6.1 :

- (a) in accordance with applicable Laws and usual record keeping practices;
- (b) throughout the Term and for seven (7) years after the expiry or termination of this Deed; and
- (c) in such a way to allow the records to be easily accessed, retrieved and used by the other party or its representative.

### **5.3 Reporting**

- (a) Each party agrees to provide the other with any information, records or reports in relation to transfer and receipt of the Funds or the obligations under this Deed when requested to do so by the other party.

## **6. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

- 6.1** Each party represents and warrants to the other that:

- (a) (transaction permitted): it is not be breaching any Law, Authorisation or agreement by signing and performing this Deed;
- (b) (no misleading information): all information provided is true, correct and complete in all material respects and is not misleading;
- (c) (conflicts of interest): to the best of its knowledge after making diligent inquiry, and except as otherwise disclosed to the other party, no conflict of interest exists or is likely to arise in the performance of its obligations under this Deed;
- (d) (insolvency): no Insolvency Event has occurred, and there are no reasonable grounds to suspect that an Insolvency Event will occur, in respect of that party;

**6.2** The representations and warranties in clause 7.1 will, unless otherwise specified, be made on signing of this Deed by the Hunter JO and be repeated on the date of payment of the Funds.

**6.3** Each party acknowledges and agrees that the other party has entered into this Deed and performs this Deed in reliance on the representations and warranties in clause 7.1.

## **7. TERMINATION**

**7.1** Either party may terminate this Deed by providing three (3) months written notice served on the other party.

**7.2** Either party may immediately terminate this Deed by written notice served on the other party if any one or more of the following occurs:

- (a) The other party breaches a provision of this Deed; and
  - (i) the party in breach fails to remedy that breach within the period specified in a notice from the other party requesting the remedy of the breach; or
  - (ii) the breach is not capable of being remedied; or
- (b) An Insolvency Event occurs in relation to the a party.

## **8. ASSIGNMENT**

A party must not assign, charge or otherwise deal with the benefit of this Deed, without the prior written consent of the other party.

## **9. NOTICES**

### **9.1 Requirements**

All notices must be:

- (a) legible and in English;
- (b) addressed to the recipient at the address or email set out below or to such other address or email as that party may notify to the other parties:

**to the Hunter JO:**

**Address:** 4 Sandringham Ave, Thornton

**Attention:**

**Email:**



**to Arrow:**

**Address: 4 Sandringham Ave, Thornton**

**Attention:**

**Email:**

- (c) signed by the party or where the sender is a company by an officer of that company or under the common seal of that company; and
- (d) sent to the recipient by hand or email.

## **9.2 Receipt**

Without limiting any other means by which a party may be able to prove that a notice has been received by another party, a notice will be deemed to be duly received:

- (a) if sent by hand when left at the address of the recipient; or
- (b) if sent by email, on the day and at the time it is sent (as recorded on the sender's equipment), unless the sender receives an automated message that the email has not been delivered, or the intended recipient of the notice notifies the sender within 1 Business Day that the email has not been delivered, but if the delivery or transmission is not on a Business Day or is after 5.00pm on a Business Day, the notice is deemed to be received at 9.00am on the next Business Day.

## **10. GST**

**10.1** Unless otherwise provided in this Deed, any moneys payable under this Deed have been calculated without regard to GST.

**10.2** Any amount which is payable on account of GST as a consequence of any supply made under this Deed is to be paid to the party making the supply at the same time as payment is made for the relevant supply.

## **11. ENTIRE DEED**

**11.1** This Deed contains the entire agreement between the Parties about its subject matter. Any previous understanding, agreement, representation or warranty relating to that subject matter is replaced by this Deed and has no further effect.

**11.2** Any right that a person may have under this Deed is in addition to, and does not replace or limit, any other right that the person may have.

**11.3** Any provision of this Deed which is unenforceable or partly unenforceable is, where possible, to be severed to the extent necessary to make this Deed enforceable, unless this would materially change the intended effect of this Deed.

## **12. NO FETTER**

Nothing in this Deed fetters the discretions, powers or functions of Hunter JO under legislation.

## **13. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES**

Nothing in this Deed is intended to create a partnership, joint venture or agency relationship between the parties.

## **14. GENERAL**

- 14.1** This Deed shall be construed according to the laws of New South Wales. The parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of New South Wales.
- 14.2** If any provisions of this Deed shall at any time be found to be or become void, voidable or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Deed shall nevertheless continue to be of full force and effect.
- 14.3** No addition to or variation of this Deed shall be of any force or effect unless in writing.
- 14.4** This Deed may be executed in any number of counterparts and all of such counterparts taken together shall be deemed to constitute one and the same instrument.
- 14.5** Where any party to this Deed consists of more than one person the obligations of that party to the other party or parties shall be joint and several and service on any one of those persons shall be deemed to be service on that party.
- 14.6** This Deed may be executed in counterparts. All executed counterparts constitute one document.

## EXECUTION PAGE

### Executed as an deed

Dated:

---

Signed, sealed and delivered by **Arrow Collaborative Services Limited** in accordance with section 127 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) by:

---

Signature of director

---

Signature of director/secretary

---

Name of director (print)

---

Name of director/secretary (print)

---

Signed, sealed and delivered by **the Hunter Joint Organisation** by its authorised representative:

---

Signature of authorised agent

---

Title of authorised agent

---

Name of authorised agent (print)

**Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director Policy & Programs**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

### Background

At its meeting in August 2022, the Board endorsed the [Hunter JO Advocacy Framework and Priorities](#) document, which for the first time clearly identified the aligned advocacy positions of the region's ten Mayors, as the basis upon which to underpin advocacy efforts by the Hunter JO in the lead up to the 2023 NSW State Government election.

In line with the Board's direction, this advocacy has primarily involved seeking and holding meetings with targeted NSW Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers, and with Hunter based members of parliament during October – December 2022. Involving the Chair (Cr Sue Moore), Deputy Chair (Cr Jay Suvaal), CEO (Joe James) and Director Hunter JO (Steve Wilson) these meetings:

- Provided and presented the agreed policy and advocacy agenda of the 10 Hunter JO Member Councils included in the advocacy document.
- Explored the idea of a regional entity based in the Hunter, with the authority and resources necessary to drive, coordinate and deliver the substantive and rapid economic evolution needed to maintain the Hunter's resilience, liveability, and economic prosperity in the face of a rapidly growing population and decline of our traditional coal and energy-based industries.
- Articulated those advocacy priorities for the region of particular relevance to the portfolios of Ministers and Shadow Ministers with whom meetings were held.

Those NSW Parliamentary representatives targeted for meetings and those meetings that were completed are provided in the following table:

|                          | Representatives targeted  | Meetings completed   |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| NSW Government Ministers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominic Perrottet</b>, Premier</li> <li>• <b>Matt Kean</b>, Treasurer &amp; Minister for Energy</li> <li>• <b>Paul Toole</b>, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales &amp; Minister for Police</li> <li>• <b>Rob Stokes</b>, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities &amp; Minister for Active Transport</li> <li>• <b>Alister Henkins</b>, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade<br/>Minister for Skills and Training &amp; Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Taylor Martin</b>, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter</li> <li>• <b>Anthony Roberts</b>, Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes</li> <li>• <b>David Elliott</b>, Minister for Transport</li> <li>• <b>Wendy Tuckerman</b>, Minister for Local Government</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Hon. Rob Stokes MP</b>, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities &amp; Minister for Active Transport (17 November 2022)</li> <li>• <b>The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP</b>, Minister for Local Government (9 November 2022)</li> <li>• <b>Michael Bishop, Director of Policy</b> - Office of the Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities &amp; Minister for Active Transport (16 December 2022)</li> <li>• <b>Lachlan Barnsley, Strategy Advisor</b> to the Hon Sam Faraway MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads (10th November)</li> </ul> |

|                                    | Representatives targeted   | Meetings completed   |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sam Farraway MP</b>, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads</li> <li>• <b>James Griffin</b>, Minister for Environment &amp; Heritage</li> <li>• <b>Ben Franklin</b>, Minister for Tourism</li> </ul>  |  |
| NSW Shadow Ministers               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chris Minns</b>, Leader of the Opposition</li> <li>• <b>Daniel Mookhey</b>, Shadow Treasurer</li> <li>• <b>Mick Veitch</b>, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW</li> <li>• <b>Jihad Dib</b>, Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change</li> <li>• <b>Paul Scully</b>, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces</li> <li>• <b>Penny Sharpe</b>, Shadow Minister for the Environment</li> <li>• <b>John Graham</b>, Shadow Minister for Roads</li> <li>• <b>Jo Haylen</b>, Shadow Minister for Transport</li> <li>• <b>David Harris</b>, Shadow Minister for Jobs, Investment and Tourism</li> <li>• <b>Greg Warren</b>, Shadow Minister for Local Government</li> <li>• <b>Anoulack Chanthivong</b>, Shadow Minister for Finance<br/>Shadow Minister for Industry and Trade</li> <li>• <b>Tania Mihailuk</b>, Shadow Minister for Natural Resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>David Harris MP</b>, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Shadow Minister for Jobs, Investment and Tourism, and Shadow Minister for the Central Coast (6 December 2022)</li> <li>• <b>Paul Scully MP</b>, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Shadow Minister for Police Shadow Minister for Counter Terrorism (29 November 2022)</li> <li>• <b>Greg Warren MP</b>, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Veterans, and Shadow Minister for Western Sydney (23 October 2022)</li> <li>• <b>Jihad Dib MP</b>, Shadow Minister for Energy &amp; Climate Change &amp; Shadow Minister for Emergency Services (26 October 2022)</li> </ul> |
| Hunter Based Members of Parliament | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yasmin Catley</b>, Shadow Minister for the Hunter, Shadow Minister for Customer Service and Shadow Minister for Digital</li> <li>• <b>Jenny Aitchison</b>, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads</li> <li>• <b>Tim Crakanthorp</b>, Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE, Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education</li> <li>• <b>Jodie Harrison</b>, Shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Shadow Minister for Seniors, Shadow Minister for Women</li> <li>• <b>Kate Washington</b>, Shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion, Shadow Minister for Family and Community Services</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>David Layzell MP</b>, Member for Upper Hunter (10th November)</li> <li>• <b>Tim Crakanthorp MP</b>, Member for Newcastle &amp; Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE, Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education (23 October 2022)</li> <li>• <b>Clayton Barr MP</b>, Member for Cessnock (21 October 2022)</li> </ul>   |

|  | Representatives targeted  | Meetings completed |
|--|---|--------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stephen Bromhead</b>, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport and Roads</li> <li>• <b>Clayton Barr</b>, Member for Cessnock</li> <li>• <b>Sonia Hornery</b>, Member for Wallsend</li> <li>• <b>Greg Piper</b>, Member for Lake Macquarie</li> <li>• <b>David Layzell</b>, Member for Upper Hunter</li> </ul> |                    |

### Advocacy Focus and Asks

With approximately six weeks remaining until election day, confirmation is being sought from the Board as to the remaining advocacy focus and activities to be undertaken by the Hunter JO team during this time. Building upon the efforts undertaken last year, it is considered that at this stage of the election cycle these efforts should:

- Become more targeted in their focus (i.e. 3-4 key key regional priorities / messages of relevance and significance to all Hunter JO Member Councils)
- Focus on achieving maximum exposure from the time and resources available to the Hunter JO
- Align with the core messages of other key regional stakeholder organisations with whom the Hunter JO has been collaborating to identify key areas of alignment (e.g. Committee for Hunter, Business Hunter, Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport, UDIA).

In line with these principles, the following table provides the suggested advocacy focus and advocacy asks for the remaining weeks of the election campaign.

| Advocacy Focus  | Advocacy Ask   |
|---|--|
| 1. The region needs a clear, place-based, integrated whole of government policy and planning approach to drive the Region's economic evolution.   | A commitment that the next NSW Government will partner with the Region's Councils, through the Hunter JO, to jointly approach the Commonwealth Government to a city-explore and progress opportunities to establish an entity that has the authority and resources from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments necessary to drive and deliver the Region's economic evolution. |
| 2. There is an urgent need for legislation and policy change to provide clarity, certainty and a clear pathway to enable adaptation and reuse of mining and industrial lands to support the region's economic evolution | A commitment from the next NSW Government that it will enact policy and legislative change to provide a clear planning pathway to encourage the adaptation and reuse of mining and industrial lands as a key driver to support the region's economic evolution.  |
| 3. Development of an Integrated Transport Plan for the region   | <p>A commitment that the next NSW Government will work with the region's Councils to document a clear vision, credible concept plans and staged delivery plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an integrated public transport solution for the metropolitan heart of the region</li> </ul>   |

| Advocacy Focus  | Advocacy Ask  |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delivery of consistent, rapid services into the metropolitan heart from surrounding strategic centres, with sufficient increased frequency to make them a practical commuter option.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>4. Addressing the significant disparity in NSW Government funding being provided to Councils in Rural &amp; Regional areas in comparison to those located in Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan areas. This disparity is at a ratio of \$1:\$5.4 per km of road.</p> <p><i>This focus is further explored under Matters Raised by Members in Item 8.1</i></p> | <p>1. Clarification from the Minister for Transport on the rationale for the distribution of the grant funds between Rural &amp; Regional and Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan Councils</p> <p>2. A commitment that the next NSW Government will apply a more equitable model for allocating roads funding across metropolitan and regional areas.</p> |

### Communication of Advocacy Priorities

The following strategies (and measures of success) are proposed for communicating the advocacy priorities and asks outlined above during the final weeks of the election campaign:

| Communication Strategy   | Measures of Success  |
|--|--|
| <p>Adapting existing advocacy collateral from the Advocacy Framework and Priorities document to a succinct and graphically appealing email format, to be used as the basis of an email campaign targeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Government Ministers</li> <li>• Shadow Ministers</li> <li>• Hunter based MPs and candidates.</li> <li>• Media organisations</li> <li>• Key regional stakeholder organisations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level and nature of inquiries received in response to emails</li> <li>• Web statistics (ie opened, links clicked etc) generated via "Campaign Monitor"</li> <li>• Number of requests for meetings to discuss priorities</li> <li>• Level of media interest generated in response to email campaign</li> </ul> |
| <p>Development and publication of a joint OpEd featuring all 10 of the region's mayors</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level, timing and placement of OpEd</li> <li>• Level of inquiries received in response to OpEd</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Media releases outlining the shared advocacy priorities of the Region's ten Mayors</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of media coverage received and the nature of coverage</li> </ul>  |

### Recommendation:

**That the Board endorse the proposed advocacy priorities and communication strategies to be implemented during the final weeks of the NSW election campaign.**

## 7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Noting

### 7.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy

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**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:

- Advocacy (other than is reported in a project update or through a standing engagement)
- Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement
- Political Engagements
- Hunter JO convened workshops, forums and events
- Existing Standing Engagements (convened by local government)
- Existing Standing Engagements (convened by others)
- Proposed New Standing Engagements
- Additional Strategic Engagements (if any)
- Submissions (in development or lodged)
- Regional Funding Applications (status) and Opportunities

#### Grant funding success

We have recently received news of significant success across a number of funding applications submitted by the team during 2022. The total value of these successful grants is \$3,914,956. This represents a record level of grant funding for the Hunter JO, and as can be seen from Attachment 14, will contribute significantly to the delivery of a number of strategic directions included in the Hunter JO Strategic Plan endorsed by the Board in December 2022. Please note that the Attachment does not include all successful grants, as information on some remains CONFIDENTIAL until Ministerial announcements are made. Information on these grants and their alignment to the Strategic Plan has been distributed to Board Members via separate confidential email.

The level of success that has been realised is a significant reflection of the activities of the Hunter JO team over the last 2-3 years to establish the need for and evidence base for a number of these projects, including substantive engagement and collaboration with key regional stakeholders and agencies to align focus, interests and priorities, and to engender trust in the Hunter JO as an appropriate organisation with the capability to deliver regional scale projects of this nature.

#### Advocacy

##### **NSW Parliamentary Engagement**

Further meetings involving the Chair (Cr Sue Moore), Deputy Chair (Cr Jay Suvaal), CEO (Joe James) and Director Policy and Programs (Steve Wilson) have continued since the December meeting of the Board. The purpose of these meetings targeting NSW Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Hunter based MPs have been to communicate the shared interests, priorities and directions of the Hunter



region's 10 democratically elected Mayors in the lead up to the 2023 NSW Government election. These meetings have:

- Presented an agreed policy and advocacy agenda across the 10 Hunter JO Member Councils via the Regional Advocacy Framework and Priorities document developed and endorsed by the Hunter JO Board
- All explored the idea of a regional entity based in the Hunter, with the authority and resources necessary to drive, coordinate and deliver the substantive and rapid economic evolution needed to maintain the Hunter's resilience, liveability, and economic prosperity in the face of a rapidly growing population and decline of our traditional coal and energy-based industries.
- Articulated those advocacy priorities for the region of particular relevance to the portfolios of Ministers and Shadow Ministers with whom meetings have been held.

Those meetings that have been completed or are pending are identified in the Stakeholder Collaboration and Engagement table below.

#### Regional Submissions

A regional submission by Member Councils through the Hunter JO was provided on the draft Hunter Region Transport Plan on 30 November (refer to Correspondence). This submission:

1. Drew upon the strategic priorities and statements from Hunter JO Strategic Plan and Advocacy Priorities document
2. Provided specific comments on the draft plan compiled from a collation of member Council comments and those identified by Hunter JO Team.

The submission emphasised the importance of efficient and effective transport networks and services across the region as being critical to achieving our collective vision, that the Hunter is a region that:

- Is globally connected and whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities
- Is prepared for change and ready to withstand, adapt and recover from natural and human induced risks
- Has an economy that continues to grow and evolve as a powerhouse of the state and national economies, providing more and higher quality jobs
- Will protect, preserve and improve the high standard of liveability and pristine environments.

The submission also focused on the importance of and need for significant enhancements to **intra-region connectivity**, specifically public transport.

#### Media Coverage

There was no media coverage during the reporting period.

#### Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement

| Key Stakeholder Engagement   | Purpose / Outcomes (where relevant)   |
|--|---|
| Political Engagements (upcoming)   |   |
| <b>Julia Cassuben, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, NSW Premier</b><br><br><i>Date tbc</i> | Correspondence received 21 December 2022 from Senior Policy Advisor, Julia Cassuben, Office of the NSW Premier, regarding organizing a meeting to discuss the Hunter Venture Fund and other priorities leading into the 2023 election. A meeting date is yet to be set. |

| Key Stakeholder Engagement  | Purpose / Outcomes (where relevant)   |
|---|---|
| <b>Office of the Hon James Griffin MP</b><br><br><b>NSW Minister for Environment and Heritage</b>   | Correspondence received 19 December 2022 from the Office of the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, requesting further information on the advocacy priorities on which the Hunter JO would like to raise in a meeting with the Minister. A response is yet to be provided.   |
| Political Engagements (completed)   |   |
| <b>The Hon. Rob Stokes MP</b><br><b>Minister for Infrastructure,</b><br><b>Minister for Cities &amp;</b><br><b>Minister for Active Transport</b><br><br><i>17 November 2022</i>                                   | <p>This meeting was attended by Cr Sue Moore, Joe James &amp; Steve Wilson. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate the shared interests, priorities and directions of the Hunter region's 10 democratically elected Mayors in the lead up to the 2023 NSW Government election. During the meeting the Minister offered support to progress work to assist with providing certainty around policy and planning pathways for the reuse of mining and industrial lands, including that he would direct the Great Cities Commission to provide support with this work.</p> |
| <b>Paul Scully MP, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces</b><br><b>Shadow Minister for Police</b><br><b>Shadow Minister for Counter Terrorism</b><br><br><i>29 November 2023</i>                         | <p>This meeting was attended by Cr Jay Suvaal, Joe James &amp; Steve Wilson. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate the shared interests, priorities and directions of the Hunter region's 10 democratically elected Mayors in the lead up to the 2023 NSW Government election.</p>  |
| <b>Meeting with David Harris MP, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Shadow Minister for Jobs, Investment and Tourism, and Shadow Minister for the Central Coast</b><br><br><i>6 December 2023</i> | <p>This meeting was attended by Joe James. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate the shared interests, priorities and directions of the Hunter region's 10 democratically elected Mayors in the lead up to the 2023 NSW Government election.</p> <p>The Shadow Minister promoted and offered assistance to the JO to engage collectively with Hunter based Shadow Ministers and MPs on the Hunter JOs advocacy priorities in the lead up to the March election.</p>   |
| <b>Michael Bishop, Director of Policy - Office of the Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities &amp; Minister for Active Transport</b><br><br><i>16 December 2022</i>                  | <p>Joe James and Steve Wilson participated in this meeting to further discuss the direction provided by the Minister to the Greater Cities Commission re progressing work to clarify planning and policy pathways around the reuse of mining and industrial lands, and opportunities for the Hunter JO to assist in influencing and informing this work.</p>  |
| <b>The Hon. Paul Toole MP, NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW</b><br><br><i>20 December 2022</i>  | <p>Correspondence received 20 December 2022 from The Hon. Paul Toole MP, NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW providing notification of the Hunter JOs success in receiving four grants under the NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.</p>  |

| Key Stakeholder Engagement  | Purpose / Outcomes (where relevant)  |
|---|--|
| Hunter JO convened workshops, forums and events   |  |
| Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) Workshop - Hunter Event Prospectus - outcomes of the customer journey and branding approach<br><i>15 February 2023</i> | The project DMS will be presenting their findings on the customer journey insights and personas of the event owners completed under the A2E project. . They'll also be presenting the proposed creative look and feel and a high-level content strategy for the digital prospectus.  |
| Contaminated Land Regional Forum - Acid Sulfate Soils and Preliminary Site Investigations<br><i>27 February 2023</i>                                      | This regional information session for Member Council staff will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When to trigger a contaminated land investigation through the planning process</li> <li>• Contaminated Land Audits and Environmental Management Plans</li> </ul>  |
| Existing Standing Engagement (convened by Hunter JO and Local Government)   |  |
| JO Chairs Forum<br><i>17 November 2022</i>  | The Chair Cr Sue Moore, Joe James & Steve Wilson participated in this meeting of JO Chairs and Executive Officers from around the State. Both the Minister and Shadow Ministers for Local Government participated in the meeting to provide an overview of their commitments in the lead up to the NSW Government election and to hear from JOs the opportunities and concerns as to the ongoing sustainability of the JO network across NSW.  |
| Sustainable Education Group   | This group has now held their third meeting, with good representation from Cessnock, Central Coast, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Maitland, MidCoast, Port Stephens, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Councils. This group focuses on sharing successes and challenges in the sustainable education space as well as working together to cross-promote activities.  |
| Regional Waste Managers Network<br>(Hunter Regional Waste Strategy Group)<br><i>14 December 2022</i>  | This meeting involved Councils undertaking a group reflection on recent regional procurement initiatives (focusing on the mattress tender process). The meeting concluded that regional procurement is most effective when the contract is also managed regionally. The group also discussed the merits of taking a regional lens to waste infrastructure and services planning, given at least 4 member councils are planning landfill expansions imminently. Council representatives recommended that a report be prepared for the Hunter JO on these opportunities in early 2023. |
| Existing standing engagements (convened by others)  |  |
| Hunter Cruise<br>(Regional NSW / Destination Sydney & Surrounds North Committee)  | A meeting has been scheduled between the Port Authority, DSSN and Dept of Regional NSW to discuss the objectives and outcomes of a \$15k grant for this initiative. An action is with DSSN to discuss the option of resourcing people at the City of Newcastle Visitor Information Centre on cruise arrival days.  |

| Key Stakeholder Engagement   | Purpose / Outcomes (where relevant)  |
|--|--|
| EPANSW Environment Protection Authority<br><i>22 December 2022</i>   | This meeting of Regional Networks for Effective Waste Management (RENEW) focused largely on updates from various EPA teams on funding stream developments. These details were communicated to member councils via the December Regional Waste Strategy Group meeting.  |
| Hunter Central Coastal Management Program Practitioners Roundtable (convened by Department of Planning & Environment)<br><i>15 December 2022</i> | The DPE Coast and Estuaries team advised of Council staff of changes within the Department relating to Coastal Management Programs. Lake Macquarie Council reported that their CMP is on exhibition until February 2023. Following an update provided on the Marine Estate Management Strategy and works being delivered, concerns were raised by Councils at the lack of initiatives being delivered across the Hunter and Central Coast. |
| New Standing Engagements   |  |
| Nil  |  |
| Additional Strategic Engagements   |  |
| Lake Macquarie Tourism Network<br><i>15 December 2022</i>  | A presentation was provided on the Accelerating Event Economies project to the Lake Macquarie tourism stakeholder networking breakfast.  |

#### Status of Regional Funding Applications

In addition to the successful grant funding applications outlined above, the following table provides an overview of grant applications on which advice remains pending, applications which were unsuccessful, or applications which are currently in preparation.

| Funding Program  | Project Summary   | Amount Requested | Status       |
|--|---|------------------|--------------|
| Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund | Regional Transition Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing Place-Based Authoritative Leadership and Policy Certainty through an assessment of transition mechanisms that accelerate Investment, Business Diversification, Job Substitution, and Innovation for the region.</li> </ul> | \$368,750        | Unsuccessful |
| Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund | Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project will develop a Regional Electric Vehicle Strategic Plan to provide and promote intra-regional (within the Hunter and Central Coast) and inter-regional (with other NSW regions) EV connectivity.</li> </ul>          | \$205,438        | Unsuccessful |

| Funding Program  | Project Summary   | Amount Requested   | Status   |
|--|---|--|--|
| Get NSW Active Program<br><i>Submitted 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022</i> | <p>To undertake a strategic assessment to determine the feasibility and preferred route of the Hunter vineyards section of the widely supported Shiraz to Shore 100km cycle trail, connecting communities, tourists and local businesses. The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ balance safety, amenity, feasibility and local landholder and stakeholder inputs for the route following an extensive local stakeholder engagement program.</li> <li>○ produce the indicative costs and key elements to enable the project to move through to the next stage.</li> </ul> | \$220,495  | Pending  |
| NSW EPA Regional Illegal Dumping Program                               | Establishment of Regional Illegal Dumping Program.  | Approximately \$580,000 pa for 5 years (NB final funding amount subject to outcomes of negotiation presently underway) | <p>The Hunter JO Team is in the final stages of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finalising signatures with Member Councils (and Central Coast Council) on the MOU between the Hunter JO and Councils to govern roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• signing the funding agreement between the NSW EPA and Hunter JO as host organisation, which can only occur after all Councils have signed the above MOU.</li> </ul> |
| NSW Environment Protection Authority                                   | NSW Waste & Sustainable Materials Strategy  | To be determined   | Information on initial funding programs has now been released. We are investigating opportunities to submit applications within the parameters established by the program guidelines.  |

**Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.**

## SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIP TO HUNTER JO STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2032 AND ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK

TOTAL VALUE: \$2,266,100

| Funding Program  | Project Summary  | Grant Amount | Hunter JO Strategic Plan Theme and Objectives  | Hunter JO Strategic Plan Strategic Directions   | Hunter JO Advocacy Priorities  |
|--|--|--------------|--|---|--|
| Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund                               | <p>Regional Airports Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategy &amp; business case for airfreight infrastructure investment and connectivity infrastructure for passenger and airfreight logistics for the region.</li> <li>An integrated airports strategy for the region including assessments of passenger, airfreight and transport links across the region.</li> </ul>   | \$500,000    | <p><b>1. Connectivity</b></p> <p>1.2. Through its port and airport the Hunter is globally connected and economically prosperous city-region, recognised as a key international gateway, providing its communities with a vibrant and unique lifestyle and growth in products and services to replace the economic output of thermal coal</p> | <p>1.2.1 Partnering with the airport and port to identify and pursue priority actions to enable access to international markets for the benefit of the region</p> <p>1.2.2 Influence government policy to prioritise the importance of access to international markets for the benefit of the region</p> <p>1.2.3 Leading collaboration in the region between government, industry and community to ensure the benefits of international markets are region wide</p> <p>1.2.4 Support a transport access strategy for regional connectivity to and from the airport</p> | <p>1. A globally focused Hunter connected to international markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A globally focused Hunter connected to international markets will underpin the Hunter's successful economic evolution. Efficient and effective access to global markets to attract investment and talent to evolve our economy, and to sell our products and services on the world stage, will be key to this success.</li> </ul> <p>2. Infrastructure and transport systems that connect the region.</p>          |
| Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund<br><i>Submitted 24-Aug-22</i> | <p>Hunter Global Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder engagement to bring all tourism, marketing and economic development organisations across the region to identify how we want to position, brand and market our region as one to potential visitors.</li> <li>Undertaking a review of our region to identify one piece of priority tourism infrastructure needed by our region to attract international visitors.</li> </ul> | \$500,000    | <p><b>3. Jobs and a Growing Economy (3)</b></p> <p>3.5 We are recognised as a destination of choice for international and domestic visitors</p>  | <p>3.5.1 Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around regional tourism promotion to grow jobs in the region</p> <p>3.5.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of employment based in the tourism economy</p>  | <p>1. A globally focused Hunter connected to international markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in "Hunter Global – Regional Tourism Marketing, Concierge &amp; Product Packaging." To capitalise on direct international access created by the Newcastle Airport runway and passenger terminal upgrades, this initiative is necessary to provide coordination and promotion to grow the number of international visitors directly entering the region and entice them to stay and spend longer.</li> </ul> |
|  |  |              | <p><b>4. Liveability</b></p> <p>4.1 We are recognised as a destination for hosting world class events that align with our unique offering</p>  | <p>4.1.1 Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around events and tourism</p> <p>4.1.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of the regional events and tourism economy</p>   |  |
| Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund<br><i>Submitted 24-Aug-22</i> | <p>Shiraz to Shore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Shiraz to Shore concept plan with communication and engagement plan</li> <li>A Hunter cycle tourism destination management plan.</li> </ul>  | \$387,500    | <p><b>1. Connectivity</b></p> <p>1.1 Within the region there is a robust integrated transport solution that underpins the experience / liveability and productivity of its residents and visitors comparable to its global peers</p> <p>1.4 A region that is built around sustainable transport options</p>                                  | <p>1.1.5 Identify and facilitate regional approaches for active transport outcomes that deliver connectivity, health, liveability and economic benefits</p> <p>1.1.6 Public and private transport solutions operate on a net zero basis</p> <p>1.4.1 Embed the direction of net zero in all our connectivity strategies to provide a pathway and level of confidence to investors and community to support the transition to more sustainable transport outcomes</p>  | <p>1. Infrastructure and transport systems that connect the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in "Shiraz to Shore"</li> </ul> <p>2. Our unique lifestyle and attractive environment is protected and enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment in a liveability program of local government led infrastructure projects, including cycleway and pedestrian infrastructure</li> </ul>  |

| Funding Program  | Project Summary  | Grant Amount       | Hunter JO Strategic Plan Theme and Objectives  | Hunter JO Strategic Plan Strategic Directions   | Hunter JO Advocacy Priorities  |
|--|--|--------------------|--|---|--|
|  |  |                    | <b>3. Jobs and a Growing Economy</b><br>3.5 We are recognised as a destination of choice for international and domestic visitors   | 3.5.1 Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around regional tourism promotion to grow jobs in the region<br>3.5.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of employment based in the tourism economy   |  |
|  |  |                    | <b>4. Liveability</b><br>4.1 We are recognised as a destination for hosting world class events that align with our unique offering | 4.1.1 Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around events and tourism<br>4.1.2 Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of the regional events and tourism economy  |  |
| Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund<br><br><i>Submitted 24-Aug-22</i> | Circular Economy Innovation Hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A concept plan and strategy for Circular Economy Precincts</li> <li>A concept plan and strategy for CE Futures Hub.</li> </ul> | \$878,600          | <b>3. Jobs and a Growing Economy</b><br>3.4 A region that is built around Circular Economy principles as a driver of future jobs   | 3.4.1 Support knowledge sharing and embed Circular Economy principles in our strategies and plans to provide a pathway to future jobs creation in our local supply chains and services<br>3.4.2 Support implementation of the Hunter Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap | 1. Jobs and a Growing Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest \$0.9M to develop concept plans for 4 multi-element circular economy precincts across the region. Each precinct will represent a key strength or resource available, and establish circular processing, green energy and value-added businesses that deliver new industries and jobs to the Hunter.</li> </ul> |
| <b>TOTAL GRANT FUNDS</b>   |  | <b>\$2,266,100</b> |  |   |  |



**Report Author: Lisa Lord, Head of Finance**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

A copy of the Hunter JO Financial Reports for December has been provided at Attachment 15.

This report:

1. provides the financial results for the month of December and year-to-date (as per our normal financial reporting cycle);
2. advises the Board of material changes to the forecast annual revenues and expenditures (noting that the net effect of these changes result in only a nominal, and positive, change to the forecast net profit);
3. seeks the Boards endorsement to adopt the revised annual Forecast (see Forecast column Attachment 12) as the revised Annual budget.

The Board should note that this report has been produced in the context of changing assumptions as follows:

- Increased, but not yet quantified, grant revenues for FY22/23. The total grant amounts are known, as reported at Item 7.1, but the splits between financial years is still being determined; and
- Reduced contributions from Arrow for FY22/23.

This has resulted in changes to the annual forecast which the CEO recommends are adopted as a revised Budget.

#### **Grant funding**

- The FY22/23 Budget originally included forecast grant funds in the amount of \$1,190,674. Grant funding had not been included in past annual budgets or monthly management reports.
- Grant Funds shown in the Forecast column (Dec 22 Reforecast) are reduced to reflect **actual grant funds received year-to-date**. At the time of writing this report there are a number of new grants awarded (above the current approved budget) but given:
  - we don't yet know the financial year splits;
  - that grant funds are received and disbursed (shown in Expenses under Project Funding Disbursement) in the same month, having a positive and nominal effect on the final P&L;rather than estimating we have reported the forecast as Actual YTD.
- As specific grant funding amounts for FY 22/23 become known, the board will be formally advised and the budget can be formally updated by resolution of the Board.

#### **Arrow Funding**

- As part of a review into its financial sustainability, the Arrow Board has resolved to reduce its funding to the Hunter JO for FY22/23 by \$150,000 (from \$630,600 to \$480,600).
- Funding from Arrow is shown across 3 rows (Arrow, LGL and Goodchat), reduced in total by \$150,000 for FY22/23;
- This is offset by Hunter JO payments to Arrow, to fund core the Policy and Program staff, being reduced by \$150,000.
- The Arrow Board is working with the CEO to determine the impact on and options for future service levels.



**Recommendation:**

- 1. That the Financial Reports for year-to-date December 2022 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Board note the changes to the revised Forecast, as set out in Attachment 15, and adopt the revised annual Forecast as the revised Annual budget for FY22/23.**

# HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION

## INCOME STATEMENT - SUMMARY

| NOVEMBER 22                           | Actual | Current | Budget<br>(revised)<br>Current | % Variance<br>Current | Actual | Current   | Budget<br>(revised)<br>Current | % Variance<br>Current | Annual<br>Budget | (Dec 22) Annual<br>Budget | Forecast  | on variances of 10% or more of a line item or 2.5% of revenue or expenditure total                |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---|
| REVENUE                               |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS              |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Member Councils                       |        | 47,058  | 47,058                         | 0%                    |        | 282,348   | 282,348                        | 0%                    |                  | 557,787                   | 564,696   | Increase to reflect ASV   |
| Other                                 |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| PROJECT FUNDING                       |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Commonwealth Grants                   |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| State Grants                          |        | 90,374  | -                              |                       |        | 335,196   | 244,822                        | 37%                   |                  | 1,190,674                 | 244,822   | -79%  |
| Member Councils Project Funding       |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | 298,870   | 298,870                        | 0%                    |                  | -                         | 298,870   |   |
| Other Project Funding                 |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Internal Project Funding _Arrow       |        | 39,413  | 39,413                         | 0%                    |        | 236,475   | 236,475                        | 0%                    |                  | 472,950                   | 360,450   | -24%  |
| Internal Project Funding - LGL        |        | 8,758   | 8,758                          | 0%                    |        | 52,550    | 52,550                         | 0%                    |                  | 105,100                   | 80,100    | -24%  |
| Internal Project Funding - Goodchat   |        | 4,379   | 4,379                          | 0%                    |        | 26,275    | 26,275                         | 0%                    |                  | 52,550                    | 40,050    | -24%  |
| MISCELLANEOUS                         |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Trainee Incentives                    |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Miscellaneous Income                  |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | 2,180     | 4,160                          | -48%                  |                  | -                         | 4,160     | Reversal of July22 Hunter Delegate dinner. Major didn't attend<br>Key staff costs billed to Arrow |
| Other                                 |        | 20,469  | 20,609                         | -1%                   |        | 134,277   | 134,695                        | 0%                    |                  | 256,191                   | 270,068   |   |
| Revenue - Total                       |        | 210,451 | 120,217                        | 75%                   |        | 1,368,171 | 1,280,194                      | 7%                    |                  | 2,635,252                 | 1,863,215 |   |
| GROSS MARGIN                          |        | 210,451 | 120,217                        | 75%                   |        | 1,368,171 | 1,280,194                      | 7%                    |                  | 2,635,252                 | 1,863,215 | -29%  |
| Gross Margin %                        |        | 100%    | 100%                           |                       |        | 100%      | 100%                           |                       |                  | 100%                      | 100%      |   |
| GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION              |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Accounting Fees                       |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Advertising & Promotions              |        | -       | 80                             | -100%                 |        | 236       | 476                            | -50%                  |                  | 3,600                     | 956       | -73%  |
| Audit & Assurance                     |        | 1,290   | 1,290                          | 0%                    |        | 7,740     | 7,740                          | 0%                    |                  | 15,480                    | 15,480    | 0%  |
| Bad Debts                             |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Bank Charges                          |        | 19      | 35                             | -46%                  |        | 149       | 184                            | -19%                  |                  | 406                       | 394       | -3%   |
| Catering & Functions                  |        | 610     | 1,000                          | -39%                  |        | 2,915     | 2,394                          | 22%                   |                  | 12,400                    | 8,594     | -31%  |
| Corporate Overheads                   |        | 10,570  | 10,570                         | 0%                    |        | 63,420    | 63,420                         | 0%                    |                  | 126,840                   | 126,840   | 0%  |
| Filing Fees                           |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Insurance - PI & PL                   |        | 755     | 755                            | 0%                    |        | 4,531     | 4,530                          | 0%                    |                  | 9,000                     | 9,060     | 1%  |
| Insurance - Volunteers                |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Legal Fees                            |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | 5,181     | 5,181                          | 0%                    |                  | -                         | 5,181     |   |
| Miscellaneous                         |        | 114     | -                              |                       |        | 1,492     | 1,372                          | 9%                    |                  | -                         | 1,372     |   |
| Photocopier charges                   |        | -       | 50                             | -100%                 |        | -         | 150                            | -100%                 |                  | 1,440                     | 450       | -69%  |
| Postage                               |        | -       | 60                             | -100%                 |        | 13        | 73                             | -83%                  |                  | 60                        | 73        | 21%   |
| Printing & Stationery                 |        | 110     | 650                            | -83%                  |        | 163       | 717                            | -77%                  |                  | 3,200                     | 2,317     | -28%  |
| Professional Fees                     |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Quality Assurance & Audit             |        | -       | 150                            | -100%                 |        | -         | 450                            | -100%                 |                  | 1,800                     | 1,350     | -25%  |
| Records Storage / destruction         |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Scanner - Lease payments              |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Subscriptions and Licences            |        | 1,211   | 685                            | 77%                   |        | 5,535     | 4,434                          | 25%                   |                  | 19,556                    | 8,542     | -56%  |
| Telephone - Landline                  |        | 30      | 30                             | 0%                    |        | 181       | 181                            | 0%                    |                  | 300                       | 361       | 20%   |
| Telephone - Mobile                    |        | 91      | 150                            | -39%                  |        | 655       | 868                            | -25%                  |                  | 1,200                     | 1,768     | 47%   |
| Board Functions - Venue Hire          |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | 2,356     | 1,454                          | 62%                   |                  | 2,250                     | 2,954     | 31%   |
| OCCUPANCY COSTS                       |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Rent & Outgoings                      |        | 1,154   | 1,155                          | 0%                    |        | 29,441    | 29,443                         | 0%                    |                  | 30,744                    | 36,373    | 18%   |
| DEPRECIATION                          |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Depreciation - Building               |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Depreciation - Computer               |        | 62      | 18                             | 238%                  |        | 241       | 110                            | 119%                  |                  | 2,002                     | 221       | -89%  |
| Depreciation - Furniture & Fittings   |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Depreciation - Motor Vehicles         |        | 1,804   | 1,804                          | 0%                    |        | 10,825    | 10,825                         | 0%                    |                  | 21,650                    | 21,650    | 0%  |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY                |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| IT Management                         |        | 338     | 333                            | 1%                    |        | 2,271     | 2,261                          | 0%                    |                  | 5,400                     | 4,259     | -21%  |
| Repairs & Maintenance - IT            |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| IT Software Maintenance / Support     |        | -       | 222                            | -100%                 |        | -         | 994                            | -100%                 |                  | 2,664                     | 2,326     | -13%  |
| Website Maintenance / Support         |        | 103     | 68                             | 52%                   |        | 128       | 203                            | -37%                  |                  | 813                       | 609       | -25%  |
| OVERHEAD LABOUR                       |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Wages & Salaries                      |        | 32,067  | 30,900                         | 4%                    |        | 212,715   | 209,216                        | 2%                    |                  | 404,555                   | 412,920   | 2%  |
| Superannuation                        |        | 3,361   | 3,245                          | 4%                    |        | 22,318    | 21,968                         | 2%                    |                  | 42,478                    | 43,357    | 2%  |
| Payroll Tax                           |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Workers Compensation                  |        | (1,591) | 732                            | -317%                 |        | 4,298     | 6,585                          | -35%                  |                  | 9,588                     | 11,412    | 19%   |
| FBT                                   |        | 1,940   | 1,940                          | 0%                    |        | 11,640    | 11,641                         | 0%                    |                  | 23,284                    | 23,283    | 0%  |
| Leave Provisions                      |        | 3,731   | 1,706                          | 119%                  |        | 16,101    | 12,582                         | 28%                   |                  | 22,331                    | 23,826    | 7%  |
| EMPLOYEE COSTS                        |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Recuitment                            |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Training & Development                |        | 564     | -                              |                       |        | 3,952     | 3,388                          | 17%                   |                  | 4,600                     | 5,688     | 24%   |
| Uniforms                              |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Staff Amentities                      |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION                 |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Meals & Accomodation                  |        | 203     | 100                            | 103%                  |        | 1,216     | 819                            | 49%                   |                  | 1,860                     | 1,819     | -2%   |
| Fares & Parking                       |        | 804     | 580                            | 39%                   |        | 5,188     | 3,479                          | 49%                   |                  | 6,000                     | 6,959     | 16%   |
| Milleage Allowance                    |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| MOTOR VEHICLE                         |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Fuels & oils                          |        | 754     | 1,035                          | -27%                  |        | 5,598     | 6,071                          | -8%                   |                  | 10,800                    | 12,281    | 14%   |
| Insurance - Motor Vehicle             |        | 345     | 345                            | 0%                    |        | 3,569     | 2,069                          | 73%                   |                  | 2,678                     | 4,137     | 54%   |
| Registration and CTP Insurance        |        | -       | 186                            | -100%                 |        | 1,825     | 2,384                          | -23%                  |                  | 2,233                     | 3,500     | 57%   |
| Repairs & Maintenance - Motor Vehicle |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | 1,017     | 1,017                          | 0%                    |                  | 2,000                     | 2,017     | 1%  |
| Vehicle Hire                          |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| PROJECT EXPENSES                      |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |
| Project Funding Disbursement          |        | 90,374  | -                              |                       |        | 634,066   | 543,692                        | 17%                   |                  | 1,190,674                 | 543,692   | -54%  |
| Grant Disbursement                    |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Consultants                           |        | -       | -                              |                       |        | -         | -                              |                       |                  | -                         | -         |   |
| Overhead Expenses - Total             |        | 150,812 | 59,874                         | 152%                  |        | 1,060,977 | 962,370                        | 10%                   |                  | 1,983,886                 | 1,346,022 | -   |
| % of Revenue                          |        | 72%     | 50%                            | 202%                  |        | 78%       | 75%                            | 149%                  |                  | 75%                       | 72%       |   |
| Page 82 of 94                         |        |         |                                |                       |        |           |                                |                       |                  |                           |           |   |

| NET PROFIT - OPERATIONS                  | 59,640          | 60,343          | -1%       | 307,195          | 317,825          | -3%         | 651,366          | 517,194            | -21%     |  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| Net Profit Margin                        | 28%             | 50%             |           | 22%              | 25%              |             | 25%              |                    |          |  |
| <b>OTHER INCOME / (EXPENSES)</b>         |                 |                 |           |                  |                  |             |                  |                    |          |  |
| <b>OTHER INCOME</b>                      |                 |                 |           |                  |                  |             |                  |                    |          |  |
| Profit / Loss on sale of asset           | -               | -               |           | -                | -                |             | -                | -                  |          |  |
| Interest                                 | -               | -               |           | -                | -                |             | -                | -                  |          |  |
| <b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>                    |                 |                 |           |                  |                  |             |                  |                    |          |  |
| Interest                                 | -               | -               |           | -                | -                |             | -                | -                  |          |  |
| RPPD Funding                             | (54,281)        | (54,281)        | 0%        | (325,683)        | (325,683)        | 0%          | (651,366)        | (501,366)          | -23%     |  |
| <b>Other Income / (Expenses) - Total</b> | <b>(54,281)</b> | <b>(54,281)</b> | <b>0%</b> | <b>(325,683)</b> | <b>(325,683)</b> | <b>0%</b>   | <b>(651,366)</b> | <b>(501,366) -</b> | <b>0</b> |  |
| <b>NET PROFIT BEFORE TAX</b>             | <b>5,359</b>    | <b>6,062</b>    |           | <b>(18,489)</b>  | <b>(7,858)</b>   | <b>135%</b> | <b>(0)</b>       | <b>15,828</b>      |          |  |

**Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy & Programs**

**Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO**

#### 7.3.1 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee

The most recent meeting of the Subcommittee was held on 6 December 2022. Key focus areas included:

- An update from the Greater Cities Commissioner Matt Endacott on the progress and activities of the Commission
- Continuing concerns with delays in the provision of enabling transport infrastructure, and whether the Greater Cities Commission can assist with facilitating access to the Secretary of Transport.
- Refining the focus and approach of state agency briefing sessions to be delivered to future meetings of the Subcommittee
- Determining that meetings of the Subcommittee would be reduced to two monthly in 2023. To align with the Hunter JO Board meetings.

#### 7.3.2 Circular Economy Sub Committee

The most recent meeting of the Subcommittee was held on 6 December 2022. Key focus areas on which it was determined to progress action include:

- The Circular Economy Materials Mapping project, including establishing a working group in 2023
- Setting up a Regional Circular Economy data project and working group in 2023
- Setting up four meeting dates for the Subcommittee during 2023
- Developing connections for the Mayors into the national Circular Economy Advisory Body being created by the Hon. Tanya Plibersek

#### 7.3.3 Subcommittee for Economic Evolution

The most recent meeting of the Subcommittee was held on 6 December 2022. Key focus areas included:

- Providing an update on the outcomes of meetings held by the Chair Cr Sue Moore, Deputy Chair Jay Suvaal, Joe James & Steve Wilson with Ministers and Shadow Ministers as part of the NSW State Election Advocacy Campaign, which have been exploring the idea of a regional entity based in the Hunter, with the authority and resources necessary to drive, coordinate and deliver the substantive and rapid economic evolution needed
- The need to refine wording in the Hunter JO Advocacy Framework and priorities document seeking changes to legislation and policy to provide clarity, certainty and a clear pathway for reuse of mining and industrial lands be updated to remove reference to “former” mining lands. Receiving a presentation from Hunter IF on the Hunter Innovation Festival and the opportunity for more widespread of this event across the broader region.
- Receiving a presentation from HunterIF on the Hunter Innovation Festival and potential opportunities for taking a more cross regional approach to future delivery of the festival

Advice has recently been received from Mayor Suvaal advising that he is resigning from the Subcommittee, due to an increase in commitments preventing him from committing the time he would like to the Subcommittee. Remaining representation on the Committee will now include:

| Council                     | Representative  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Muswellbrook Shire Council  | Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor (Chair)<br>Derek Finnigan (A/ General Manager) |
| Singleton Council           | Cr Sue Moore, Mayor<br>Jason Linnane, General Manager                   |
| Dungog Shire Council        | Cr John Connors, Mayor  |
| Lake Macquarie City Council | Morven Cameron, CEO   |
| Hunter Joint Organisation   | Joe James, CEO<br>Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy & Programs     |

**Recommendation: That the Board note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees**

**Report Author: Kim Carland, Project Coordinator – A2E**

**Responsible Officer: Tim Askew, Director Programs.**

**Purpose:**

To provide the Board with an overview of the findings of economic analysis work completed by KPMG which focused on the impact of, and opportunity for events in the Hunter. This work was delivered under the Accelerating Event Economies project.

**Link to Hunter Joint Organisation Strategic Plan 2032**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Planning Theme</b>       | <p><b>1. Connectivity</b></p> <p>A globally connected region whose residents enjoy transport and digital infrastructure and systems that enhance their economic and lifestyle opportunities.</p> <p><b>3. Jobs and a Growing Economy</b></p> <p>The Hunter economy continues to grow and evolve as a powerhouse of the state and national economies, providing more and higher quality jobs.</p> <p><b>4. Liveability</b></p> <p>Protect, preserve and improve the high standard of liveability and pristine environments that we enjoy in our region.</p>   |
| <b>Strategic Directions</b> | <p>1.1.2 - Proactively facilitate collaboration with key state agencies to support delivery of connectivity solutions that suit the regions current and future needs.</p> <p>1.1.4 - Support a Regional Integrated Transport Plan linking key services and centres.</p> <p>1.2.1 Partnering with airport and port to identify and pursue priority actions to enable access to international markets for the benefit of the region.</p> <p>1.2.3 - Leading collaboration in the region between government, industry and community to ensure the benefits of international markets are region wide.</p> <p>3.1.1 - Support a clear, place-based, integrated whole-of-government policy and planning approach to drive the region's economic evolution and jobs of the future.</p> <p>3.3.1 - Support efforts that position the Hunter globally in its areas of competitive and comparative strength.</p> <p>4.1.1 - Support a coordinated approach and collaborate around events and tourism.</p> <p>4.1.2 - Identify opportunities for growth and diversification of the regional events and tourism economy.</p> <p>4.6.2 - Support an increase in the availability of jobs and services closer to people.</p> |

**Background**

The Hunter JO was successful in securing over \$860k through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) to undertake the Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) project. This project, which will complete projects until June 2023 to build a foundation for events attraction to the region.

A dedicated regional stakeholder group that has been meeting monthly to guide the delivery of all actions, including representatives from each member Council, State Government agencies and industry.

The objectives of A2E are to:

- Streamline event management and planning in the region across council boundaries to create efficiencies for event managers and planners and attract them to our region, building economic recovery, resilience and diversification in response to the bushfires and other rising uncertainty.
- Encourage investment through identified gaps and opportunities for event assets across the region
- Build on the collective tourism objectives for the region to be recognised as a destination of choice

### **Regional Event Economic Impact Report**

KPMG were engaged to provide an analysis of the Hunter regional event economy, including return on investment and business case data, and to identify opportunities to help accelerate events attraction in the Hunter.

Key points from the analysis include:

- Compared with comparative regions close to metropolitan cities such as Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Geelong and Canberra, the Hunter is underperforming.
- The events industry in the Hunter is valued at \$180 million pa (2022), supporting 863 FTE and generating \$51.2 million in real GRP.
- Business events represent greatest opportunity for growth with business event visitors spending more per night than other event visitors. However, the region would need to invest in dedicated contemporary infrastructure to attract this market.
- To balance our calendar of events and audience distribution, we should look for opportunities to attract/host events in the cooler months, which has been identified as our low season.
- Major music events bring the greatest number of visitors at a time and can generate up to \$40 million per event for a host region (Bluesfest in Byron Bay).
- Research has not identified any comparable approaches whereby LGAs are working together in a formal sense to fund and attract events at a regional level.
- Improved and consistent data collection would support ongoing and better understanding of the characteristics and impact of events in the region.

### **Resources for the region**

As part of the project, KPMG developed two key resources that our member councils can continue to use to assist them in understanding the economic value of events in our region.

1. Event Prioritisation and Assessment Framework
  - A strategic approach and prioritisation framework through which the region can identify, assess and bid for events that deliver optimal value for the region.
2. Event Contribution Model and input parameters
  - A calculation model used to simulate Gross Regional Product (GRP) and employment multipliers with respect to key event parameters related to ticketing revenue, organiser expenditure and patron expenditure.
  - Average parameters (numbers) that can be used in the model if not all data is available.

### **Potential Regional Event Attraction Business Models**

The KPMG work identifies three smaller scale (i.e. compared to previous event attraction business models identified for the region) that could seek to address the opportunity to collaborate to attract events that benefit multiple (or all) LGAs within the region and the challenge facing some LGA's who

have very limited resourcing, funding or capability for event attraction. Each of these models involve an experienced event professional(s) based within the Hunter JO to focus on attracting events that will deliver economic benefits across multiple LGAs.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Board note the findings and opportunities identified in the KPMG analysis and endorse the Hunter JO team working with Council staff and industry stakeholders to review and identify options for progressing implementation of the opportunities identified.**



**Report Author: Scott Goold, Acting Director, Hunter and Central Coast**

**Responsible Officer: Scott Goold, Acting Director, Hunter and Central Coast**

**Purpose:** To provide an update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW including the Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive Forum; Regional Economic Development Strategies; and funding programs, with a focus on the status of funding streams available to support infrastructure, regional growth, bushfire and flood recovery efforts.

**Funding Programs – update**

**A) New funding programs**

- Growing Regional Economies Fund (GREF) - opening on 8 February 2023 with \$175 million available to facilitate economic growth and productivity across regional NSW by supporting projects from \$2M to \$30M that have a strong alignment with the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) and increase infrastructure investment and economic activity within regional NSW's Functional Economic Regions (FERs). The GREF also provides an opportunity for projects supported through the NSW Government's Business Case and Strategy Development Fund (BCSDF) to seek further funding towards the realisation of infrastructure projects. Applications close 23 May 2023.
- Regional Job Creation Fund (RJCF), Round 3 - opened on 13 January 2023 with \$100 million available to support existing regional NSW businesses, or those seeking to relocate to regional NSW as they adapt to technological change, meet evolving supply chain distribution demands and leverage their strengths to drive ongoing productivity and regional economic development. Funded projects will range from \$100,000 to \$10,000,000 to create and maintain regional jobs, diversify regional economies, and provide skills, and training opportunities, including for young people, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals and people with disability.

This round will involve a two-stage application process. The first, an Expression of Interest which closes on 6 March 2023. Stage 2 of the application process is the completion of a Detailed Application where further project information is required. Only Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a Detailed Application.

**B) Rolling funding programs**

- Regional Investment Activation Fund (RIAF) - provides \$110M to facilitate new private sector investment to activate the potential of priority precincts and industries. Stream One - an open, competitive grants program EOIs closed on 14 November 2022. EOIs for Stream Two close when the program funding has been fully allocated or 31 December 2024, whichever occurs first. This stream is an open, non-competitive grant program for unique footloose projects to provide increased flexibility to secure investments that are time-sensitive and strategically significant for a priority industry or location.
- Infrastructure Betterment Fund - provides \$200M additional recovery support for NSW Public Assets impacted by storms, floods, and bushfires (2019/20 bushfires, February/March 2021 & 2022 floods). This is a rolling application review program, with eligibility focussed on essential public assets directly damaged by bushfire or flood. Works and expenditure to be completed by 30 May 2025.

**C) Notification and announcement**

- Business Case Strategy Development Fund (BCSDF) - applicants have been notified of successful projects for this \$24 million program to facilitate the development of business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities,

with a focus on infrastructure. An extension to the project completion date has been granted to all successful applicants and notified via Smarty Grants. The new project completion deadline is 30 September 2023. Funding deeds are being prepared and are being issued in the coming weeks.

- Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF Rd 5) - applicants have been notified of successful projects for this \$160 million Fund to boost the wellbeing of communities in regional areas by providing new or upgraded social and sporting infrastructure, or community programs that have strong local support.
- Regional Tourism Activation Fund (RTAF Rd 2) - applicants have been notified of successful projects for this \$150 million in funding to support the development of high impact tourism infrastructure projects that increase visitation, expenditure and extend length of stay for visitors to regional NSW.
- Resources for Regions (R4R Rd 9) - applicants have been notified of successful projects for this \$140 million provided to NSW's highly valued mining communities for infrastructure and community projects that support economic and social prosperity.
- Accelerating Regional Innovation Fund (ARIF) - \$2M program to support regional entrepreneurs and start-ups in emerging sector and future industries. Applications closed 30 September 2022.
- Regional Event Acceleration Fund (REAF Rd 2) - applicants have been notified of successful projects for this \$20 million in funding for events hosted in regional NSW between July 2022 and June 2023, to help attract new events to the regions, make existing iconic regional NSW events even bigger and better, and improve accessibility and inclusion at major events

#### **Regional Leadership Executives - update**

The first Hunter Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) Bi-Annual Regional Development Forum was held on 29 November 2022 to facilitate collaboration at the regional level on three RLE state-wide focus areas:

- i. Regional Liveability
- ii. Aboriginal Communities
- iii. Economic Development & Diversification

The forum provided a platform to explore priorities and opportunities specific to the region with a broader range of stakeholders from across industry, academia and government. Discussion at the forum will inform the new Hunter and Central Coast RLE Annual Priorities Plan.

#### **Regional Economic Development Strategies – update**

The Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) form an important part of the economic development framework in regional NSW. Key stakeholders provided insight throughout the 2022 REDS Update Project including attendance at workshops held in October 2022 for the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie REDS, Hunter REDS and MidCoast REDS. The REDS will provide evidence-based information to guide government policy and investment decisions to support the growth, resilience and liveability of our regions.

The final documents are expected to be published in the week commencing 13 February 2023. The Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) will be contacting individual councils and the Hunter Joint Organisation to provide an advanced copy prior to publication.

**Recommendation: That the Board note the update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW relating to funding programs, the Regional Leadership Executive and the 2022 REDS Updates.**

## 8. Matters Raised by Members

### 8.1 Regional and Local Roads Repair Program Funding Equity

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#### **Raised by: Cr Sue Moore (Singleton Council)**

We are all aware of the government's recent funding announcement in respect to the above-mentioned program. What might not be so clear is the distribution of these funds between Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan area and Rural and Regional Communities.

Staff at Singleton Council have completed an analysis in regard to the distribution of the total allocated funds.

The estimate of funding allocation for all Councils is based on grants commission data using Time Series 20-21 from OLG to determine Rural & Regional and Greater Sydney & Outer Metropolitan Council Classification.

There would seem to be a disparity in funding allocation between Rural & Regional and Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan. This is to the tune of \$1:\$5.4 per km of road. The table below provides a summary:

| Classification                    | Road Length (km) | Grant Funding | \$/km       |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Rural & Regional                  | 128,949.4        | \$280,000,000 | \$ 2,171.40 |
| Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan | 18,668.1         | \$220,000,000 | \$11,784.79 |
|                                   | 147,617.5        | \$500,000,000 | \$ 3,387.13 |

While we are appreciative of the financial support, it seems there is a lack of equity that needs clarification.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Hunter JO requests clarification from the Minister for Transport on the rationale for the distribution of the grant funds between Rural & Regional and Greater Sydney/Outer Metropolitan Councils**

### 8.2 Voice to Parliament

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#### **Raised by: Cr Nuatali Nelmes (City of Newcastle)**

A copy of the 'Mayors for the Voice to Parliament Public Statement' has been included at Attachment 16 for discussion.

## 9. General Business

### 9.1 Compliance & Governance Calendars

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- Attachment 17 - HJO Board Forward Planner and Governance Calendar
- Attachment 18 - JO-Calendar-of-Compliance-and-Reporting-Requirements-2021-2022

# Mayors for the Voice to Parliament Public Statement

We the undersigned endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice to Parliament.

As local leaders we are committed to building awareness in our communities about the upcoming referendum.

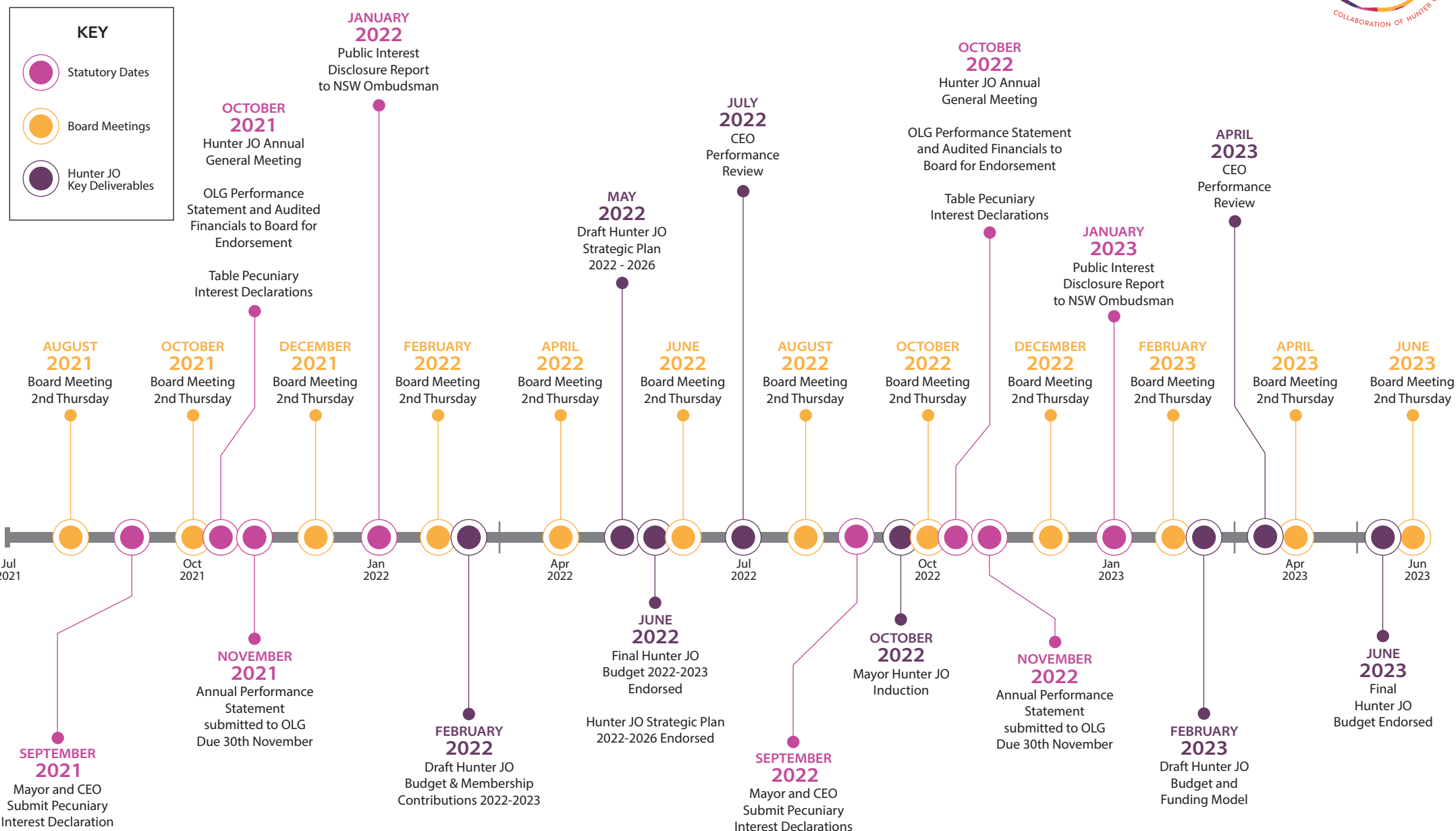
Our citizens should be informed about what constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament will mean for Indigenous people and Australian society as a whole.

Local government must play an important role in holding civic forums, promoting dialogue, and providing a platform for Indigenous voices to be heard in the debate.

We believe that a successful referendum can be a unifying achievement for Australia.

We are ready to work with all levels of government to educate and inform our communities about why this referendum is such an important moment for our nation.

# HUNTER JO BOARD FORWARD PLANNER & GOVERNANCE CALENDAR



| JOINT ORGANISATIONS CALENDAR OF COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 2022-23   |  |   |  |  |  |   |               |            |  |          |   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---------------|------------|--|----------|---|
| JULY 2022   | AUGUST 2022  | SEPTEMBER 2022  | OCTOBER 2022   | NOVEMBER 2022  | DECEMBER 2022  | JANUARY 2023  | FEBRUARY 2023 | MARCH 2023 | APRIL 2023   | MAY 2023 | JUNE 2023   |
| <b>9th:</b> Proposed loan borrowings return to be submitted to TCorp  | <b>30th:</b> Capacity Building Funding Stage 2 -Report to OLG with action plan, key delivery milestones and budget | <b>30th:</b> Lodge completed written returns of interest for voting representatives and designated persons who held office at 30 June [MCC cl 4.21(b)]. Executive Officer to table returns at next JO Board meeting [MCC cl 4.25] | <b>17th:</b> Request for extension to lodge financial statements to be submitted in writing to OLG [LGA s416(2); Code] | <b>30th:</b> Annual Performance Statement due [LGReg cl 397J(1)] | <b>4th:</b> Joint Organisations must adopt a new policy on the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the chairperson within 12 months of an election [LGA s252] | <b>30th:</b> Public Interest Disclosure Report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA] |               |            | <b>30th:</b> Capacity Building Funding Stage 2 -Report to OLG detailing delivery progress for expenditure of the funding, benefits, and report against budget. |          | <b>30th:</b> Last day to adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget [LGReg cl 397I] |
| <b>30th:</b> Public Interest Disclosures Report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]  |  |   | <b>30th:</b> Annual Report of obligations under PIDA to the Minister and the Ombudsman [PIDA s31]                      |  | <b>4th:</b> Joint Organisation must review their organisation structure within 12 months of an election [LGA s333]   |   |               |            |  |          |   |
| <b>31st:</b> Capacity Building Funding Stage 1 - Final report on the funding and delivery. Where extensions are granted- progress report is 31 July and final on project completion |  |   | <b>30th:</b> Annual Report of obligations under GIPA to the Minister and the Information Commissioner [GIPA s125]      |  | <b>4th:</b> Joint Organisations must adopt a code of meeting practice within 12 months of an election [LGA s360]   |   |               |            |  |          |   |
|   |  |   | <b>31st:</b> Audited Financial Statements to be lodged with OLG [LGA s417(5); Code]                                    |  | <b>4th:</b> Joint Organisations must review their adopted codes of conduct within 12 months of an election [LGA s440(7)]   |   |               |            |  |          |   |
|   |  |   |  |  | <b>4th:</b> Joint Organisations must adopt a statement of strategic regional priorities within 12 months of an election [LGReg cl397H]                                       |   |               |            |  |          |   |
|   |  |   |  |  | <b>5th:</b> Last day for audited financial statements to be presented to the public [LGA s 418(2)]   |   |               |            |  |          |   |
|   |  |   |  |  | <b>28th:</b> Last day for annual performance statement to be published [LGReg cl 397J(2)]  |   |               |            |  |          |   |
|   |  |   |  |  | <b>31st:</b> Report to JO Board [MCCP cl 11.2] and OLG [MCCP cl 11.2] on code of conduct complaint statistics  |   |               |            |  |          |   |

|            |
|------------|
| Governance |
| Finance    |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Notes:</b> |   |
| General       | Local Government Directory - Joint Organisations should notify the OLG (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au) of any senior staff or address changes via email to enable updating of the directory  |
|               | Joint Organisations must review its publication guide in relation to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and adopt a new publication guide at intervals of not more than 12 months; An agency may update and amend its publication guide at any time  |
|               | Joint Organisation Circulars are emailed to Joint Organisations. Please advise OLG (olg@olg.nsw.gov.au) of any change of JO email address. Joint Organisation Circulars can be downloaded from OLG webpage at www.olg.nsw.gov.au  |
|               | OLG = Office of Local Government. LGA = Local Government Act 1993. LGReg = Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. Code = Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. PIDA = Public Interests Dislosures Act 1994. MCC = Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, 2018. MCCP = Procedures for the Administration of The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, 2018. GiPA = Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. FSER = Financial Stimulus Eligibity Return. JRA = Job Retention Allowance. |