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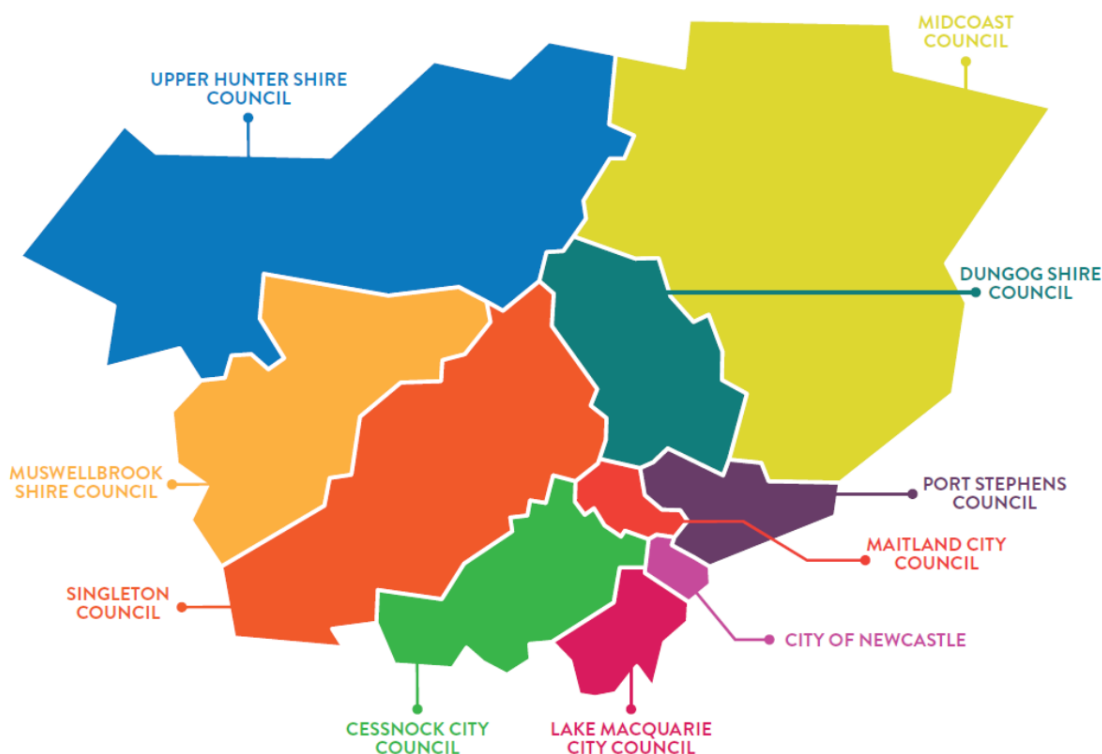
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FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Papers

11:00am, Thursday 11 August 2022



Videoconference Details: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 447 322 846 612

Passcode: 6tvfoQ

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1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

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

1.2 Conflicts of Interest

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Minutes of Meeting 9 June 2022

Hunter Joint Organisation Board Meeting Minutes

10:30 – 1:00pm, Thursday 9 June 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 Maurice Collison,	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Steve Reynolds,	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cr Nuatali Nelmes,	Newcastle City Council
Cr Sue Moore,	Singleton Shire Council
Cr Ryan Palmer,	Port Stephens Council

Non-Voting Members Present

Robert Maginnity	Acting 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
David Evans,	General Manager, Maitland City Council
Fiona Plesman,	General Manager, Muswellbrook Shire Council
Jeremy Bath,	CEO, Newcastle City Council
Wayne Wallis,	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
Jason Linnane,	General Manager, Singleton Council
Alison McGaffin	Director, Hunter & Central Coast, Regional NSW

Apologies

Cr Claire Pontin,	MidCoast Council
Cr Phillip Penfold,	Maitland City 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
Melinda Curtis,	Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO
Boyd Blackwell,	Policy and Program Manager, Hunter JO
Kali Somerville,	Media and Communications Officer, Hunter JO

Others

Virginia Errington	Council Engagement Manager, Office of Local Government
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The meeting opened at 10:30am.

Item 1 Welcomes and Apologies

1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair opened the meeting, noting the apologies.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Steve Reynolds

Seconded: John Connors

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 14 April 2022

The minutes were taken as read.

Resolved:

- ***That the minutes of previous meeting of 14 April 2022 be adopted.***

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: John Connors

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: Kay Fraser

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

3.2 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee Action Register

The register was taken as read.

Resolved:

- **That the register be noted.**

Moved: Kay Fraser

Seconded: John Connors

Carried.

4. Presentations

Hunter Estuary Program – Maitland City Council

Representatives from Maitland City Council provided an overview of progress and directions on the Hunter River Estuary Coastal Management Program.

Office of Regional Youth

Dan Brown from the Office of Regional Youth provided an overview of the Office of Regional Youth and the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery initiative.

5. Correspondence

The Correspondence was noted.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Steven Reynolds, Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried.

6. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision

6.1 Hunter JO 2021-22 Audit Response – Procurement Issue

Cr Nelmes proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cr Connors;

Resolved:

- **That the item be deferred, and that the Hunter JO Board seek independent legal advice on how to proceed**
- **That the legal advice be privileged and sought through the Chair, to be shared only with Mayors on the Hunter JO Board and not General Managers or the CEO of the Organisation**

Moved: Nuatali Nelmes, Seconded: John Connors

Carried

6.2 Hunter JO Budget 2022-23

Cr Nelmes proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cr Suvaal;

Resolved:

- **That the annual Arrow Financials be provided to the Hunter JO Board, to show that there is no insolvent trading**
- **That the proposed Arrow Budget for 2022-23 be provided to the Hunter JO Board**

- *That future financial reporting for the Hunter JO Board aligns to the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework*
- *That, following the endorsement of the Arrow Budget for 2022-23 by the Arrow Board, the proposed Hunter JO Board for 2022-23 be returned to the Hunter JO Board prior to the 20 June 2022.*

Moved: Nuatali Nelmes, Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried.

6.3 Hunter JO Deputy Chairperson

Resolved:

- *That the Hunter JO Board elect a Deputy Chairperson*
- *That the election of the Deputy Chairperson take place within the Hunter JO Board Meeting of 9 June 2022*

Moved: Nuatali Nelmes, Seconded: Steve Reynolds

Carried.

The Chair handed the meeting over to the CEO to act as Returning Officer and facilitate the election of a Deputy Chairperson.

The CEO acted as Returning Officer, as per the Hunter JO Code of Meeting Practice, and invited nominations from Voting Representatives for the position of Deputy Chairperson to formally Chair the meeting.

A nomination was received from Cr Nelmes to elect Cr Suvaal as Deputy Chairperson of the Hunter JO Board. This nomination was seconded by Crs Fraser, Reynolds, Connors, Pontin and Moore.

Cr Suvaal accepted the nomination.

The CEO called for nominations a second and third time, but no further nominations were received.

As only one voting representative was nominated for the position of Deputy Chairperson of the Hunter JO, the Returning Officer declared Cr Jay Suvaal as Deputy Chair, and handed back to the Chair to resume the meeting.

6.4 CEO Performance Review 2021-22

Cr Nelmes proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cr Fraser;

Resolved:

- *That the Hunter JO CEO Performance Review be conducted separately from a review of performance by the Arrow Board*
- *That the Hunter JO CEO Performance Review be conducted by a panel consisting of; the Hunter JO Chair, Deputy Chair, an additional Mayor, and with the Chair of Arrow invited to attend*

Moved: Nuatali Nelmes, Seconded: Kay Fraser

Carried.

7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Noting

7.1 CEO Report: Collaboration & Advocacy

The CEO spoke to the report.

Resolved:

That the Board receive and note the reports.

Moved: Steve Reynolds, Seconded: Jay Suvaal

Carried.

7.2 Hunter JO Financial Reports

The report was taken as read.

Resolved:

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

Moved: Jay Suvaal, 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: Jay Suvaal, Seconded: Steve Reynolds

Carried.

7.4 Hunter JO Program Delivery Highlights

The report was taken as read, and noted by the Board.

7.5 Regional NSW Standing Update

Alison McGaffin spoke to the report, which was noted by the Board.

8. Matters Raised by Members

Nil matters raised by Members.

9. General Business

The Board asked that for future meetings, if the meeting is to be held virtually, this decision be flagged by the Chair in advance of the meeting, in consultation with the Board.

9.1 Compliance & Governance Calendars

The calendars were noted.

Meeting closed 12.09pm

3. Confirmation of Minutes & Business Arising from Minutes

Recommendation:

- That the minutes of the previous meetings of 9 June 2022 be adopted

3.1 Business Arising: Hunter JO Action Register

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-19-13	That a discussion of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees be added to the agenda for the HJO for discussion at a later date	29 Aug 2019	On hold	Revised Due date: March 2021 Revised Status: On Hold (no update since March 21)	Mar2021: GMAC have discussed and indicated to put on hold until the framework is finalised and provided from OLG GMAC 25 March 2021 meeting resolution is as follows: That no further investigation of shared resourcing of ARICs be completed until the OLG Framework has been finalised, and at that point only if member councils express interest in sharing resources (if this option is allowed within the Framework).
HJO-20-55	<u>Hunter JO Waste Strategy Review and Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Hunter JO Board endorse development of a new Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2027 that creates an ambitious yet achievable plan to transition our resource recovery sector to a circular economy model. • That the Hunter JO Board support future engagement of, and reporting to the GMAC and Hunter JO Board to facilitate input to the Strategy objectives and actions. 	Feb 21	Underway	April 2022 August 2022 October 2022	<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 EPA 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</p>

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
					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.
HJO-20-60	<u>Regional Freight and Logistics - Initiatives and Opportunities</u> That a Summary Brief on this be brought back to the Board for endorsement.	Apr-21	Underway	Oct-21 June 2022	August 2022 – as per previous update 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.
HJO-20-63	<u>Cities Power Partnership Options</u> That the Board endorse the Hunter JO exploring a Regional Partner arrangement with CCP (the first region in Australia to do so) in line with Option 3: Collaboration Pledges Partnership.	Apr-21	Underway	December 2021 May 2022	June 2022 - No change from previous update 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. Jan2022: The collaboration with CPP, has included the incorporation and embedding of the CPP information and pledges into the Climate Change IP&R Package as a preparation step. The focus moving forward will be to complete formalising the partnership agreement.

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-20-65	<p><u>World Masters Games</u></p> <p>Establish a Regional Events Strategy Working Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review opportunities and costs associated with hosting the World Masters Games. • Scope out the development of a bid for the 2029 World Masters Games on behalf of the Hunter Region. • Review existing strategies and develop a roadmap for the implementation of key actions to attract major events to the region. 	Apr-21	Underway	<p>Feb 2022</p> <p>June 2022</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 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"> • THAT the Hunter JO draft correspondence to the NSW Government regarding funding and action required on the Hunter Sports Precinct in Broadmeadow • That the drafted correspondence be reviewed out of session by the Board prior to sending. 	10 Jun 21	Underway		<p>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> <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</p>

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
					for Hunter Park and exploring how the Hunter JO can support the business case and stakeholder engagement.
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"> Review existing state-wide approaches to the management of RID Squads Determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the RID Squad Identifying the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were it to be hosted by the Hunter JO. 	30 Sep 21	Complete	Mar-22	<p>August 2022 – Due diligence report completed and provided to NSW EPA for consideration. Currently reviewing response provided by 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-20-81	That a meeting of the Regional Economic Transition Sub-Committee be called prior to the Local Government elections in December 2021, to discuss the Hunter Expert Panel.	14 Oct 21	Complete	Feb 2022	<p>August 2022 – Subcommittee met 16th June and will continue to meet on a monthly basis. Refer Standing Committee updates for more information.</p> <p>May 2022 – Nominations from Mayors and General Managers to participate on the Subcommittee have been extended to all Member Councils. Refer “Hunter JO Subcommittees Standing Update”</p> <p>April 2022 – refer Agenda Item 7.3 – Hunter JO Sub-Committees Standing Update</p> <p>Jan2022: With the outcomes of the Local Government elections now finalised, a meeting of the Subcommittee will be scheduled for mid to late February to confirm the ongoing focus and Terms of reference for the Subcommittee. This will include a focus on the NSW Government’s Hunter Expert Panel and Royalties for Rejuvenation program.</p>
HJO-20-84	<p>That the Hunter JO Board endorse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further developing the concept of delivering a regional event which would require the active commitment and participation of all Mayors, Deputy Mayors & General Managers in its delivery 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. 	Apr 22	Underway	August 2022	<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>

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-20-88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees • That the Board endorse the recommendations arising from the GNMP Steering Committee workshop including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Hunter JO advocate to the Minister that: <p>A formal governance arrangement be enshrined between the Greater Newcastle Cities Commissioner (to be appointed), and the five Mayors of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area (City of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie City Council, Cessnock City Council, Maitland City Council and Port Stephens Council)</p> <p>The governance process established, enshrines a process for regular and meaningful communication and collaboration between the Greater Newcastle Cities Commissioner and the five Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area Mayors</p> ii. That the primary role of the GNMP Steering Committee moving forward, will be to: <p>Provide a strong and united advocacy voice on agreed core priorities for the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area, within the context of a broader shared regional narrative</p> <p>Inform the broader advocacy platform of the Hunter JO Board in regard to the agreed priorities and advocacy narrative for the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan area.</p> • That the Board endorse the recommendations relating to the Regional Economic Transition Subcommittee, including: 	Apr 22	Complete		Refer Hunter JO Sub-Committees Standing Update for further information on implementation progress.

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
	<p>i. That the primary role of the Subcommittee moving forward, will be to develop and provide a strong and united advocacy voice on agreed core priorities for the place based economic evolution of the Hunter region, within the context of the broader Hunter JO narrative. This would particularly focus on seeking and influencing State Government leadership, strategic direction, resources and action to ensure collective local government priorities enable the region's economic evolution through the Royalties for Rejuvenation program and the Hunter Expert Panel.</p> <p>ii. That membership of the Committee be drawn exclusively from the Hunter JO Board, to ensure representatives have the appropriate authority to make decisions and deliver the advocacy functions of the Subcommittee and its members.</p> <p>iii. That the name of the Standing Committee be amended to the "Subcommittee for Economic Evolution" to align with the broader narrative of the Hunter JO around the region's economic transformation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That representatives from the Hunter JO Board with an interest in being a representative on the Regional Economic Transition Subcommittee confirm their involvement at the April 2022 Board meeting. 				
HJO-22-90	<p>Hunter JO Audit – Procurement Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the item be deferred, and that the Hunter JO Board seek independent legal advice on how to proceed • That the legal advice be privileged and sought through the Chair, to be shared only with Mayors on the Hunter JO Board and not General Managers or the CEO of the Organisation 	Jun 22	Underway	Sep 22	Aug 22: It is understood that legal advice is being sought by the Chair of the Hunter JO. Additional documentation on this matter has been requested by the Chair and provided by the CEO.

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Status	Due	Notes
HJO-22-91	<p>Hunter JO Budget 2022-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the annual Arrow Financials be provided to the Hunter JO Board, to show that there is no insolvent trading • That the proposed Arrow Budget for 2022-23 be provided to the Hunter JO Board • That future financial reporting for the Hunter JO Board aligns to the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework • That, following the endorsement of the Arrow Budget for 2022-23 by the Arrow Board, the proposed Hunter JO Board for 2022-23 be returned to the Hunter JO Board prior to the 20 June 2022. 	Jun 22	Underway	Aug 22	<p>Aug 22: The Arrow Financials and finalised budget for the 22/23FY have been provided to the Hunter JO Members external to the Board Pack.</p> <p>The Arrow Budget for 22/23FY was finalised at the end of July by the Arrow Board, and was therefore not able to be provided prior to the 20 June as requested in the resolution.</p> <p>A briefing for the Mayors is planned for early September, to provide a further overview of the structure and interdependencies between the entities, along with an overview of the financial forecast.</p>
HJO-22-92	<p>CEO Performance Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Hunter JO CEO Performance Review be conducted separately from a review of performance by the Arrow Board • That the Hunter JO CEO Performance Review be conducted by a panel consisting of; the Hunter JO Chair, Deputy Chair, an additional Mayor, and with the Chair of Arrow invited to attend 	Jun 22	Underway	Sep 22	<p>Aug 22: At the time of writing, the survey requesting feedback from the Hunter JO and Arrow Boards on the CEO's performance was being finalised, for circulation in the week of 9 August 2022.</p> <p>The Performance Review itself is planned for late August, to be finalised at the September and October meetings of the Arrow and Hunter JO Boards respectively.</p>

3.2 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Action Register

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Responsibility	Notes
GNMP-21-10	That an update on the progress and achievements to date of the growth Catalyst Areas be included as an Agenda item for the next Committee meeting	07/10/21	HJO	<p>August 2022 - No change from previous update</p> <p>June 2022 & April 2022: In progress. Outcomes from 10th March Committee workshop identified interest in potentially two briefings per annum provided by State Agencies to the Committee, including updates on Catalyst Areas.</p> <p>Feb 2022: In progress – to be included on Agenda for next Committee meeting to be scheduled subsequent to the 10th March 2022 workshop (see below). Workshop confirmed need for updates from agencies in this regard.</p>
GNMP-21-10	<p>Seek confirmation from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the timeframe for review of the GNMP confirmation that the GNMP Steering Committee will play a core role in the review process the recommended process through which the Committee will be engaged in the review process 	07/10/21	Hunter JO	August 2022 - In progress
GNMP-21-10	Hunter JO CEO to enquire with HCCDC and Regional NSW about whether a decision has been made on whether further identity and positioning work would be undertaken in relation to Greater Newcastle (rather than the whole of Hunter), consistent with the action in the GNMP. If a decision has not been made, then clarity on the trigger and expected timing of decision should be sought	07/10/21	Hunter JO	<p>August 2022 – The project team will begin information sessions with individual Councils and the Greater Cities Commission as key next steps.</p> <p>April 2022: Meetings continue to be convened fortnightly by Regional NSW, to develop the next phase of work: to develop a plan to re-engage stakeholders on the draft brand and strategy</p> <p>Jan 22 – CEO has sought comment from Department of Regional NSW and HCCDC and is awaiting a response.</p> <p>Through its involvement in the Hunter Identity and Positioning project team, HJO management understands that Greg Clark from Business of Cities has completed their work to develop a</p>

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Responsibility	Notes
				<p>'story' for our 'city-region' to help inform the branding work. The resulting recommendation is to realign the branding more strongly on the 'Invest' theme to provide a focussed story for the brand and better align to the action in the GNMP to better promote the advantages of Greater Newcastle to external markets. The branding agency is working on the realigned brand strategy during January 2022.</p> <p>Note also the announcement of the focus on Newcastle as part of the expanded mandate of the Greater Sydney Commission (to become the Greater Cities Commission), which might influence next steps in the development and utilisation of any brand.</p>
GNMP-21-06	Dept of Regional NSW & HCCDC – once Fast Rail Strategy is released a presentation is sought for this Committee	A.13.5 – 06/02/2020	Dept of Regional NSW & HCCDC	<p>August 2022 - No change to previous update</p> <p>June 2022: No change to previous update, action pending release of Strategy</p> <p>Update August 2021: Fast Rail Network Strategy is yet to be a released. TfNSW will be invited to present to the SC if/when the Strategy is released</p>
A 7.6	Freight Rail Bypass	A 7.6	TfNSW/RMS	<p>August 2022 - No change to previous update</p> <p>April 2022: 10th March Committee workshop identified interest in potentially two briefings per annum provided by State Agencies to the Committee. This would include updates on the Freight Rail Bypass.</p> <p>October 2021: Pending outcome of collaborative workshop, this action item to be reviewed.</p> <p>Update August 2021</p> <p>Lower Hunter Freight Corridor is out for consultation until 13 September 2021. The feedback will be important in helping TfNSW to refine, where possible the corridor before it is officially reserved. As well as working with land owners to minimise impacts where possible on them, TfNSW are also looking at how to minimise ecological impacts that will also deliver a viable</p>

I.D	Action	Mtg Date	Responsibility	Notes
				freight corridor that will ease congestion on the current passenger line. Information available at transport.nsw.gov.au/LHFC

4. Presentations

Nil presentations

5. Correspondence

Nil correspondence since the previous meeting of the Board.

6. Items for the Hunter JO Board - For Decision

6.1 Hunter JO Advocacy Framework and Priorities for the NSW Government Election

Report Author: Steve Wilson

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

The purpose of this report is to provide for the Board's consideration, a draft Advocacy Framework and accompanying series of draft policy statements and "advocacy asks" (aligned to the Framework structure), that will underpin advocacy efforts by the Hunter JO in the lead up to the 2023 NSW State Government election. The structure of the framework and the advocacy priorities and 'asks' identified have been informed substantially by an analysis and synthesis of:

- Commonwealth Advocacy work completed by the Hunter JO earlier in the year
- Information obtained from meetings with Commonwealth and State Members of Parliament and policy advisors in relation to the Hunter Global initiative
- Discussions and resolutions of the Hunter JO Board
- Outcomes and resolutions arising from each of the Hunter JO Standing Committees
- Findings and outcomes arising from delivery of the Hunter JO Policy and Programs work program
- Advocacy priorities presented to Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon. Kristy McBain MP at the recent ALGA Conference
- Outcomes the Hunter JO Board Strategic Planning workshop held on 14 & 15 July 2022.

Development of the Advocacy Framework is seeking to achieve clear alignment on the Board's policy positions, priorities and advocacy "asks", so that collateral can be developed around them and disseminated in a timeframe that ensures the potential for them to influence policy and funding commitments in time for internal government budget processes prior to the NSW election. Target audiences for these outputs will include:

- Sitting NSW Members of Parliament in seats across the region and candidates for their seats
- Relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers, and other key decision makers (e.g. policy advisors).

As well as underpinning the specific advocacy efforts of the Hunter JO team, the Framework and priorities identified have the potential to support the advocacy efforts of individual Member Councils in the lead up to the election.

The following table provides an overview of the draft Advocacy Framework structure.

Framework Level	Description
Priorities	Headline statements identifying specific priority focus areas
Policy Statements	What we are trying to achieve within each priority statement area
Advocacy Ask	<p>The specific advocacy asks we are seeking – policy change, investment, commitments etc.</p> <p>NB These increase in complexity from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Small” ask (e.g. single decision maker able to grant ask) • “Large” ask (e.g. cabinet approval for expenditure, parliamentary approval for legislative change)

Feedback on the draft Priorities, Policy Statements and Advocacy Asks, for the NSW Government election, has been sought from the General Managers. As at the time of writing this report, we are now synthesising that feedback and will circulate an updated draft prior to the board meeting.

It should be noted that these draft Priorities, Policy Statements and Advocacy Asks represent the full collective of priorities identified by all Member Councils through the processes identified above. While providing the opportunity for these collective priorities to be presented as a whole, the Advocacy Framework also provides an agreed foundation from which more specific and targeted advocacy campaigns can be drawn and formulated moving forward.

Subject to consideration and endorsement by the Board of the Advocacy Framework and priorities, the following activities will be undertaken to progress the advocacy efforts of the Hunter JO in the lead up to the election.

Activity	Completion date
Development of advocacy collateral for confirmed advocacy priorities.	26 August 2022
Dissemination of advocacy collateral to target audiences	2 nd September 2022
Face to face meetings with MPs Ministers and policy advisors	1 September – 30 November 2022

Recommendation:

- **That, pending review of the Advocacy Document to be circulated following the papers, the Board endorse the Advocacy Agenda and Strategy for the NSW State Government election.**

Report Author: Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy & Programs

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

6.2.1 Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 17 August 2022. A key focus of the meeting will include determining an agreed approach / position around the design and structure of governance arrangements to be established between the Greater Cities Commission and GNMP Steering Committee, and more specifically between the Greater Newcastle Cities Commissioner (currently being recruited), and the mayors of the five GNMP Councils.

6.2.2 Circular Economy Sub Committee

A key focus of the Subcommittee, the Hunter & Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap was launched in July with a networking breakfast event. Attendees heard from industry and local circular economy experts about circular economy projects and initiatives throughout the region, with speakers including:

- Mayor Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council and Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy Sub-Committee
- Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Programs Manager – Hunter JO
- David Hughes, Director of Built & Natural Assets – Lake Macquarie City Council
- Brett Allan, General Manager – Molycop
- Jess Hodge, Founder – Resourceful Living

The launch attracted 53 participants in person and 30 online. Attendees were from across multiple industries including government (19%), business (80%) and academia (1%).

Key takeaways from the launch included:

- Interest in the circular economy is growing in the region, particularly within the business community
- Local circular businesses are beginning to emerge and are strongly positioned for growth
- Businesses are eager to learn how they can put the circular economy into practice

The most recent meeting of the Subcommittee itself occurred on 2nd August.

6.2.3 Regional Economic Transition Sub Committee

At its April 2022 meeting the Hunter JO Board resolved to revamp and refocus the activities of its Regional Economic Transition Subcommittee. Now known as the Subcommittee for Economic Evolution, the Committee met for the first time on 17th June.

Membership of the revamped committee include the newly appointed Committee Chair, Mayor Steve Reynolds (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Mayor Sue Moore (Singleton Council), Mayor John Connors (Dungog Shire Council), Mayor Jay Suvaal (Cessnock City Council), Morven Cameron (CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council), Jason Linnane (General Manager Singleton Council) and Fiona Plesman (General Manager Muswellbrook Council).

The primary role of the Subcommittee moving forward, will be to develop and provide a strong and united advocacy voice on agreed core priorities for the place based economic evolution of the region. This will particularly focus on seeking and influencing Commonwealth and State Government leadership, strategic direction, resources and action to plan and deliver the work that is needed to achieve this goal, including a focus on the Royalties for Rejuvenation program and Hunter Expert Panel.

Key outcomes from the 17th June meeting included:

- Reviewing and endorsing an updated Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee
- Identifying draft Advocacy priorities for the Subcommittee and broader Hunter JO Board

Copies of these are included in the minutes in Attachment 1.

Recommendation:

That the Board:

- **Note the updates on the Hunter JO Sub-Committees**
- **Endorse the revised Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee for Economic Evolution (refer Attachment 1 - Meeting Minutes)**
- **Endorse the appointment of Mayor Steve Reynolds as Chair of the Subcommittee for Economic Evolution**

MINUTES

Subcommittee for Economic Evolution

Date: 17th June 2022

Item 1. Apologies and Meeting Participants

There were no apologies recorded.

Meeting Participants

Council	Representative
Singleton Council	Cr Sue Moore, Mayor Jason Linnane, General Manager
Cessnock City Council	Cr Jay Savaal, Mayor
Dungog Shire Council	Cr John Connors, Mayor
Lake Macquarie City Council	Morven Cameron, CEO
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor Fiona Plesman, General Manager
Hunter Joint Organisation	Joe James, CEO Steve Wilson, Director Regional Policy & Programs Boyd Blackwell, Regional Policy & Program Manager

Item 2. Subcommittee Terms of Reference

A review of draft changes to the Terms of Reference was completed. The changes aim to ensure the ToR reflect the updated purpose and structure for the Subcommittee established by the Hunter JO Board. Additional changes also recommended by the Subcommittee included:

- Clarifying that a quorum comprises three Councils
- Clarifying that both Mayors and General Managers are voting representatives, however each Council is entitled to one vote.

A copy of the updated ToR including additional changes (highlighted) are provided in Attachment 1.

In regard to meeting frequency, it was determined that the Subcommittee would meet on a monthly basis (one hour duration), rotating between in person (following the Hunter JO Board meeting) and online on the alternate month. Meetings will be scheduled for the second Thursday of the month to align with the Board meeting frequency.

Resolved:

- *That the draft changes and additional updates to the Terms of Reference be accepted.*

- *That meetings be scheduled on a monthly basis (2nd Thursday of the month), alternating between in person (following the Hunter JO Board meeting) and online.*

Moved Cr Sue Moore

Seconded Cr John Connors

Carried

Item 3. Confirmation / Nomination of Chair

Cr Sue Moore resigned as Chair of the Subcommittee, with Cr Steve Reynolds nominated and elected as the new Chair.

Resolved:

Cr Steve Reynolds elected as the Chair of the Subcommittee

Moved: Fiona Plesman

Seconded Cr John Connors

Carried

Item 4. Setting the Scene

A presentation was provided by Joe James and Boyd Blackwell focusing on:

- Economic evolution of the region - key drivers, challenges and opportunities
- Place Based Regional Economic Development
- Existing policy & program initiatives and governance relationships

A copy of the presentation accompanies the minutes.

Item 5. Royalties for Rejuvenation

An update from the Hunter JO CEO on the Royalties for Regions program was incorporated in the following item – “Opportunities and Objectives for the Hunter JO”.

Information provided in the update is included in the presentation accompanying the minutes.

Item 6. Opportunities and Objectives for the Hunter JO

A workshop session was held with the Subcommittee focusing on:

- Identifying and aligning objectives for the region’s economic evolution, including the shared problems to be solved.
- Identifying the advocacy and leadership priorities for the Subcommittee

The draft advocacy priorities generated from this session are included in Attachment 2, to be reviewed by the Subcommittee at its next meeting.

Item 7. General Business

There were no items of General Business.

Attachment 1

Terms of Reference - Subcommittee for Economic Evolution (SEE)

Prepared by: Joe James, CEO of the Hunter Joint Organisation & Dr Boyd Blackwell, Manager Regional Policy and Programs

Endorsement Date: 17 June 2022

Preamble

This Terms of Reference document applies to the Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) Subcommittee for Economic Evolution.

The previously named Regional Economic Transition Standing Committee was established at the Hunter JO Meeting of 11 July 2019 to continue to prioritise a resilient and diversified economy, and to assist in managing economic transition in the region in partnership with identified and other Regional stakeholders. At its 14th April 2022 meeting, the Hunter JO Board resolved that the primary role of the Subcommittee moving forward, will be to develop and provide a strong and united advocacy voice on agreed core priorities for the place based economic evolution of the Hunter region, within the context of the broader Hunter JO narrative.

Materials and subcommittee outputs will be reported to the Hunter JO Board.

Hunter JO Board Resolution regarding renewal of the Committee – 14 April 2022

That the Board endorse the recommendations relating to the Regional Economic Transition Subcommittee, including:

- i. That the primary role of the Subcommittee moving forward, will be to develop and provide a strong and united advocacy voice on agreed core priorities for the place based economic evolution of the Hunter region, within the context of the broader Hunter JO narrative. This would particularly focus on seeking and influencing State Government leadership, strategic direction, resources and action to ensure collective local government priorities enable the region's economic evolution through the Royalties for Rejuvenation program and the Hunter Expert Panel.*
- ii. That membership of the Committee be drawn exclusively from the Hunter JO Board, to ensure representatives have the appropriate authority to make decisions and deliver the advocacy functions of the Subcommittee and its members.*
- iii. That the name of the Standing Committee be amended to the "Subcommittee for Economic Evolution" to align with the broader narrative of the Hunter JO around the region's economic transformation.*

Membership

- Membership of the committee will be comprised of the nominated representatives, drawn exclusively from the Hunter JO Board, to ensure representatives have the appropriate

authority to make decisions and deliver the advocacy functions of the Subcommittee and its members. In regard to the Hunter JO Code of Meeting Practice:

- All Mayors and General Managers represented on the Committee (or their nominated alternate) are classed as “Voting Representatives” of the Subcommittee.
 - Each Council represented on the Committee (i.e. not each individual) has one vote, which can be made by either the Mayor or General Manager.
- Where nominated representatives cannot attend a committee meeting, Councils can nominate an alternate representative for the meeting.
 - Other council staff that have relevant expertise or are required for individual projects may attend meetings and be included in correspondence, as required.
 - Representatives from other organisations or agencies (government and non-government) may attend meetings upon invitation from the Chairperson but will not be present during confidential discussions.

Meetings and Operations

- The Subcommittee’s meeting will be held as required, and notified by the Chairperson.
- The Hunter JO CEO (or delegate) will organise / book meetings.
- Draft topics for the agenda will be circulated one (1) week prior to each meeting for input from members.
- Minutes and related meeting papers will be circulated within one (1) week of each meeting.
- The format of meetings will generally be ‘roundtable’ and may include presentations and small group discussions.
- Non-members will be invited to group meetings on an as-needs basis.
- The Hunter JO will provide secretariat support for the group.
- The quorum for a meeting of the Subcommittee will consist of three Councils being present.

Recommendations of the Standing Committee

As noted in the Hunter JO (2019) Code of Meeting Practice;

The recommendations of a committee of the board are, so far as they are adopted by the board, resolutions of the board.

If in a report of a committee of the board distinct recommendations are made, the board may make separate decisions on each recommendation.

Accountability & Governance:

- The Subcommittee will adhere to the Hunter JO Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice
- The Hunter JO Board provides direction to, and formal sign off on, activities of the Subcommittee Members represent their Councils for the purpose of progressing the shared regional interests of all Hunter JO Councils regarding the region’s economic evolution, and in doing so are responsible for:

- ensuring appropriate accountability and reporting back to the organisation they represent, and
 - providing input and data to the group on economic diversification and transition related activities of their organisation.
- Recommendations will be sent to the JO Board from the committee only when there is a decision supported by a majority of the voting representatives at a meeting of the committee at which a quorum is.

Sharing of information and resources (including confidential materials)

- Subcommittee representatives are encouraged to share information and resources relevant to the activities of the Subcommittee
- Confidential materials (such as commercial in confidence) and copyright issues will be identified by individual councils before sharing amongst the group

Changes to the Terms of Reference

- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis, and in accordance with any changes made to the Hunter JO Code of Meeting Practice.

Attachment 2

DRAFT advocacy priorities generated from Subcommittee workshop session

NB Highlighted text represents additional draft “policy statements” and “advocacy asks” arising from the workshop session that have been added to the draft Hunter JO Advocacy Framework (refer accompanying presentation slides for an overview of the Framework).

Advocacy Priority - Economic Evolution to Drive Jobs and a Growing Economy

Policy Statements:

1. As we transition to a clean energy future, we need to evolve the Hunter’s economy to replace the dominance of coal with other products and services, at a level that will:
 - replace and ideally provide more jobs than those currently provided by the coal industry
 - maintain and improve the lifestyle and opportunities available for our local communities.
2. Successfully navigating the economic evolution that is needed in the Hunter will require significant government intervention and investment. The most efficient type of investment is that which accelerates and amplifies market driven investment in innovation that capitalises on the region’s existing natural strengths and attributes.
3. A clear, place-based, integrated whole of government policy and planning approach is needed to drive the Region’s economic evolution, that:
 - provides a platform for better information, collaboration and agreement on the economic evolution strategy for the Hunter, building on the partnerships and collaboration that are growing in the region.
 - empowers local, place-based planning and decision making by the region’s communities (i.e. subsidiarity principle)
 - establishes a specialised local investment and redevelopment entity, with place-based leadership collaborating with government, to drive the industrial changes needed to transition the Hunter’s economy.
 - supports businesses and workers impacted by changes in the economy. This includes dedicated innovation and transition support services, built on successful models deployed in other regions of Australia, to ensure that supply chains and workers can begin to plan their future as key customers or employers’ close facilities.
4. The design of the Royalties for Rejuvenation program and Hunter Expert Panel needs to reflect the original intent and assurances provided to Hunter Councils by the NSW Government that:
 - funds from the Royalties for Rejuvenation program will be strategically and systematically allocated to ensure coal mining communities have the support they need to develop other industries in the long-term

- the Hunter Royalties for Rejuvenation Expert Panel will “be at the heart of decision-making to ensure the Government protects jobs and industries, supports communities and identifies the exciting opportunities that can be built off the back of the mining legacy for decades to come”.
5. The \$25M per annum currently allocated across NSW coal mining regions from the Royalties for Rejuvenation program, is inadequate to support the substantial investment in co-ordinated planning and investment that is needed now in the Hunter, to proactively, collaboratively and effectively catalyse the economic evolution that is needed.

Advocacy Asks

FOCUS	ADVOCACY ASK
Coordinated Planning and Investment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of a “place-based deal” for the Hunter, entered by all levels of Government, that provides clear principles and priorities for public and private investment and planning in the Hunter for the next 30 years, to drive the economic evolution needed to ensure the region’s continuing significant contribution to both State and National economies. 2. As a first step in a “place-based” deal, support development of an Integrated Transport Plan for the Hunter Region that identifies and delivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 genuine, non-car based intra-regional connectivity within the region, particularly between key facilities including Newcastle Airport, tertiary educational facilities (University & TAFE), health and medical services and regional transport nodes. 3. Establishment of a regional entity based in the Hunter, with the authority and resources from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, that are necessary to drive and deliver the coordinated and integrated “whole of government” policy and planning approach needed for the Region’s economic evolution 4. Legislation / policy change to provide procedural clarity, certainty and a clear pathway to enable access to and adaptation of former mining and mining buffer lands for their next “highest and best use”, to support the region’s economic evolution. Current mine rehabilitation requirements are not consistent with this objective.
Royalties for Rejuvenation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Increase the level of funding allocated overall to the Royalties for Rejuvenation program. In the Hunter region allocate funds from the program to a “place-based deal” or entity to drive and deliver the coordinated and integrated policy and planning approach that is needed for the region’s economic evolution 6. Establishing a competitive grant process in the Hunter to determine the



FOCUS	ADVOCACY ASK
	<p>allocation of funds from the Royalties for Rejuvenation Program is not the best value for money from these funds. Such an approach will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directly foster competition between regional stakeholders rather than building the alignment and collaborative approach that is needed to successfully plan and deliver the Hunter’s economic evolution• Significantly undermine the credibility of the program and its potential role in strategically shaping the economic evolution of the region beyond coal.

7. Items for the Hunter JO Board – For Noting

7.1 CEO Report – Collaboration & Advocacy

Report Author: Joe James, CEO

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

Executive Summary:

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

The report provides an update for the last period on:

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

Advocacy

Joint Statement - Hunter Region Mayors call for more disaster support

Following the devastation of recent floods across the Hunter, the region's ten Mayors signed a joint statement calling for more disaster support from the State and Federal Government. The statement acknowledged the improved and more timely response for disaster funding in comparison to previous disasters but argues that the impact of this flood in the face of multiple natural disasters does not extend far enough.

With many of the region's communities still recovering from previous floods, coastal erosion, droughts, and bushfires the recovery period and cost is stacking up to be astronomical.

The Mayors called for increased financial support to be able to address urgent infrastructure repairs and to help their communities recover, prepare, and adapt. There is also a need to build back better to be more resilience to future disasters.

Nine out of ten of the Local Government Areas in the Hunter region were declared as disaster zones and the current repairs are beyond Local Government capabilities. State and Federal Government funding and resourcing is needed to provide the support required.

This statement has been featured in multiple publications across the region, demonstrating the importance and power of our Councils coming together with a united voice to advocate for the region and our communities.

Annual National General Assembly of Local Government

In June, representatives from our Member Councils and the Hunter JO attended the annual National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra convened by the Australia Local Government Association (ALGA). This event provides Local Government with a unique opportunity to engage directly with the Commonwealth to advocate for policy change and their communities.

A group of Council representatives and the Hunter JO CEO, Joe James, attended a meeting with the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon. Kristy McBain MP. This meeting focused on demonstrating the united voice of the Hunter region and advocating for our joint priorities that have been identified through consultation with our Board.

The group in attendance discussed the importance of leadership and support, especially by the Commonwealth, to give confidence to communities during times of economic transformation, to need to drive planning and investment in public transport networks, building resilience through competitive access to global markets and the experience of rural councils.

Regional development and employment is a priority for all of our Member Councils with particular focus on working with the Federal Government to become a global destination, and alternate mining land use and economic diversification in the Hunter to secure the economic future of the region.



Hunter Global

Production of an extended advocacy video has now been completed, which will support regional advocacy efforts to state and federal governments, as well as to attract potential investors to the region. The focus of this video is “When we get to the world stage”, showcasing storylines from local people and businesses from around the region as to what direct international access through the airport will allow them to do. A communications strategy to underpin release and distribution of the video is currently being prepared. The video can be viewed at [When We Get to the World Stage](#).

The report documenting the opportunities and key priorities for the region as a whole to capitalise on the runway upgrade (and recently announced passenger terminal upgrade) is in the final stages of review. Along with the video this report will provide a platform to support ongoing advocacy and program development work undertaken by the JO, project partners and other regional stakeholders to

continue to promote and develop the economic development opportunities for the region arising from the airport runway upgrade.

Regional Submissions

1. Review and update of the NSW Water Quality Objectives – Department of Planning and Environment

Hunter JO and Member Council staff recently participated in the Local and State Government Workshops held by DPE in early August, which focused on reviewing and updating the NSW Water Quality Objectives. Following these workshops a package is being distributed to Councils by DPE on the 12 August 2022, inviting feedback by the end of August 2022. In addition to individual submissions that individual Member Councils may provide, the Hunter JO will also consult with Councils with a view to preparing a regional submission. Following this direct engagement with local government by DPE, there will also occur a public exhibition stage from mid-October to mid-November. The release of the new objectives is estimated to be in early 2023.

Media Coverage

Outlet	Focus
Multiple	<p>JOINT STATEMENT HUNTER REGION MAYORS CALL FOR MORE DISASTER SUPPORT</p> <p>Following the devastation of recent floods across the Hunter, the region's ten Mayors signed a joint statement calling for more disaster support from the State and Federal Government. The statement acknowledged the improved and more timely response for disaster funding in comparison to previous disasters but argues that the impact of this flood in the face of multiple natural disasters does not extend far enough.</p> <p>The Mayors called for increased financial support to be able to address urgent infrastructure repairs and to help their communities recover, prepare, and adapt. There is also a need to build back better to be more resilience to future disasters.</p> <p>This statement has been featured in multiple publications across the region.</p>
Newcastle Herald, Saturday 25th June 2022	<p>MAYORS MAKE THEIR CASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter council leaders say they are confident that their concerns were heard during a meeting with the federal minister for local government in Canberra Representatives from Singleton, Muswellbrook, Cessnock and lake Macquarie councils were part of a Hunter JO roundtable meeting with federal MP Kristy McBain during last week's National Assembly of Local Government
ABC Radio, Saturday 17th July 2022	<p>CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROADMAP LAUNCH</p> <p>Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Program Manager was interviewed by ABC radio regarding the recent launch of the Circular Economy Roadmap.</p>

A copy of the above media coverage and Joint Statement has been included at the end of the Board Pack for information (Attachment 2).

Hunter JO Board Strategic Planning Workshop with Mayors & GMs

A 2-day strategic planning workshop was undertaken by the Board on 14th and 15th July. The primary focus and outputs from the workshop included:

- Each Member Council identifying priorities for their LGA for the purpose of identifying shared priorities, challenges and areas for collaboration that would benefit from a regional approach.
- Reviewing outcomes from the mapping of each Councils Community Strategic Plan and key NSW Government regional plans against the 4 priority strategic focus areas (Connectivity, Jobs & A Growing Economy, Resilience and Liveability)
- Identifying the role of the JO in addressing the priority action areas identified by the Board.

Collaboration & Stakeholder Engagement

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
Political Engagements (upcoming)	
David Layzell - NSW Member for Upper Hunter <i>Upcoming Friday 12th August</i>	Similar to recent meetings held between the CEO and Director Regional Policy & Programs with local Commonwealth and NSW Members of Parliament, this meeting with Member for Upper Hunter will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role and strategic priorities of the Hunter JO • Hunter Global summit outcomes and emerging priorities • The Hunter JOs goals, role and activity in regard to the Region's economic evolution, including the Hunter Venture Fund project • Transport connectivity • Shiraz to Shore initiative
Political Engagements (completed)	
The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Commonwealth Minister for Regional Development, Local Government & Territories	A delegation of Hunter JO Mayors and General Managers met with the Minister on 22 June 2022 while in Canberra to attend the ALGA conference. The meeting provided the opportunity for the delegation to communicate the shared priorities of Member Councils on core regional issues and priorities relevant to the new Minister's portfolio, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic evolution to drive jobs and a growing economy in the region • A globally focused Hunter connected to international markets
Daniel Mookhey, NSW Shadow Treasurer 27 June 2022	The CEO attended the NSW Budget Roundtable Event hosted by Yasmin Catley (Member for Swansea) and City of Newcastle. The forum provided the opportunity for the Shadow Treasurer to outline Labor's response to the NSW Government's budget, and to engage with the Shadow Treasurer on a range of economic development, waste management and climate and energy opportunities that could be unlocked in the region through NSW Government policy.

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
Hunter JO convened workshops, forums and events	
Hunter JO Strategic Planning Workshop 14 & 15 July 2022	<p>The focus of this 2 day workshop included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Member Council identifying priorities for their LGA for the purpose of identifying shared priorities, challenges and areas for collaboration that would benefit from a regional approach. • Reviewing outcomes from the mapping of each Councils Community Strategic Plan and key NSW Government regional plans against the 4 priority • Identifying the role of the JO in addressing the priority action areas identified by the Board.
Hunter JO Circular Economy Roadmap Launch (11 July 2022)	<p>The Hunter & Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap was launched in July with a networking breakfast event with attendance from across the region.</p> <p>Attendees heard from industry and local circular economy experts about circular economy projects and initiatives throughout the region, with speakers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council and Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy Sub-Committee • Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Programs Manager – Hunter JO • David Hughes, Director of Built & Natural Assets – Lake Macquarie City Council • Brett Allan, General Manager – Molycop • Jess Hodge, Founder – Resourceful Living <p>The launch attracted 53 participants in person and 30 online. Attendees were from across multiple industries including government (19%), business (80%) and academia (1%).</p>
Simtable Demonstrations (various)	<p>Simtable demonstrations have recently been delivered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFS Hunter Area Command, Cameron Park, 27 June 2022 • Red Cross disaster resilience staff, 30 June 2022 • Local Land Services, Tocal, 8 July 2022
Existing Standing Engagement (convened by Hunter JO and Local Government)	
Hunter JO Regional Planning & Economic Development Forum (25 August 2022)	<p>The next meeting of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Forum is scheduled for 25 August 2022. Planning is currently underway.</p>
Regional Contaminated Land Working Group	<p>NSW EPA representatives participated in the most recent working group meeting, at which they confirmed funding and arrangements to extend the Regional Contaminated land Capacity Building Program for a further 6 months.</p>

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
Hunter Regional Waste Strategy Group (convened by Hunter JO)	This group met on 16 th June to continue to provide input to the review of the Regional Waste Strategy. Eight Councils were in attendance.
Hunter Circular Economy Facilitators Group (co-convened by Hunter JO & Department of Planning & Environment)	The Facilitators group are trialling regular fortnightly meetings of 30 mins to keep each other up to date on regional circular economy progress. This was a result of our collective impact workshop where it identified the need for 'constant communication' to improve our impact in CE.
Existing standing engagements (convened by others)	
Hunter Cruise Committee (convened by Regional NSW / Destination Sydney & Surrounds North)	<p>Hunter JO staff have been participating in monthly Cruise Committee meetings, and have also been working on a Business Case with the current Cruise Coordinator to fund a part time Cruise Coordinator moving forward, demonstrating the value proposition relevant to our member councils and other stakeholders, using data and information provided from the Cruise Economic Impact Assessment in 2018/19 (pre covid).</p> <p>DRNSW have provided \$15,000 to 'keep the lights on' for the Cruise Coordinator position, to start the new season and to further develop the business case, including engaging with potential funding bodies to contribute to a Cruise Coordinator long term (eg BIAs, tourism associations etc).</p>
Regional Leadership Executive (convened by Regional NSW)	There has not been an RLE meeting since the May 2022 Hunter JO Board meeting.
Business Attraction Committee (convened by Regional NSW)	No meeting since May 2022 Hunter JO Board meeting. Next meeting 5 August (after release of Hunter JO agenda and papers). Verbal update to be provided if relevant.
Interim Hunter Expert Panel (convened by Regional NSW)	<p>Last meeting occurred on 30 June 2022.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation has commenced on draft regulation until 29 July. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regs set out the affected coal mining regions and the functions, constitution and procedures of the Expert Panel b. Regs set out eligibility criteria for fund (broad, some LGA's will not be eligible, funding is not limited to councils) c. Assessment of who is in and who is out (and criteria) will not be provided (regs simply whether Minister is satisfied LGA is impacted (this is a paraphrase) 2. Invest Regional NSW presented - Working on ia program to identify target industries and local value proposition (Rob co-ordinates with Regional Dev, Austrade, Invest NSW). Councils and industry to be involved. 3. Recruitment of panel members to occur in next few .

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Does the Hunter JO want a representative on the Panel?</i> This needs to be explored with GM's and Mayor's. <p>[Note – further meeting scheduled to occur prior to Hunter JO Board meeting].</p>
Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Committee (17 th June 2022)	<p>Focus areas of the June meeting included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hunter JO updates on development of the new “hero” video for Dungog and Up website 2. Hunter Identity and Positioning project (NB Hunter JO reiterated the need to engage with councils and the need to be clear on the use case of the brand) 3. Progression of the following initiatives by Regional NSW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Scenario indicators for monitoring • Faethm workforce planning tool for Hunter sub-regions • Optimising outcomes from strategic lands 4. Employment lands mapping being completed collaboratively by Upper Hunter Councils, the objectives of which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinated planning • Maximising land use and employment potential • Opportunity with industry moving out of urban areas
AGL Site Transition Working Group (13 July 2022)	<p>Focus areas of the July meeting included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGL Business update 2. Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Steering Committee update 3. Liddell Closure Planning Progress 4. Hunter Energy Hub Project Update 5. Water Working Group Update
New Standing Engagements	
Hunter Future Workforces Committee (Convened by Business Hunter)	<p>The CEO and Director Regional Policy and Programs have begun to participate in this Committee, which aims to create a platform for dialogue and recommendations in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing the region with a collaborative policy development agency (the Committee) that can consider and formulate approaches to governments, public sector agents and private enterprises with cohesive advice on the Hunter region's readiness to respond and deliver on industrial growth and state the case for investment in workforce attraction, development and growth projects to support us. • Identifying, analysing, facilitating and promoting strategies and projects that can address industry readiness, workforce attraction, skills

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	<p>development and education pathways for key markets in the Hunter business landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifying the scope and scale of new jobs potential in key business markets, drawing on Committee membership data and insights to inform policy and advocacy objectives. • Focusing our region on the current workforce growth and business development gaps particularly in new business economies, new energy to diversify our economic offering, the growth and skills attraction in innovation-centric sectors that align with job and business growth from 2025 to 2050. • Formulating and delivering key investment and skilled migration recommendations to state and federal governments for targeted, regionally relevant workforce attraction and readiness programs as well as social and built infrastructure that will equalise offerings available in other metropolitan growth areas that currently enjoy higher levers of regional serviceability within Australia. • Sharing information with other skills and workforce agencies who advocate for sectors outside of this committee's scope.
Additional Strategic Engagements	
Powering Business 2050 Summit Reference Group (convened by Business Hunter)	<p>The Hunter JO supported planning and delivery of Business Hunter's "Powering Business 2050: Emerging Industries and the Future of Work Summit" held over two days in June. The summit featured regional and national experts and leaders in business, training and government who are working to address workforce challenges and highlighted how the Hunter is meeting its potential for business growth in our region's emerging industries, embracing the future of work for generations to come.</p> <p>The Hunter JO's Regional Policy and Programs Manager, Tim Askew, spoke at the summit about methods of building new industry workforces through the circular economy with reference to our Hunter Central Coast Circular Procurement project. He was joined by Katherine O'Regan (Circular Economy Living Lab), Josh Jeffries (Design Anthology), and Trent Bagnell from the Melt.</p>
Hunter Region Sustainable Development Goals Taskforce	<p>The Hunter JO Team recently assisted the Hunter SDG Goals Taskforce to engage with Member Councils to facilitate their participation in and financial contribution to the "Tracking Sustainable Development in the Hunter Project", to which all Member Councils have committed. This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify SDGs targets, indicators and data sources that are meaningful for the region • Collate data and provide a summary of trends and future actions. <p>The project is being delivered through CIFAL United Nations Institute for Training and Research at the University of Newcastle.</p>

Key Stakeholder Engagement	Outcomes (where relevant)
	More information on the Hunter SDG Goals taskforce and the project are included in Attachment 2.
JO Chairs Forum (convened by JO Executive Officers Network)	The next meeting of the JO Chairs network is scheduled for Thursday 4 th August, to align with the timing of the Country Mayors Forum. As part of a rotation, the Hunter JO is managing the planning and logistics for this upcoming meeting.
JO Network EOs Meetings (convened by JO EO's Network)	The CEO and Director Regional Policy & Programs continue to meet fortnightly with Executive Officers from across the JO network. Recent collaborative efforts by the network have focused on supporting each other to present a more unified approach to preparing and submitting finding applications to the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, to demonstrate the value that JOs can contribute in collaboration with Member Councils to place based resilience planning.

Status of Regional Funding Applications

Grant applications

Funding Program	Grant Title	Amount Requested	Status
Disaster Risk Reduction Fund - Local & Regional Risk Reduction stream - Pathway 2	Reducing regional disaster risk through early action: Place-based collaboration in the Hunter and the Central Coast <i>Date Submitted - 12 July 2022</i> <i>Focus:</i> Facilitation of place-based regional collaboration across four subprojects to empower Councils and communities in the region to reduce disaster risk through early action. Sub projects include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Support and Capacity Building 2. Disaster waste management and resource recovery preparedness 3. Regional transport vulnerability and connectivity assessment 4. Simtables for multihazard disaster engagement 	\$1,499,839	Pending
NSW Contaminated Land Capacity Building Program	Regional Contaminated Land Capacity Building Program – 12-month extension <i>Date Submitted - Correspondence forwarded to Minister Griffin seeking 12-month extension on 7 April 2022</i> <i>Focus:</i> To facilitate a 12-month extension of the Regional Contaminated Land Capacity Building program	\$140,000	\$85,288.59 (6-month extension) confirmed Advice pending on further 6-

Funding Program	Grant Title	Amount Requested	Status
			month extension
NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund	Mayors Gala - Building Regional Collaboration & Celebrating Regional Success <i>Submitted - 31 January 2022</i> <i>Focus: To support piloting of the proposed Mayors Gala regional event should proceeding with this concept be approved by the Board.</i>	\$30,000	Pending

Further funding updates and opportunities

1. **Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund** – the team is currently preparing project applications to submit to this program by the closing date of 24 August. The focus of the program is to support local councils, joint organisations of councils, not-for-profit, industry and Aboriginal community groups develop business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities, with a focus on infrastructure. The Fund aims to:
 - encourage regional collaboration to identify projects and strategies with regional scale and impact
 - increase alignment of regional projects and strategies with Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) and other relevant regional or NSW Government plans and policies
 - build a pipeline of investment-ready economic and priority community projects in regional NSW.

Attachment 3 provides an overview of the priority projects for which applications are currently being prepared.
2. **Regional Waste Implementation** – Advice remains pending from the NSW EPA as to the focus, design and application process for what will be a revised (and now contestable) funding program.
3. **Regional Illegal Dumping Program (RID)** – the Hunter JO Team are proceeding with negotiations with the NSW EPA with the objective of establishing a Regional Illegal Dumping Program to be hosted by the Hunter JO. A copy of the final report prepared by The Melt, including program and budget recommendations has been provided to the NSW EPA, with feedback from the EPA currently being considered.

Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.



JOINT STATEMENT

HUNTER REGION MAYORS CALL FOR MORE DISASTER SUPPORT

DISTRIBUTION DATE: 14.07.2022

The Hunter region, including MidCoast, has seen recent devastation across all reaches of the region, with nine out of ten councils being declared as Disaster Zones. Many communities have seen irreparable damage, while being cut off from roads, shops, and power.

As one of the biggest growth areas and economic contributors in NSW, the Hunter needs support from other levels of government to recover from this disaster.

We acknowledge the recently announced \$1M grants for disaster declared LGAs. We welcome and are grateful for every additional dollar. In comparison with past disasters, we have seen an improved and more timely response, but this needs to be put into the context of this being a region that has faced many large-scale natural disasters but has continuously been underfunded.

We are still recovering from previous floods, coastal erosion, droughts, and bushfires and as a region, and a state, we are currently ill-equipped to get ahead. More than a quarter of all of the local government areas in NSW were declared disaster zones during the floods over the past two weeks and the immediate and future costs will be astronomical.

Our Councils are working together with our communities to address climate change, recover and take action, but we need more support. We are calling on both the State and Federal Government to provide more assistance to our region to address the urgent infrastructure repairs needed in the disaster declared Councils in the Greater Newcastle and Hunter region, in response to these floods and coastal erosion beyond the grants that are already provided.

Funding sources for Councils to respond to natural disasters need to be increased to help our communities recover, prepare, and adapt, while also allowing LGAs to 'build back better' to be more resilient to future disasters. Investment from State and Federal Government at this early stage will be crucial to ensuring our communities come out of this stronger.

This funding needs to include adequate financial support to resource both dedicated local emergency management committees and officers for each council. Dedicated and funded resources will improve responses to natural disasters. It will minimise the draw on staff with existing and ongoing responsibilities who cannot function for our communities when asked to cover disaster response and recovery for prolonged periods.

Local SES also need the ability to communicate more efficiently and effectively with our communities when an event, such as an evacuation alert, occurs. They need the authority to ensure that messages are appropriate for the context and needs of individual communities rather than all messaging coming from a centralised location.

This far-reaching event will take time to completely recover from, but our communities need support, and they need it now. With many of our communities still recovering from the March 2022



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floods, only four months ago, the current repairs are beyond Councils' capabilities. We need State and Federal Government to step up and deliver the funds, projects and resourcing that are needed. Local Government cannot do this alone.

From the Mayors of the Hunter Joint Organisation

- Cr Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council & Chair Hunter JO
- Cr Jay Suvaal, Mayor Cessnock City Council & Deputy Chair Hunter JO
- Cr John Connors, Mayor Dungog Shire Council
- Cr Kay Fraser, Mayor Lake Macquarie City Council
- Cr Philip Penfold, Mayor Maitland City Council
- Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor MidCoast Council
- Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor City of Newcastle
- Cr Steven Reynolds, Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor Port Stephens Council
- Cr Maurice Collison, Mayor Upper Hunter Shire Council

Contact details

Please direct media inquiries to Kali Somerville, Media and Communications Officer, Hunter Joint Organisation. M: +61 429 564 111, E: kalis@hunterjo.com.au

Images are available for immediate use, please email request to Kali Somerville

About the Hunter JO

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

Hunter unites to create Australia's first regional report on transition toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Nearly halfway toward the 2030 deadline for the UN's [global goals](#), on environment, justice and wellbeing, an Australian-first initiative has launched in the Hunter region. Led by the [Hunter Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Taskforce](#), the University of Newcastle has been engaged to assess SDG Indicators of progress for the Hunter.

The Hunter Region SDG Taskforce is a group of motivated businesses, not-for-profits and government bodies who are focused on collaborating to achieve the UN SDGs. Established in 2020, the Taskforce was conceived to foster accountability and drive education and collaboration. Its aim is to accelerate actions to achieve the SDGs, making the region more liveable, more economically and environmentally sustainable, and more supportive of those facing social challenges.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

This project represents an example of SDG Goal 17 (Partnerships for the goals) in action. It is the first of its kind in Australia to apply the UN SDGs at a regional level. Indeed, it is one of the first regional applications anywhere in the world, as other assessments tend to focus on the national or city level.

The effort is a collaboration among 18 funding partners (listed below) as well as the wider members of the Taskforce. The group aims for the Hunter to provide an example of regional localisation of the SDGs, which can be copied elsewhere in Australia and globally. Results of the work are expected to be made available in September 2022.

KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR THE TASKFORCE IN 2022 ARE:

- Facilitating a **collaborative forum** on the Hunter's contributions to achieving the SDGs
- Creating a comprehensive **narrative, data collection system** and reporting dashboard
- Engaging and informing **priority contributors/stakeholders**
- Submitting a **Voluntary Local Review** to the UN
- Capturing **SDG-related activities**, reporting progress and sharing outcomes publicly.

TRACKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HUNTER

Through [CIFAL](#) United Nations Institute for Training and Research) at the University of Newcastle, the project will deliver a baseline and trends in SDG indicators for the Hunter region. This baseline aims to:

- Identify SDGs targets, indicators and data sources that are meaningful for the region
- Collate data and provide a summary plus a commentary on trends and future actions.



NEWS

Mayors make their case

BY ETHAN HAMILTON

HUNTER council leaders say they are "confident" that their concerns were heard during a meeting with the federal minister for local government in Canberra.

Representatives from Singleton, Muswellbrook, Cessnock and Lake Macquarie councils were part of a Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) roundtable meeting with federal MP Kristy McBain during last week's National General Assembly of Local Government.

The *Newcastle Herald* spoke with Lake Macquarie mayor Kay Fraser, Cessnock mayor Jay Suvaal and Singleton deputy mayor Tony Jarrett, who all said Ms McBain heard their concerns and

showed an interest in closer collaboration between local and federal government.

Prior to being the federal member for Eden-Monara, Ms McBain was mayor of Bega Valley Shire and deputy chair of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation.

"I think the minister is someone who definitely understands local government and the challenges we face," Cr Suvaal said. "She also understands the collaborative nature of working in a group like the Hunter [JO] and the benefits for the region."

"The minister made it quite clear that she wants there to be an open, regular dialogue between council voices, the JO and her. Not just a one-way feed of councils asking for grants."

Cr Suvaal said regional development and employment, especially after the announcement of Mt Arthur's 2030 closure, was a priority for all councils. He said Hunter tourism will be a big part of the future economy.

"Working with federal government to get an international airline out of the Hunter means we can become a global destination, rather than an offshoot of Sydney," he said.

As well as local government, Ms McBain holds the portfolio of regional development. While councillors said a number of issues were raised, a major point of discussion was alternate mining land use and economic diversification in the Hunter.

The *Herald* has previously

reported on the value both Muswellbrook and Singleton councils say there is in unlocking more than 6000 hectares of mine buffer land in their shires.

Cr Fraser said post-mining land use is also a significant opportunity for Lake Macquarie, a point raised with Ms McBain.

"There is a huge amount of Glencore land around Cockle Creek and stretching out into West Wallsend with a rail loop and the best roads you can find," Cr Fraser said. "There was always a view the mining companies would rehab and plant trees. But if the land had 1000 jobs we want to see 1000 jobs back there."

As well as opportunities for Glencore and Eraring power station land, Cr Fraser

said the Black Rock motor-sport park - proposed for the former Rhondda Colliery land near Teralba - will be a massive breakthrough for post-mining land use.

"If we can get that project over the line it will open the door for Glencore land and for other LGAs to move forward with their projects," Cr Fraser said. "We need funding to kickstart these projects for the future economy and we need policy to make them easier. While many of these are state government issues it may be up to the federal government to step up where the state won't."

Cr Jarrett said the Black-Rock project is a "brilliant" use of former mining land which could open up the potential of other sites in

the Hunter. The Singleton councillor said, at the meeting with Ms McBain, that he pointed the Hunter's national contribution in mining revenue and called for federal investment to help the region establish new industry.

"Especially in the areas of transport infrastructure, links to the airport and port, and the promotion of new energy industry," he said.

The interest shown by Ms McBain and the collaboration of the Hunter JO will be vital in the region's future, Cr Jarrett said.

"Let's start attracting into the Hunter and showing its not just a big hole in the ground."

"We can't work in isolation. If the Hunter is successful then so is Singleton."



Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

Hunter JO Regional Project Priorities

The Hunter JO is preparing a number of project applications to the *Regional NSW Business Case and Strategy Development Fund*. The focus of the Fund is to support local councils, joint organisations of councils, not-for-profit, industry and Aboriginal community groups develop business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities, with a focus on infrastructure. The Fund aims to:

- encourage regional collaboration to identify projects and strategies with regional scale and impact
- increase alignment of regional projects and strategies with Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) and other relevant regional or NSW Government plans and policies
- build a pipeline of investment-ready economic and priority community projects in regional NSW.

Those projects for which the Hunter Joint Organisation is preparing funding applications include:

1. A Regional Transition Authority Strategy for the Hunter: Providing Place-Based Authoritative Leadership and Policy Certainty to Accelerate Investment, Business Diversification, Job Substitution, and Innovation for the region
2. Hunter Cycle Tourism and Shiraz to Shore Cycle Trail Business Case
3. Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy
4. Circular Economy Precincts Concept Plan
5. Integrated Regional Airports Strategy - Passenger, Airfreight and Transport and Logistics Infrastructure Plan
6. Hunter Global Tourism Strategy

Further details on each of the projects is provided in Annexure A.



Annexure A. Overview of Projects

Project Title	Project Overview	Key project Outcomes / Deliverables
A Regional Transition Authority Strategy for the Hunter: Providing Place-Based Authoritative Leadership and Policy Certainty to Accelerate Investment, Business Diversification, Job Substitution, and Innovation for the region	This project will deliver the foundational strategy and business case preparation required to successfully design and establish a regional transition entity based in the Hunter. The entity will have the authority and resources from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, that are necessary to drive and deliver a coordinated and integrated “whole of government” policy and planning approach needed for the Region’s economic evolution.	<div>1. A clear strategy and rigorous best practice business case of preferred options for the design and implementation of a regional transition authority that is place-based but has the authority and necessary resources from state and federal jurisdictions to act on behalf of the communities and shires of the region.</div> <div>2. The creation of the authority within 12 months of the project's end that supports the:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced political certainty, with clear political leadership and responsibility, based locally for the transition of the Hunter's economy, with strong community engagement and ownership (mandate).Enhanced business investment and job creation certainty and acceleration with the collation and coordination of currently disparate project and policy implementation across the Hunter regionEnhanced liveability certainty for communities within and new families to the Hunter region with a locally led and implemented economic evolution authority</div>

Project Title	Project Overview	Key project Outcomes / Deliverables
Hunter Cycle Tourism and Shiraz to Shore Cycle Trail Business Case	This project focuses on building and marketing a cycleway from the Wine Country to the lakes and oceans (Shiraz to Shore) that will be a showpiece for attracting cycle tourism to the region. In doing so the program will create much needed employment, health and social benefits to the communities of the Hunter Region.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Cycle Tourism Strategy including priorities and actions to create a successful cycle tourism economy, along with creating key transport connections for locals. 2. Shiraz to Shore Trail Business Case and Concept Plans ready for detailed design and construction. 3. A cohesive Marketing and Signage Plan for all cycling opportunities (downhill parks, gravel trails, road cycling, leisure trails), including a concept design for the brand, and indicative cost for implementation. 4. A Tourism Product Development and Training Plan to stimulate new business, with indicative costs for implementation.
Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic identification of priority locations for EV charging infrastructure to provide a broad, varied and accessible network of charging stations across the region. 2. Provide a pathway and level of confidence for private and commercial users to transition to Electric Vehicles. 3. 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. Identify clear actions, projects and stages for implementation, including for each action, project or stage, a business case to ensure they are investment ready.

Project Title	Project Overview	Key project Outcomes / Deliverables
Integrated Regional Airports Strategy - Passenger, Airfreight and Transport and Logistics Infrastructure Plan	This project will provide a clear plan for an integrated and connected system of airports across the region. This will enable the Hunter to collectively capitalise on the international passenger and air freight opportunities that direct international connectivity will provide from the current upgrade of the Newcastle Airport runway and international passenger terminal. The business case to be developed will economically test and prioritise the investment options identified through the plan to enhance the inter-airport connectivity of the region to international markets.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articulation of successful strategies to address key barriers to the expansion of international passengers and freight movements through the region, and identification of key infrastructure priorities to support this expansion 2. Identification of the regional (& state, & national) air freight value chain needed to expand 'below the wing' or freight opportunities and the broader supply and value chain from this for the region. 3. Creation of priorities and opportunities for attracting investment, accelerating business diversification and creating jobs and income through expansion of the freight forwarding industry. 4. Addition to the matrix of freight and passenger transit options for the state in a way that complements the Sydney and Western Sydney Airport air freight options and builds opportunities for the region, state and nation. 5. Development of a rigorous, best practice business case for passenger transit directly to and from the region, to ensure capacity to meet the proposed increases in passenger numbers arising from direct connections that will be established to global hubs and gateways. 6. Identification of priorities to expand existing high value industries and attract additional ones to the region that accelerate business diversification, growth and jobs.
Hunter Global Tourism Strategy	This project will bring together key stakeholders from across the region to promote the Hunter as a tourist destination to leverage the increased international connectivity offered by the Newcastle Airport runway and terminal upgrade, including:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and analysis to understand existing international markets visiting the Hunter, and emerging international markets that are expected to grow in our region, while identifying the needs and interests of market segments.



Project Title	Project Overview	Key project Outcomes / Deliverables
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Feasibility assessment of the varying needs and interests of different international audiences to develop appropriate marketing materials to attract international visitors to the Hunter, tailored to each audience.Coordination and regional leadership on branding and development of a combined offering of packages for international visitors.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Review existing tourism products in the region to understand alignment with visitor needs, identify gaps in the tourism products and services, and provide recommendations for improvement.Development of an overall Hunter International Marketing Strategy for the region that brings together existing Council and State Government plans, and Destination Management Plans, in order to showcase and connect the varied international visitor experiences available across the region’s 10 Local Government Areas. The Strategy will undertake a regional branding assessment for the tourism audience and provide recommendations for how we position/brand our diverse region to international markets.Stakeholder engagement to develop a Hunter Marketing Implementation Plan that establishes a unified and collaborative approach that brings together tourism associations and businesses across the Hunter Region to develop itineraries to connect experiences and create compelling bookable products (e.g., food and wine trails, coastal experiences, coast to mountains, rural hinterland, ecotourism trail, adventure experiences etc)Design, develop and deliver an International Tourism Product Development Training programDesign and develop marketing collateral outlined in the Marketing Plan that will be shared and implemented through tourism associations and local businesses.



Project Title	Project Overview	Key project Outcomes / Deliverables
Circular Economy Precincts Concept Plan	This project will deliver concept plans and a business case for four multi-element circular economy precincts, that would each represent a key part of the Hunter and outline the potential for circular processing, renewable energy production and value-added businesses, delivering diversified employment opportunities and new industries to the region.	<div>7. A concept plan and strategy for Circular Economy Precincts.</div> <div>8. A concept plan and strategy for establishing a Circular Economy Futures Hub.</div> <div>9. A model that could be replicated across the state to make NSW the powerhouse of the circular economy and a carbon sequestering organics processing powerhouse.</div>

Report Author: Lisa Lord, Head of Finance

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

Income Statement Summary

YTD June result sees a loss of \$244,697, compared to re-forecasted budgeted loss of (\$54,446)

The YTD loss is a result primarily due to timing differences in the treatment of the OLG grant of \$150k received late June 2021. The balance of the variance is the result of consultant costs for both this financial year and prior year spend processed in this year.

Grant funds received are transferred to Arrow for management of the grant.

A full copy of the Hunter JO Financial Report for June 2022 can be found at Attachment 4.

Further Updates

Annual Audit is nearing completion, with a few ad-hoc clarifications being sought by the auditors. Financial Statements have been finalised, with the audit clearance meeting set for 9th August

Recommendation:

- **That the Income Statement for period ending June 2022 be received and noted.**

HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION



INCOME STATEMENT - SUMMARY													
JUNE 22	CURRENT MONTH		Budget	% Variance	YEAR TO DATE		Budget	% Variance	Approved	Forecast	% Variance	Forecast - Budget Variance Commentary	
	Actual	Current	Current	Current	Actual	Current	Current	Current	Annual Budget	Annual 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		55,476	43,996	26%		542,208	527,956	3%	527,956	527,956	0%	HJO Member council subscriptions	
Other						397,579				397,579		RPPD and SH member council subscriptions forwarded to Arrow	
PROJECT FUNDING													
Commonwealth Grants		-				-						Grants Received	
State Grants		112,204				961,688							
Member Councils Project Funding		-				-							
Other Project Funding		-				13,300							
Internal Project Funding _Arrow		41,667	41,667	0%		500,004	500,000	0%	500,000	500,000	0%		
Internal Project Funding - LGL		(8,333)	8,333	-200%		99,997	100,000	0%	100,000	100,000	0%		
Internal Project Funding - Goodchat		-				-				-			
MISCELLANEOUS													
Trainee Incentives		-				-				-			
Miscellaneous Income		1,909				2,507				-			
Other		-				-				-			
Revenue - Total		202,923	93,996	116%		2,517,284	1,127,956	123%	1,127,956	1,525,535	35%		
GROSS MARGIN		202,923	93,996	116%		2,517,284	1,127,956	123%	1,127,956	1,525,535	35%		
Gross Margin %		100%	100%			100%	100%		100%	100%	100%		
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION													
Accounting Fees						-						Consultants fees recorded in FY22 - S/be FY21	
Advertising & Promotions		139	833	-83%		32,652	9,996	227%	9,996	9,996	0%		
Audit & Assurance		1,413	1,250	13%		15,300	15,000	2%	15,000	15,000	0%		
Bad Debts						-				-		Prior years total budgeted in error. Adjusted to reflect correct figure	
Bank Charges		65	46	42%		395	431	-8%	431	431	0%		
Catering & Functions		10,538	600	1656%		16,458	13,000	27%	13,000	13,000	0%		
Corporate Overheads		8,864	7,575	17%		106,364	90,901	17%	90,901	106,364	17%		
Filing Fees						-				-			
Insurance - PI & PL		1,316				9,230	9,000	3%	9,000	9,000	0%		
Insurance - Volunteers						-				-			
Legal Fees		-				751				-			
Miscellaneous		31	100	-69%		1,030	1,200	-14%	1,200	1,200	0%		
Photocopier charges		(87)				1,740				-			
Postage		-				8				-			
Printing & Stationery		105	120	-13%		105	1,440	-93%	1,440	1,440	0%		
Professional Fees						-				-			
Quality Assurance & Audit		-				-				-			
Records Storage / destruction						-				-			
Scanner - Lease payments						-				-			
Subscriptions and Licences		104	128	-18%		2,449	1,536	59%	1,536	1,536	0%		
Telephone - Landline		30	112	-73%		431	1,344	-68%	1,344	1,344	0%		
Telephone - Mobile		145	80	82%		1,447	960	51%	960	960	0%		
Board Functions - Venue Hire		-				-				-			
OCCUPANCY COSTS													
Rent & Outgoings		6,454	6,453	0%		78,955	77,434	2%	77,434	77,434	0%		
DEPRECIATION													

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INCOME STATEMENT - SUMMARY																	
		CURRENT MONTH				YEAR TO DATE				Approved		Forecast		% Variance		Forecast - Budget Variance Commentary	
JUNE 22		Actual	Current	Budget	% Variance	Actual	Current	Budget	% Variance	Annual	Annual	% Variance					
				Current	Current			Current	Current	Budget	Budget	Forecast	on variances of 10% or more of a line item or 2.5% of revenue or expenditure total				
Depreciation - Building						-					-						
Depreciation - Computer			44	52	-16%	526	624	-16%	624	624	0%						
Depreciation - Furniture & Fittings			-			-				-							
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles			1,804	928	94%	21,499	11,136	93%	11,136	21,507	93%		Depreciation increased with purchase of additional vehicle				
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY																	
IT Management			724	698	4%	10,392	8,376	24%	8,376	8,376	0%						
Repairs & Maintenance - IT			-			-				-							
IT Software Maintenance / Support			-			-				-							
Website Maintenance / Support			-			-				-							
OVERHEAD LABOUR																	
Wages & Salaries			(4,074)	16,740	-124%	199,161	217,618	-8%	217,618	243,341	12%		Wages adjusted to reflect current employees salaries. Backpay provided for J.James not provided for in original budget				
Superannuation			3,110	1,674	86%	42,179	21,762	94%	21,762	24,334	12%						
Payroll Tax			-			-				-							
Workers Compensation			7,077	646	996%	9,245	7,750	19%	7,750	7,750	0%						
FBT			(2,035)	1,601	-227%	8,954	19,216	-53%	19,216	19,216	0%						
Leave Provisions			3,890			45,031				-			Net Leave provisions not provided for in budget				
EMPLOYEE COSTS																	
Recuitment			-			1,200				-							
Training & Development			1,356	2,250	-40%	1,264	5,000	-75%	5,000	5,000	0%						
Uniforms			-	400	-100%	-	400	-100%	400	400	0%						
Staff Amentities			-	80	-100%	4,471	960	366%	960	960	0%		Staff Christmas Party expenses included here.				
TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION																	
Meals & Accomodation			3,037	330	820%	4,084	3,960	3%	3,960	3,960	0%						
Fares & Parking			1,071	600	79%	8,654	7,200	20%	7,200	7,200	0%						
Milleage Allowance						-				-							
MOTOR VEHICLE																	
Fuels & oils			1,214	700	73%	9,443	8,400	12%	8,400	8,400	0%						
Insurance - Motor Vehicle			-			-	2,200	-100%	2,200	2,200	0%						
Registration and CTP Insurance			-			-				-							
Repairs & Maintenance - Motor Vehicle			-	500	-100%	1,386	1,500	-8%	1,500	1,500	0%						
Vehicle Hire						-				-							
PROJECT EXPENSES																	
Project Funding Disbursement			102,607			500,186				397,579			RPPD and SH member council subscriptions forwarded to Arrow				
Grant Disbursement			85,289			1,022,382				-			Disbursement of Grant Funds to Arrow for project management of Grants				
Consultants			15,009			20,519				-			Consultants not budgeted for - Use of grphic designer from Arrow				
Overhead Expenses - Total			249,238	44,496	460%	2,177,893	538,344	305%	538,344	990,052	134%						
% of Revenue			123%	47%	397%	87%	48%	247%	48%	65%	380%						
NET PROFIT - OPERATIONS																	
Net Profit Margin			(46,315)	49,500	-194%	339,391	589,612	-42%	589,612	535,483	-9%						
OTHER INCOME / (EXPENSES)																	
OTHER INCOME																	
Profit / Loss on sale of asset			-			5,862				-							
Interest			-			-				-							
OTHER EXPENSES																	

INCOME STATEMENT - SUMMARY													
		CURRENT MONTH			YEAR TO DATE			Approved	Forecast	% Variance	Forecast - Budget Variance Commentary		
JUNE 22		Actual	Current	Budget Current	% Variance Current	Actual	Current	Budget Current	% Variance Current	Annual Budget			
Interest RPPD Funding			-			(17)				-			
		(49,161)		(49,161)	0%	(589,932)		(589,929)	0%	(589,929)	(589,929)	0%	
Other Income / (Expenses) - Total		(49,161)		(49,161)	0%	(584,087)		(589,929)	0%	(589,929)	(589,929)	-	
NET PROFIT BEFORE TAX		(95,476)		339		(244,697)		(317)		(317)	(54,446)		
EBITDA - NET PROFIT OPERATIONS		(44,467)		50,480		361,416		601,372		601,372	557,614		
		-22%		54%		14%		53%		53%	37%	0%	

HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION



BALANCE SHEET

JUNE 22

YTD

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	165,473
Receivables	63,201
Prepayments	-
Other Receivables	1
	228,675

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Buildings	-
Land	-
Computers	-
Fixtures and Fittings	-
Motor Vehicles	87,333
Office Equipment	-
ROU	-
Arrow - Loan	(287,503)
HJO - Loan	-
HCI - Loan	360
	(199,811)

TOTAL ASSETS

28,865

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payables	13,195
Accruals	16,741
Loan - Arrow	-
Loan - HJO	-
Loan - HCI	-
Employee Payables	27,867
Other Payables	(1,000)
GST	2,937
Employee Entitlements	61,198
Premium Funding	-
Unearned Income	13,991
	134,929

NON CURRENT LIABILITIES

Term Debt	-
Employee Entitlements - non current	21,855
Lease Liability	-
	21,855

TOTAL LIABILITIES

156,784

NET ASSETS

(127,919)

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	116,777
Current Year Earnings	(244,697)

TOTAL EQUITY

(127,919)

HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION



CASHFLOW REPORT	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
JUNE 22	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	YTD
CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES													
Cash inflows from													
Trade receivables	12,173	586,863	319,282	51,971	33,594	53,427	8,333	0	16,666	0	25,000	0	1,107,309
Other receivables	0	0	13,300	216,473	212,730	0	0	344,590	0	0	0	185,049	972,142
Other Income	0	0	0	131	53	0	0	13,147	50,000	40,000	60,658	0	163,988
Cash outflows to													
Trade payables	10,197	57,094	6,277	17,099	19,951	5,179	33,392	11,948	24,941	9,229	22,960	17,466	235,733
Employee Expenses	21,498	30,208	19,600	19,600	19,600	22,006	28,393	19,600	29,400	30,558	9,800	28,579	278,842
Funding Disbursements	250,000	450,000	440,000	50,000	0	239,330	50,000	344,590	0	0	0	0	1,823,920
Taxes	0	71,214	0	0	119,938	0	0	0	27,843	0	36,054	0	255,049
Net cash from/(used)	(269,522)	(21,654)	(133,295)	181,875	86,888	(213,088)	(103,452)	(18,401)	(15,518)	213	16,844	139,004	(350,106)
CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES													
Cash Inflows from													
Proceeds from sale of P&E	39,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,000
Cash outflows to													
Purchase of CAPEX	118,840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	118,840
Repay / (new loans) of finance lease													
Net cash from/(used)	(79,840)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(79,840)
CASH FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES													
Cash inflows from													
Term debt - drawdown													
Cash outflows to													
Current borrowing - repayment													
Dividend paid													
Net cash from/(used)													
Movement in cash													
Cash at the beginning of the period	595,420	246,058	224,405	91,110	272,985	359,873	146,785	43,333	24,932	9,413	9,626	26,470	595,420
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	(349,362)	(21,654)	(133,295)	181,875	86,888	(213,088)	(103,452)	(18,401)	(15,518)	213	16,844	139,004	(429,946)
CASH AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	246,058	224,405	91,110	272,985	359,873	146,785	43,333	24,932	9,413	9,626	26,470	165,474	165,474

CASHFLOW NOTES

YTD Net increase in cash (429,946)

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

Responsible Officer: Joe James, CEO

PROGRAM DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

Act Now on Coastal Adaptation	
Program / Project Lead	Melinda Curtis
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>The objectives of this project are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Package which embeds resilience to Climate Change into Councils operations through incorporation into the overarching IP&R documents.2. Provide a coastal adaptation communication framework, media templates and suite of practical resources to directly build the capacity of the coastal councils of the Hunter and Central Coast Councils.3. Build capacity within Councils to reduce risks, increase resilience and reduce climate vulnerability by collaboratively building community understanding and literacy around coastal management and adaptation issues and bridging the gap between the IP&R framework and prioritisation of Climate Change resilience. <p>Status update:</p> <p>The Climate Change Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Package has now been released in its final version. Originally released as a working draft in late 2021, the Climate Change IP&R package is now available as a final version after incorporating feedback from stakeholders across NSW.</p> <p>The package provides support and guidance to Councils during the development of their Community Strategic Plans (CSP), Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It supports Councils' and their communities' climate change journey by providing user friendly, practical tools and templates to embed climate change throughout the IP&R process. The Climate Change IP&R Package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change commitment level framework – Commitment levels allow Councils to establish a vision and identity for their climate change journey. The three levels established provide typical (but not binding) narratives, which are based on the individual Councils' resources available, risk and opportunity level for their particular Local Government Area (LGA), and their communities' values. The concept supports the discussions within Councils when setting the scene for their IP&R cycle• IP&R templates – This section provides template wording for strategic priority statements, delivery program objectives and operational plan examples of initiatives and actions for each commitment level, in line with relevant guidelines and best practice principles; and• Communication and engagement package – This package provides process support, factsheets, template Council papers and presentations	

Since being released as a working draft, the Climate Change IP&R Package has been embraced, not only throughout the Hunter region, but also across NSW by numerous Councils who are referencing the package and using the template wording in their new Community Strategic Plans.

The final package can be viewed on the Hunter JO [website](#)

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

Circular Economy Roadmap	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a common understanding and definition for the circular economy of the region relevant to all stakeholders – government, business and academia. Gain broad regional support and engagement for the development of a circular economy in the Hunter and Central Coast region. Develop a strategic roadmap for the region To create an identity for the region as a leader in the transition to a circular economy and as a place to do Circular Economy activities, providing business attraction and local support for the circular economy To provide leverage and connect with other key circular economy frameworks and strategies at all levels of government 	
Status update: <p>The Hunter & Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap was launched in July with a networking breakfast event. Attendees heard from industry and local circular economy experts about circular economy projects and initiatives throughout the region, with speakers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council and Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy Sub-Committee Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Programs Manager – Hunter JO David Hughes, Director of Built & Natural Assets – Lake Macquarie City Council Brett Allan, General Manager – Molycop Jess Hodge, Founder – Resourceful Living <p>The launch attracted 53 participants in person and 30 online. Attendees were from across multiple industries including government (19%), business (80%) and academia (1%).</p>	

Business case review - potential for HJO to host Regional Illegal Dumping Squad	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Purpose: <p>To determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the Hunter RID Squad, and the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were this to occur.</p>	

Status update:

With funding support from the NSW EPA, over recent months the Hunter JO commissioned a due diligence assessment exploring the potential for the Hunter JO to host a Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squad. The process:

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

The recommended approach is a **RID Program** model, which is a collaboration model where a centralised program team (coordinator and administrator) provide advice, support and programs to member council's Illegal dumping operations. All RID officers or regulatory and waste officers managing illegal dumping compliance are retained by their local council. The due diligence report has been completed and provided to NSW EPA for consideration.

Regional Contaminated Land Program	
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis & Anna Flack
Purpose:	
To build capacity and capability of Councils to manage contaminated sites on private and Council managed land, and to support councils transition to their new role as regulator of the Underground Petroleum Storage System (UPSS) Regulation.	
Status update:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW EPA have confirmed a 6-month extension of the program until February 2023, supported by \$85k additional funding. • A 3-part online training session on Contaminated Land for Planners was delivered during June, with over 50 Council attendees at each session. 	

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

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

Accelerating Event Economies	
Program / Project Lead	Kim Carland
Purpose:	
To strengthen the region's collective voice and the capacity of Councils to collaboratively pitch for major events for the region. It includes undertaking an events and opportunity audit, and identifying, preparing and implementing shared destination and event management resources including an event managers toolkit, prospectus, website and integrated council shared services, approvals and event data.	
Status update:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with the General Managers and Mayors of Member Council's, and with Managers in Economic Development, Tourism and Events have recently been completed, which have gathered 	

important information and perspectives to inform the future needs and directions of the A2E project.

- The Facilities Audit is progressing well, with much of the data from both indoor and outdoor event venues, and sporting facilities, now captured in the audit.
- A contract with KPMG to complete an Events Economic Analysis has been recently commissioned and work commenced.
- The Event Licence and Approvals review consultant has recently been commissioned to provide recommendations for improvements.
- The Tourism Prospectus consultant has recently been appointed to develop itineraries that cross the Hunter, and keep people in the region for longer.

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

Hunter Global: Our International Future	
Program / Project Leads	Steve Wilson & Kali Somerville
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>The Hunter JO is leading a collaborative partnership between the Hunter JO, Newcastle Airport, Committee for the Hunter, Business Hunter and the University of Newcastle to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build collaborative processes and systems within the region to collectively identify and actively pursue key international opportunities for expanding the Airport's economic contribution to the Region • Directly support the expansion of international Airport related business and industry as a primary contributor to the Hunter Region's economic growth and diversification. 	
<p>Status update:</p> <p>Production of an extended advocacy video has now been completed, which will support regional advocacy efforts to state and federal governments, as well as to attract potential investors to the region. The focus of this video is "When we get to the world stage", showcasing storylines from local people and businesses from around the region as to what direct international access through the airport will allow them to do. A communications strategy to underpin release and distribution of the video is currently being prepared. The video can be viewed at When We Get to the World Stage.</p> <p>The report documenting the opportunities and key priorities for the region as a whole to capitalise on the runway upgrade (and recently announced passenger terminal upgrade) is in the final stages of review. Along with the video this report will provide a platform to support ongoing advocacy and program development work undertaken by the JO, project partners and other regional stakeholders to continue to promote and develop the economic development opportunities for the region arising from the airport runway upgrade.</p>	

Action Area 4. Our people and products move across the region easily on integrated and accessible transport networks

4.5 Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare Hunter JO agreed priority list of infrastructure, system and service improvements which will make the greatest difference to communities and businesses across the region. This will include expansion and connectivity between cycleways.

Regional Infrastructure Priority List

Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
Project Purpose: To prepare an agreed list of regional and sub regional infrastructure priorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and advocate a stronger case for investment in infrastructure priorities across the region • Identify the potential for shared interests and collaboration between Councils and other stakeholders in delivering local and regional scale infrastructure initiatives. • Identify a longer-term infrastructure investment pipeline, to provide transparency and confidence for potential investors, professional services and contractors to build their presence in the Hunter 	
Status update: Phase 2 of this project is underway, of which key outputs will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a googleform for councils and other agencies to provide their infrastructure priorities annually • Development and testing of an excel model for capturing and analyzing data • Extending the model to integrate decisions relating to prioritisation, such as qualitative assessment and rapid CBA outcomes • Development of an operating procedure • Incorporation of a pipeline of existing project data within the database A workshop was completed with Member Council and Agency staff in early June to test and refine the Googleform survey instrument, and the project consultant has completed the draft Excel model for capturing and analysing data, both of which are now ready to pilot with councils.	

Full Hunter JO Program Delivery Report

Refer Attachment 5 “Hunter JO Program Report” for information on the full range of programs being delivered.

Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.



HUNTER JO PROGRAM REPORT

August 2022

This publication was produced by the Hunter Joint Organisation.



ENQUIRIES

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THE HUNTER JO

WHO ARE WE?

The Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) is a collaborative body that brings together the ten councils in the region to provide a united and local voice for our communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, our statutory mandate includes identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities, and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, industry and community.

OUR STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

Our statutory functions defined by the NSW Local Government Amendment (Regional Joint Organisations) Act 2017 comprise:

- Regional Strategic planning and priority setting
- Regional leadership and advocacy
- Intergovernmental collaboration

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, we strengthen our communities by being the local voice on strategic issues in the Region.

HUNTER JO BOARD

Our Board is made up of members from each of our member councils, with each Mayor as a voting representative, and the General Managers of each of the councils in a non-voting capacity. Our Board also includes a representative from NSW Government.



OUR TEAM

NAME	ROLE	CONTACT
Joe James	CEO, Hunter Joint Organisation	0405 217 249 ceo@hunterjo.com.au
Louisa Bulley	Executive Officer	0413 891 320 louisab@hunterjo.com.au
Steve Wilson	Director Regional Policy and Programs	0448 401 436 steve@hunterjo.com.au
Melinda Curtis	Regional Policy and Program Manager - Environment	0428 981 012 melindac@hunterjo.com.au
Boyd Blackwell	Regional Policy and Program Manager	0448 490 656 boydb@hunterjo.com.au
Tim Askew	Regional Policy and Program Manager	0436 420 623 tima@hunterjo.com.au
Eloise Lobsey	Regional Policy and Program Coordinator - Waste, Resource Recovery & Circular Economy	0448 160 800 eloisel@hunterjo.com.au
Kim Carland	Regional Projects Coordinator – Accelerating Event Economies	0408 051 705 kimc@hunterjo.com.au
Anna Flack	Regional Environmental Projects Coordinator	0460038199 annaf@hunterjo.com.au
Chris Dart	Regional Project Officer (Simtables)	0460 038 197 chrisd@hunterjo.com.au
Susan Conway MacDonald	Regional Policy & Programs Officer (Environmental Education)	(02) 4978 4028 susanm@hunterjo.com.au
Barbora Michalidesova	Coordinator – Executive Support & Projects	0400 087 133 barboram@hunterjo.com.au
Kali Somerville	Communications Officer	0429 564 111 kalis@hunterjo.com.au
Carissa Norton	Graphic Designer	0457 049 878 carissan@hunterjo.com.au
Bonnie Gradwell	Business Administration Trainee – Regional Policy and Programs	0400 063 502 bonnieg@hunterjo.com.au

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS (UPCOMING)	
<p>David Layzell - NSW Member for Upper Hunter</p> <p><i>Upcoming Friday 12th August</i></p>	<p>Similar to recent meetings held between the CEO and Director Regional Policy & Programs with local Commonwealth and NSW Members of Parliament, this meeting with Member for Upper Hunter will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role and strategic priorities of the Hunter JO • Hunter Global summit outcomes and emerging priorities • The Hunter JOs goals, role and activity in regard to the Region's economic evolution, including the Hunter Venture Fund project • Transport connectivity • Shiraz to Shore initiative
POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS (COMPLETED)	
<p>The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Commonwealth Minister for Regional Development, Local Government & Territories</p>	<p>A delegation of Hunter JO Mayors and General Managers met with the Minister on 22 June 2022 while in Canberra to attend the ALGA conference. The meeting provided the opportunity for the delegation to communicate the shared priorities of Member Councils on core regional issues and priorities relevant to the new Minister's portfolio, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic evolution to drive jobs and a growing economy in the region • A globally focused Hunter connected to international markets
<p>Daniel Mookhey, NSW Shadow Treasurer</p> <p><i>27 June 2022</i></p>	<p>The CEO attended the NSW Budget Roundtable Event hosted by Yasmin Catley (Member for Swansea) and City of Newcastle. The forum provided the opportunity for the Shadow Treasurer to outline Labor's response to the NSW Government's budget, and to engage with the Shadow Treasurer on a range of economic development, waste management and climate and energy opportunities that could be unlocked in the region through NSW Government policy.</p>

MEDIA

OUTLET	FOCUS
Multiple	<p>JOINT STATEMENT HUNTER REGION MAYORS CALL FOR MORE DISASTER SUPPORT</p> <p>Following the devastation of recent floods across the Hunter, the region's ten Mayors signed a joint statement calling for more disaster support from the State and Federal Government. The statement acknowledged the improved and more timely response for disaster funding in comparison to previous disasters but argues that the impact of this flood in the face of multiple natural disasters does not extend far enough.</p> <p>The Mayors called for increased financial support to be able to address urgent infrastructure repairs and to help their communities recover, prepare, and adapt. There is also a need to build back better to be more resilience to future disasters.</p> <p>This statement has been featured in multiple publications across the region.</p>

OUTLET	FOCUS
Newcastle Herald, Saturday 25th June 2022	MAYORS MAKE THEIR CASE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter council leaders say they are confident that their concerns were heard during a meeting with the federal minister for local government in Canberra Representatives from Singleton, Muswellbrook, Cessnock and Lake Macquarie councils were part of a Hunter JO roundtable meeting with federal MP Kristy McBain during last week's National Assembly of Local Government
ABC Radio, Saturday 17th July 2022	CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROADMAP LAUNCH <p>Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Program Manager was interviewed by ABC radio regarding the recent launch of the Circular Economy Roadmap.</p>

REGIONAL SUBMISSIONS

There were no regional submissions during the reporting period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

HUNTER JO CONVENED WORKSHOPS, FORUMS AND EVENTS

EVENT	FOCUS
<p>Hunter JO Strategic Planning Workshop</p> <p>14 & 15 July 2022</p>	<p>The focus of this 2 day workshop included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Member Council identifying priorities for their LGA for the purpose of identifying shared priorities, challenges and areas for collaboration that would benefit from a regional approach. • Reviewing outcomes from the mapping of each Councils Community Strategic Plan and key NSW Government regional plans against the 4 priority • Identifying the role of the JO in addressing the priority action areas identified by the Board.
<p>Hunter JO Circular Economy Roadmap Launch</p> <p>11 July 2022</p>	<p>The Hunter & Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap was launched in July with a networking breakfast event with attendance from across the region.</p> <p>Attendees heard from industry and local circular economy experts about circular economy projects and initiatives throughout the region, with speakers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council and Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy Sub-Committee • Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Programs Manager – Hunter JO • David Hughes, Director of Built & Natural Assets – Lake Macquarie City Council • Brett Allan, General Manager – Molycop • Jess Hodge, Founder – Resourceful Living <p>The launch attracted 53 participants in person and 30 online. Attendees were from across multiple industries including government (19%), business (80%) and academia (1%).</p>
<p>Simtable Demonstrations</p>	<p>Simtable demonstrations have recently been delivered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFS Hunter Area Command, Cameron Park, 27 June 2022 • Red Cross disaster resilience staff, 30 June 2022 • Local Land Services, Tocal, 8 July 2022

COMMITTEES AND NETWORKS

Over recent months our team have hosted or participated in the following regional networks, committees and forums.

NETWORK / COMMITTEE	CONVENER
Hunter JO Regional Planning & Economic Development Forum	Hunter JO
Regional Contaminated Land Working Group	Hunter JO
Circular Economy Subcommittee	Hunter JO
Hunter Regional Waste Strategy Group	Hunter JO
Hunter Circular Economy Facilitators Group	Hunter JO & Department of Planning & Environment
Hunter Regional Leadership Executive	Regional NSW
RLE Human Services Subcommittee	Regional NSW
RLE Economic Development Subcommittee	Regional NSW
Business Attraction Committee	Regional NSW
Interim Hunter Expert Panel	Regional NSW
Hunter Cruise Committee	Regional NSW & Destination Sydney & Surrounds North)
Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Working Group	Regional NSW
AGL Site Transition Working Group	AGL
State and Regional Waste Managers Network	NSW EPA
Hunter Future Workforces Committee	Business Hunter
Powering Business 2050 Summit Reference Group	Business Hunter
JO Chairs Forum	JO Network
JO Executive Officers Network	JO Network

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT

This Activity Report provides an update on the status and nature of current programs and activities being undertaken by the Hunter JO. Reporting is provided against each of the priority Action Areas included in the Hunter Joint Organisation's Strategic Plan 2018-21 (Aspire.Act.Achieve).



The status of delivery of projects and initiatives being delivered is denoted by the following colour coding:

	Project is On Track, or Completed
	Project is At Risk, Not Yet Started (subject to resourcing to deliver), or Delayed / Impacted
	Project is Stalled / Off Track, or No Longer Proceeding

HUNTER JO STRATEGIC PLAN (2022-2026) –

Hunter JO Strategic Plan	
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis
Delivery Status	On track
<p>Purpose: To develop a new Hunter JO Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2026. The new strategy will align with the Local Government IP&R Framework, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve alignment between the Hunter JO Strategy and strategic planning documents of member Councils • Provide increased support to member Councils to assist with integrating shared regional priorities and actions within their local planning processes. 	
<p>Status update: A 2-day strategic planning workshop was undertaken by the Hunter JO Board (Member Council Mayors and General managers) on 14th and 15th July. The primary focus and outputs from the workshop included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Member Council identifying priorities for their LGA for the purpose of identifying shared priorities, challenges and areas for collaboration that would benefit from a regional approach. • Reviewing outcomes from the mapping of each Councils Community Strategic Plan and key NSW Government regional plans against the 4 priority strategic focus areas (Connectivity, Jobs & A Growing Economy, Resilience and Liveability) • Identifying the role of the JO in addressing the priority action areas identified by the Board. 	

ACTION AREA 1. OUR COMMUNITIES

1.1 Develop an engaging online presence which tells the stories of the diverse places and people which make up the Hunter Region

Hunter JO website	
Program / Project Lead	Kali Somerville
Delivery Status	On track
<p>Purpose: The Hunter Joint Organisation website (https://www.hunterjo.com.au/) aims to actively, regularly and effectively engage member Councils, partner organisations and the broader community on the activities and progress of the Hunter JO.</p>	
<p>Status update: Website news and content continues to be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. All content from the former HCCREMS website has now been transferred to the Hunter JO website to provide one integrated location for information on the programs and activities of the Hunter JO.</p>	

1.2 Work with the Department of Planning and Environment, Hunter Valley Research Foundation and other partners to closely monitor housing affordability in the region and identify key areas of concern

Monitor housing affordability in the region	
Delivery Status	Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

1.3 Develop and implement a targeted program to advocate for measures to improve housing affordability in the region

Targeted advocacy program to improve housing affordability	
Delivery Status	Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

1.4 Continue to work together to deliver the programs to increase community resilience and preparedness for natural disasters through the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy

Transforming Resilience with the IP&R Framework	
Program / Project Lead	Anna Flack
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: To provide an innovative approach to support bush fire affected member Councils embed resilience principles and projects into their IP&R, which in turn will provide Councils the ability to allocate recurrent funds and commit to long term resourcing (financial and staff) for resilience projects.	
Status update: Program activities recently completed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A literature review of existing regional, state and national resilience policies and strategies • Development of a framework for what makes a 'high', 'medium' and 'low' resilience Council and community, • Development of Resilience IP&R document, drawn from a review of Councils' Community Strategic Plans Current activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions with Resilience NSW, Resilient Sydney and Hunter JO Council staff (both Resilience and IP&R focused) to explore collaborative opportunities both within and beyond the region • Research into existing resilience health check tools. 	

Simtables for Community Empowerment	
Program / Project Lead	Chris Dart
Delivery Status	On track

Purpose:

Simtables provide a “State of the Art” tool that can be used to engage communities in localised place-based emergency information sessions. This project has purchased two Simtables for the collective use of member Councils and to provide direct support to Councils in undertaking the extensive community engagement associated with their use.

Status update:

The Simtables for Community Empowerment program continues to progress well.

User training was delivered in April and May, with staff from our member Councils, Resilience NSW, the RFS and SES attending. Acquisition of key data continues, including the State Vegetation Type Map, historic fires and hazard reduction activities, modelled flood extents and land use maps.

The Hunter JO team are now finalising workshop content and resources in consultation with key Council staff and the RFS and Resilience NSW. Furthermore, the team is continuing to engage key stakeholders. Simtable demonstrations have now been delivered to the GMAC and Hunter JO Board; Resilience NSW staff and directors; NSW Local Land Services; and the RFS at the Hunter Area Command and Central Coast Fire Control Centre.

Planning for the delivery of community workshops is underway, with several bookings already made for August and September. This follows the Simtable being used to assist during an emergency management workshop with the Karuah Aboriginal Community in May.

ACTION AREA 2. OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

Cities Power Partnership Program	
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: To support regional collaborative efforts by Councils, the Hunter JO and Cities Power Partnership (CPP) in delivery of shared pledges on climate action made by Councils.	
Status update: During the regional mapping of the CSP's as part of the Hunter JO Strategy project, a review of the CPP Program links and objectives identified in the region has also been completed. Discussion will continue with the Climate Council and Member Council staff to formalise the draft regional priorities, prior to presenting them to the Hunter JO Board for endorsement and incorporating them into the Hunter JO Strategy.	

Business case review - potential for HJO to host Regional Illegal Dumping Squad	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew and Eloise Lobsey
Delivery Status	Complete
Purpose: To determine the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting the Hunter RID Squad, and the most appropriate financial and operational model for the RID Squad were this to occur.	
Status update: With funding support from the NSW EPA, over recent months the Hunter JO commissioned a due diligence assessment exploring the potential for the Hunter JO to host a Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squad. The process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed existing state-wide approaches to the management of RID Squads • Examined the feasibility of the Hunter JO potentially hosting a RID Squad • Recommended the most appropriate financial and operational model for a RID Squad were it to be hosted by the Hunter JO. The recommended approach is a RID Program model, which is a collaboration model where a centralised program team (coordinator and administrator) provide advice, support and programs to member council's Illegal dumping operations. All RID officers or regulatory and waste officers managing illegal dumping compliance are retained by their local council. The due diligence report has been completed and provided to NSW EPA for consideration.	

Regional Contaminated Land Program	
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis & Anna Flack
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: To build capacity and capability of Councils to manage contaminated sites on private and Council managed land, and to support councils transition to their new role as regulator of the Underground Petroleum Storage System (UPSS) Regulation.	
Status update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW EPA have confirmed a 6 month extension of the regional capacity building program until February 2023, along with \$85k additional funding. Discussions with NSW EPA and other CRCB JOs are underway for the next 6 months of the program, with a focus on updating the existing Conditions of Consent resource. A 3-part online training session on Contaminated Land for Planners was delivered during June, with over 50 Council attendees at each session who provided very positive feedback The Contaminated Land Service Desk function continues to be utilised by Councils, and the Hunter JO website has been updated to better display the wide range of resources that are available. 	

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

Act Now on Coastal Adaptation	
Program / Project Lead	Mel Curtis
Delivery Status	Completed
Purpose: The objectives of this project are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Package which embeds resilience to Climate Change into Councils operations through incorporation into the overarching IP&R documents. Provide a coastal adaptation communication framework, media templates and suite of practical resources to directly build the capacity of the coastal councils of the Hunter and Central Coast Councils. Build capacity within Councils to reduce risks, increase resilience and reduce climate vulnerability by collaboratively building community understanding and literacy around coastal management and adaptation issues and bridging the gap between the IP&R framework and prioritisation of Climate Change resilience. 	
Status update: The Climate Change Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Package has now been released in its final version. Originally released as a working draft in late 2021, the Climate Change IP&R package is now available as a final version after incorporating feedback from stakeholders across NSW. The package provides support and guidance to Councils during the development of their Community Strategic Plans (CSP), Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It supports Councils' and their communities' climate change journey by providing user friendly, practical tools and templates to embed climate change throughout the IP&R process. The Climate Change IP&R Package includes:	

- Climate change commitment level framework – Commitment levels allow Councils to establish a vision and identity for their climate change journey. The three levels established provide typical (but not binding) narratives, which are based on the individual Councils' resources available, risk and opportunity level for their particular Local Government Area (LGA), and their communities' values. The concept supports the discussions within Councils when setting the scene for their IP&R cycle
- IP&R templates – This section provides template wording for strategic priority statements, delivery program objectives and operational plan examples of initiatives and actions for each commitment level, in line with relevant guidelines and best practice principles; and
- Communication and engagement package – This package provides process support, factsheets, template Council papers and presentations

Since being released as a working draft, the Climate Change IP&R Package has been embraced, not only throughout the Hunter region, but also across NSW by numerous Councils who are referencing the package and using the template wording in their new Community Strategic Plans.

The final package can be viewed on the Hunter JO [website](#)

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

Hunter & Central Coast Resource Recovery Strategy	
Program / Project Lead	Eloise Lobsey
Delivery Status	Delayed / Impacted
Purpose: To develop a new Hunter Central Coast Resource Recovery Strategy for the period 2022-2027. The new Strategy will align with the recently released NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2021-2041 and associated funding streams, and provide improved alignment with the Regional Circular Economy program.	
Status update: The Hunter JO continues to await the release of new funding guidelines from the NSW EPA that are required to develop the strategy. The NSW EPA have offered additional support that will assist us in these delays. The revised completion date is now October 2022.	

Small Acts Big Change Regional Communication Campaign	
Program / Project Lead	Eloise Lobsey
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: To deliver a regional communication campaign to improve community waste avoidance behaviours at the top end of the waste management hierarchy, along with reuse and recycling habits.	
Status update: This campaign has continued over the winter months, continuing to focus on our three themes for the year: reducing textile consumption, food waste avoidance, and plastic waste avoidance.	

Community Recycling Centres Awareness Campaign	
Program / Project Lead	Susan McDonald
Delivery Status	Impacted
Purpose: To deliver a regionally coordinated approach to promoting community awareness of Community Recycling Centres (CRC's).	
Status update: Community recycling centre campaigns have had to be reduced/suspended due to limited operational capacity following a fire at the Cleanaway facility. Once fully operational again, CRC campaigns will recommence in a condensed campaign format.	

Green Caffeine Swap and Go Coffee Cup Scheme	
Program / Project Lead	Susan McDonald
Delivery Status	Complete
Purpose: The Hunter JO, seven-member councils and Central Coast Council partnered with Green Caffeine to deliver a Swap-and-Go Coffee Cup scheme. The scheme aims to eliminate distribution of disposable cups by providing participating cafes and coffee outlets with reusable cups which are available for scheme members to use when buying their coffee. Councils participating in the initiative are Maitland, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter and Central Coast Council.	
Status update: The contract with Green Caffeine ended in March 2022, however the program will continue to be supported by Green Caffeine, the Hunter JO and councils to support continued uptake of the scheme by customers and cafes across the region. Since the program commenced 85 cafes are active across 9 Local Government Areas saving 32,513 cups from landfill which is the equivalent of 327 bins!	

Hunter & Central Coast Circular Economy Hub	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: To drive and facilitate development of the Circular Economy (CE) across the Hunter and Central Coast by Councils, government agencies, business and industry groups and the community. The CE Hub would focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing leadership and planning to establish a common vision and plan for the region's move to a CE • facilitate the acquisition and sharing of research and information among stakeholders in the CE, including the provision of a "problem concierge" • Continuing to curate and grow the CE ecosystem • Facilitating and delivering joint projects and initiatives across organisations 	

- Coordinating and advocating an agreed regional voice on CE for the region to State and Federal Governments
- Consistent and coordinated promotion of the region to researchers, innovators and investors
- Building knowledge in the region to capture and translate innovation and best practice into day to day operations, and to enact sustained change in organisational culture and systems required to progress the Circular Economy.

Status update:

The Hunter JO team are currently exploring opportunities with the CE Living Lab developed by Lake Macquarie City Council, to see how we can complement and collaboratively leverage CE outcomes for the region, including in relation to the Circular Economy (CE) Hub project.

Circular Economy Roadmap

Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track

Purpose:

- To develop a common understanding and definition for the circular economy of the region relevant to all stakeholders – government, business and academia.
- Gain broad regional support and engagement for the development of a circular economy in the Hunter and Central Coast region.
- Develop a strategic roadmap for the region
- To create an identity for the region as a leader in the transition to a circular economy and as a place to do Circular Economy activities, providing business attraction and local support for the circular economy
- To provide leverage and connect with other key circular economy frameworks and strategies at all levels of government

Status update:

The Hunter & Central Coast Circular Economy Roadmap was launched in July with a networking breakfast event. Attendees heard from industry and local circular economy experts about circular economy projects and initiatives throughout the region, with speakers including:

- Mayor Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council and Chair of the Hunter JO's Circular Economy Sub-Committee
- Tim Askew, Regional Policy and Programs Manager – Hunter JO
- David Hughes, Director of Built & Natural Assets – Lake Macquarie City Council
- Brett Allan, General Manager – Molycop
- Jess Hodge, Founder – Resourceful Living

The launch attracted 53 participants in person and 30 online. Attendees were from across multiple industries including government (19%), business (80%) and academia (1%).

The Roadmap can be viewed at [Circular Economy Roadmap - Hunter & Central Coast Circular \(huntercircular.com.au\)](https://huntercircular.com.au)

Circular Economy Eco-system Stage 2	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and improve circular economy communication for all circular economy eco-system participants in the Hunter and Central Coast • Build circular economy knowledge through education and capacity building opportunities for Hunter JO member councils and Central Coast Council • Develop and improve circular economy data and analytics systems for use by all circular economy eco-system participants in the Hunter and Central Coast 	
Status update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Circular Economy (CE) Roadmap was officially launched on Monday 11 July 2022 (see above for details). • The quarterly review process to keep the Roadmap up to date and relevant is now developed and currently being tested. 	

Circular Economy Procurement	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: <p>To support Councils to prioritise recycled materials and circular economy services in their procurement systems and processes, and to collaborate with the Hunter JO and other participating councils to develop a common framework for a joint regional procurement of recycled materials.</p>	
Status update: <p>The Circular Economy procurement methods and tools are currently being tested and readied for deployment. The main task will be to position the work for limited implementation into Councils and to seek funding for broader implementation over the next few years.</p>	

Hunter ReCircular (Regional Recycling Solution - yellow bins)	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: <p>To investigate preferred options for development of a new regional materials recovery facility</p>	
Status update: <p>EOI process being managed through Lake Macquarie City Council remains underway</p>	

ACTION AREA 3. OUR ECONOMY

3.1 Establish an Economic Sustainability Sub Committee, made up of representatives from member councils, to coordinate the economic development activity of the JO and report to the Board.

Subcommittee for Economic Evolution	
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
Delivery Status	On track
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>The purpose of the Committee (from existing Terms of Reference) is to continue to prioritise a resilient and diversified economy, and to assist in managing economic transition in the region in partnership with identified and other regional stakeholders.</p>	
<p>Status update:</p> <p>At its April 2022 meeting the Hunter JO Board resolved to revamp and refocus the activities of its Regional Economic Transition Subcommittee. Now known as the Subcommittee for Economic Evolution, the Committee met for the first time on 17th June.</p> <p>Membership of the revamped committee include the newly appointed Committee Chair, Mayor Steve Reynolds (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Mayor Sue Moore (Singleton Council), Mayor John Connors (Dungog Shire Council), Mayor Jay Suvaal (Cessnock City Council), Morven Cameron (CEO, Lake Macquarie City Council), Jason Linnane (General Manager Singleton Council) and Fiona Plesman (General Manager Muswellbrook Council).</p> <p>The primary role of the Subcommittee moving forward, will be to develop and provide a strong and united advocacy voice on agreed core priorities for the place based economic evolution of the region. This will particularly focus on seeking and influencing Commonwealth and State Government leadership, strategic direction, resources and action to plan and deliver the work that is needed to achieve this goal, including a focus on the Royalties for Rejuvenation program and Hunter Expert Panel.</p> <p>Key outcomes from the 17th June meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and endorsing an updated Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee • Identifying draft Advocacy priorities for the Subcommittee and broader Hunter JO Board 	

Regional Strategy Review - Exploring the role of local government in regional economic development strategy for the Hunter	
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
Delivery Status	Complete

Purpose:

There are currently a range of strategies and initiatives being prepared and/or implemented across the region at various scales (local to federal), and by various agencies that are targeting economic development and investment attraction. The purpose of this project is to identify and review the focus and activities of the many initiatives currently in play in the region, to identify those priority areas of shared interest and/or gaps that the Hunter JO needs to be actively involved in addressing. This seeks to avoid duplication with existing programs, improve alignment between them, and ensure the shared interests of Councils are being considered. The outcome of this work will be a priority list of clear actions for the Hunter JO to pursue that are consistent with its statutory functions and strategic plan.

Status update:

Following the work of identifying common themes across member councils for economic development, fact sheet information has been drafted that identifies the role of the Hunter JO and governance arrangements for regional economic development. This will now support the work of the Subcommittee for Economic Evolution (SEE) and other projects within the scope of regional economic development, including:

- NSW Government's Royalties for Rejuvenation Expert Panel
- NSW Government review of Regional Economic Development Strategies
- Hunter 2050 (H50)
- Hunter Venture Fund (HVF)
- Regional Infrastructure Priority lists (PIL)
- Accelerating Event Economies (A2E) and
- Hunter Economic Model (HEM).

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

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee	
Program / Project Lead	Steve Wilson
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: The role of the Steering Committee (current Terms of Reference) is to oversee the development and implementation of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Department of Regional NSW, Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation & Transport for NSW.	
Status update: The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 17 August 2022. A key focus of the meeting will include determining an agreed approach / position around the design and structure of governance arrangements to be established between the Greater Cities Commission and GNMP Steering Committee, and more specifically between the Greater Newcastle Cities Commissioner (currently being recruited), and the mayors of the five GNMP Councils.	

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan - Review of Regional Governance Options	
Program / Project Lead	Steve Wilson
Delivery Status	Complete
Purpose: The purpose of this project is to identify and explore potential regional governance models and/or legislative change that would ensure integrated, collaborative and effective delivery of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.	
Status update: Following presentation of the draft Options Paper to the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Steering Committee in October 2021, feedback has now been consolidated and the Options Paper finalised.	

Regional Population Scenario Planning	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: To prepare population scenarios as a platform for informing an agreed long-term vision for regional population growth, and to influence strategic regional planning processes, delivery programs and regional migration strategies by all levels of government for the Hunter Region.	
Status update: A draft advocacy document is in development and an update will be presented to the Hunter JO Board in August 2022. The next stage of work will be to familiarise the member Council and expert panel stakeholders with the draft document.	

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

Hunter Venture Fund	
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: The purpose of establishing a Hunter venture Fund is to fill funding, investment and capability shortfalls to 2050, that are required to help the Hunter Region plan for change that is accelerated by advancing energy technologies that will reduce the world's reliance on coal over time.	
Status update: In August 2021 the Hunter JO Board resolved to repivot the efforts of the Hunter JO away from advocacy specifically focused on the establishment of the 2050 Foundation entity and instead focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuing advocacy and engagement on the regional transformation challenge as this remains an enduring strategic priority for the region 	

2. Supporting and constructively influencing the implementation of the Expert Panel and Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund, the Renewable Energy Zone, Special Activation Precinct, Catalyst Areas in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and other relevant initiatives based on member assessments of key regional needs; and
3. Retaining a primary focus on advocacy and facilitation efforts aiming to:
 - secure significant private sector investment, including through the Hunter Venture Fund concept, into new industries that can reduce long term risk and create new jobs; and
 - maintain local leadership of solutions for the Hunter.

In line with the third focus area, the company Henshall Capital P/L were engaged by the Hunter JO to test the viability of an innovation fund for the region. This work included extensive consultation with investment industry and innovation ecosystem representatives, and the preparation of two key outputs:

1. The Hunter Venture Fund Report (draft)
2. A pitch deck to support advocacy efforts by the Hunter JO to leverage support from government and industry for the fund.

An engagement process is currently underway to familiarise and facilitate feedback by Member Council staff and key industry stakeholders to the draft report prior to its finalisation.

Upper Hunter Region Website	
Program / Project Lead	Kali Somerville
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: The delivery of this website was a key action in the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Action Plan. It was developed in partnership between Regional NSW and the Hunter JO, to provide a central location for resources for investors, local business and community for the Upper Hunter.	
Status update: The Dungog hero video, featuring the Tinshed Brewery is now complete. Organising with web developers for it to be uploaded to the UP website. A broader review of the resources held on the website is also continuing to ensure it is still relevant, and we are working with Regional NSW to revise the ongoing strategy for the website.	

3.5 Collaborate to ensure Newcastle and the Hunter realise our potential as a smart region and innovation ecosystem, driving jobs and investment whilst ensuring technology improves livability and sustainability for our region

Smart Region Project	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	Delayed / Impacted

Purpose:

The Smart Region Project will be an overarching collation of smart region activities and projects across the region placed within an annual review document produced to market the progress of our region. Initially the project will review the existing state of smart city thinking and activity across the region to get a baseline of progress. This program will then outline the priorities of the region in the smart region context and develop a suite of priority actions and templates for regional use.

Status update:

Further action on this initiative is waiting on a refresh of the NSW Data Action Plan (Strategy 2.0), following which a review will be completed to determine next steps.

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

Accelerating Event Economies

Program / Project Lead	Kim Carland
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Delivery Status	On track
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Purpose:

To strengthen the region's collective voice and the capacity of Councils to collaboratively pitch for major events for the region. It includes undertaking an events and opportunity audit, and identifying, preparing and implementing shared destination and event management resources including an event managers toolkit, prospectus, website and integrated council shared services, approvals and event data.

Status update:

- Meetings with the General Managers and Mayors of Member Council's, and with Managers in Economic Development, Tourism and Events have recently been completed, which have gathered important information and perspectives to inform the future needs and directions of the A2E project.
- The Facilities Audit is progressing well, with much of the data from both indoor and outdoor event venues, and sporting facilities, now captured in the audit.
- A contract with KPMG to complete an Events Economic Analysis has been recently commissioned and work commenced.
- The Event Licence and Approvals review consultant has recently been commissioned to provide recommendations for improvements.
- The Tourism Prospectus consultant has recently been appointed to develop itineraries that cross the Hunter and keep people in the region for longer.

Mayors Gala - Building Regional Collaboration & Celebrating Regional Success

Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
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Delivery Status	Delayed / Impacted
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Purpose:

To pilot delivery of a collaborative regional event by Councils, through the Hunter JO, that brings all Mayors together, along with the full range of stakeholders in the region, to showcase the region's successes and strengths, and to demonstrate the full range of opportunities and assets that the Hunter offers.

Status update

The Hunter JO Board considered proposals for the Mayors Gala concept at its April 2022 meeting. In light of the feedback provided a review of options is now being undertaken to further review and refine the concept.

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

Hunter Global: Our International Future	
Program / Project Lead	Steve Wilson
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: <p>The Hunter JO is leading a collaborative partnership between the Hunter JO, Newcastle Airport, Committee for the Hunter, Business Hunter and the University of Newcastle to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build collaborative processes and systems within the region to collectively identify and actively pursue key international opportunities for expanding the Airport's economic contribution to the Region• Directly support the expansion of international Airport related business and industry as a primary contributor to the Hunter Region's economic growth and diversification.	
Status update: <p>Production of an extended advocacy video has now been completed, which will support regional advocacy efforts to state and federal governments, as well as to attract potential investors to the region. The focus of this video is "When we get to the world stage", showcasing storylines from local people and businesses from around the region as to what direct international access through the airport will allow them to do. A communications strategy to underpin release and distribution of the video is currently being prepared. The video can be viewed at When We Get to the World Stage.</p> <p>The report documenting the opportunities and key priorities for the region as a whole to capitalise on the runway upgrade (and recently announced passenger terminal upgrade) is in the final stages of review. Along with the video this report will provide a platform to support ongoing advocacy and program development work undertaken by the JO, project partners and other regional stakeholders to continue to promote and develop the economic development opportunities for the region arising from the airport runway upgrade.</p>	

3.8 Work with the Department of Infrastructure, Regional development & Cities to undertake more detailed exploration of the opportunities created by a City Deal, as well as the preconditions and process to develop a City Deal in the Hunter

City Deal Advocacy	
Program / Project Lead	Joe James
Delivery Status	Delivery Status: No longer proceeding
Purpose: Undertake detailed exploration of the opportunities created by a City Deal, as well as the preconditions and process to develop a City Deal in the Hunter.	
Status update: There is currently no active advocacy occurring around a City Deal, based on advice from the Commonwealth Government that there are no plans for Commonwealth Investment in City Deal initiatives at the current time. However other projects being initiated by the Hunter JO including the Population Scenario Planning and Regional Infrastructure Priority List initiatives will provide important foundations for future planning and advocacy work around a City Deal.	

3.9 Explore and act on smart ways to transform local and global disruptions, such as the disruption of recycling services, into economic opportunities for the Hunter.

Hunter BioCircular	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	Delivery Status: Not yet started (subject to resourcing)
Purpose: To embrace world-leading innovations to develop a flagship community resources recovery model. By demonstrating a Circular Economy approach, Hunter BioCircular seeks to move the region toward zero waste to landfill, and in doing so provide long term economic, social and environmental benefits from processing waste locally, which will help transition the regional economy, deliver new local jobs and reduce carbon emissions.	
Status update: Project is still in redesign of scope and seeking new funding opportunities for the concept. Currently waiting on a response to the letters of support sent to the Clean Manufacturing Precincts consortium EOIs.	

ACTION AREA 4. OUR TRANSPORT

4.1 Establish a Transport Connectivity Sub Committee, made up representatives from member councils, to coordinate the transport and associated infrastructure planning activity of the JO and report to the Board.

Transport Connectivity Sub Committee	
Delivery Status	Delivery Status: Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

4.2 Coordinate and prepare submissions on regional planning initiatives such as the 2056 Freight and Ports Plan.

Regional Submission – Draft Hunter Regional Plan 2041	
Program / Project Lead	Steve Wilson
Delivery Status	Completed
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To identify and represent the shared interests of Hunter JO Member Councils within a regional response to the draft Hunter Regional Plan 2041.</p>	
<p>Status update:</p> <p>A regional submission was submitted on the draft Hunter Regional Plan, which focused on those regional scale issues, priorities and responses on which Member Councils were aligned regarding the focus and directions identified in the draft Plan, which were drawn from an analysis and synthesis of individual council feedback and submissions.</p> <p>Overall, the submission supported the objectives in the draft Plan which demonstrated high alignment with our own strategic priorities. The submission identified that the draft Plan's main gaps however, lie in either silence or ambiguity on three key areas which, if not addressed, undermine the Plan's potential to achieve its own Vision and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive access to global markets and the importance of global connectivity for the Hunter region • Intra-region connectivity, specifically public transport • Clarity around governance of the document and its delivery <p>The regional submission can be viewed at https://www.hunterjo.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Hunter-JO-Submission_Draft-Hunter-Regional-Plan-FINAL.pdf</p>	

4.3 Work with the Transport for NSW and other partners to access and analyse detailed transport data across the region and understand gaps in infrastructure and services.

Analyse detailed transport data across the region	
Delivery Status	Delivery Status: Not yet started (subject to resourcing)

4.4 Engage at a senior level with key transport stakeholders including Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Authority, Newcastle Airport, Port of Newcastle and Keolis Downer to better understand their forward planning for the region.

Hunter Regional Transport Plan	
Program / Project Lead	Steve Wilson & Joe James
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: Transport for NSW are developing a new Hunter Regional Transport Plan. Its development is occurring in collaboration with DPIE's current process to review the Hunter Regional Plan to ensure these key documents are complementary. The Regional Transport Plan will aim to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable Transport for NSW to respond proactively to anticipated changes in land use, demographics and travel demand • Establish a transport vision for the region • Detail short, medium and long-term initiatives that in combination, support the transport vision 	
Status update: It is intended that the Hunter JO will facilitate the development of a regional submission in collaboration with Member Councils on the draft Hunter Regional Transport Pending when it is released for public exhibition.	

4.5 Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare Hunter JO agreed priority list of infrastructure, system and service improvements which will make the greatest difference to communities and businesses across the region. This will include expansion and connectivity between cycleways.

Regional Infrastructure Priority List	
Program / Project Lead	Boyd Blackwell
Delivery Status	On track
Project Purpose: To prepare an agreed list of regional and sub regional infrastructure priorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and advocate a stronger case for investment in infrastructure priorities across the region • Identify the potential for shared interests and collaboration between Councils and other stakeholders in delivering local and regional scale infrastructure initiatives. • Identify a longer-term infrastructure investment pipeline, to provide transparency and confidence for potential investors, professional services and contractors to build their presence in the Hunter 	

Status update:

Phase 2 of this project is underway, of which key outputs will include:

- Preparation of a googleform for councils and other agencies to provide their infrastructure priorities annually
- Development and testing of an excel model for capturing and analyzing data
- Extending the model to integrate decisions relating to prioritisation, such as qualitative assessment and rapid CBA outcomes
- Development of an operating procedure
- Incorporation of a pipeline of existing project data within the database

A workshop was completed with Member Council and Agency staff in early June to test and refine the Googleform survey instrument, and the project consultant has completed the draft Excel model for capturing and analysing data, both of which are now ready to pilot with councils.

Regional Cycle Tourism Master Plan (Shiraz to Shore)	
Program / Project Lead	Tim Askew
Delivery Status	On track
Purpose: Significant opportunity exists to link existing and planned cycleway infrastructure across Hunter JO member Councils; to create an integrated region wide network. This would provide both a valuable region wide recreational resource for residents, and the foundation upon which to generate economic and business development by holistically promoting the region as a key cycling destination. The purpose of this project is to prepare and implement a cycle tourism masterplan / Destination Management Plan for the region.	
Status update: The draft advocacy document is now being readied for the next NSW State election with modifications currently being developed. The next step is to reengage with key stakeholders to co-design the changes.	

4.6 Develop and implement a targeted advocacy program to gain commitments from infrastructure and service delivery agencies, including the Australian Government, to deliver agreed priorities.

Advocacy program	
Delivery Status	Not yet started (subject to completion of Action 4.5)

ACTION AREA 5. OUR EDUCATION

5.1. Establish a Social Sustainability Sub Committee, made up representatives from member councils, to coordinate the education, health and related policy and planning activities of the JO and report to the Board.

5.2 Engage at a senior level with key education stakeholders including the University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW and School Infrastructure NSW to better understand their forward planning for the region.

5.3 Work with the NSW Department of Education to better understand and test their projections for growth in student numbers throughout the Hunter.

5.4 Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare a Hunter JO agreed priority list of school infrastructure improvements which will make the greatest difference to communities across the region.

5.5 Advocate to Schools Infrastructure NSW and the Minister for Education to gain commitments to deliver agreed schools infrastructure improvements.

5.6 Work with TAFE NSW to expand access to training and vocational services across the region, including through innovative models such as Connected Learning Centres, Specialist Centres and Mobile Training Units.

5.7 Work with the University of Newcastle and TAFE NSW to help raise awareness, aspiration and achievement of tertiary education opportunities for primary and secondary school students in the region.

5.8 Work with Indigenous educational and community groups to support and encourage young Indigenous people into tertiary education.

5.9 Work with local Libraries and education providers to develop and implement technology for life learning schemes to ensure all generations take advantage of new technology to improve quality of life.

Delivery Status	<i>Delivery Status: Not yet started (subject to resourcing)</i>
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ACTION AREA 6. OUR HEALTH

6.1 Work with the Hunter New England Local Health District and other key partners to audit health services across the region, identify accessibility gaps and prioritise actions.

6.2 Hold regional stakeholder workshops to gain input from community members and health professionals to better understand the priority health needs of local communities.

6.3 Use the in-depth evidence base to prepare a Hunter JO agreed priority list of improvements to health services and facilities which will make the greatest difference to communities across the region.

6.4 Explore innovative models of housing to enable older people to age in place in Hunter towns and villages.

Delivery Status	<i>Delivery Status: Not yet started (subject to resourcing)</i>
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Report Author: Alison McGaffin, Director, Hunter and Central Coast

Responsible Officer: Alison McGaffin, Director, Hunter and Central Coast

Purpose:

To provide an update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW, specifically focussing on current Funding Programs that are open under the Regional Growth Fund.

Report:

Current Funding Programs

The NSW Government has topped up the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) by \$1.3 billion, taking the total investment to around \$3.3 billion since its creation in 2017. The RGF has supported vital community projects that: develop new sports infrastructure; create engaging community programs; provide economic opportunities for mining communities; strengthen the arts, culture, and heritage of regional NSW; spur local job creation and economic growth; allow communities to rebuild and recover after natural disasters; and increase visitation to regional NSW.

Programs that are currently open include the Regional Event Acceleration Fund, Round 2 (REAF Rd 2), Regional Tourism Activation Fund (RTAF Rd 2) and the Business Case and Strategy Development Fund (BCSDF).

- REAF Rd 2 – provides \$20 million in funding for events hosted in regional NSW between July 2022 and June 2023. The aim of the funding is 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. Applications close 4 October 2022.
- RTAF Rd 2 - provides \$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. Applications close 27 September 2022.
- BCSDF - a new \$24 million program to support local councils, joint organisations of councils, not-for-profit, industry and Aboriginal community groups to develop business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities, with a focus on infrastructure. Applications close 24 August 2022.

The DRNSW team have been working proactively and collaboratively with Council staff and regional organisations to maximise funding opportunities for projects and events that activate business opportunities, support tourism development projects, enable infrastructure, support local community and cultural events to bring people together, and strengthen regional communities and councils, including priority projects and partnerships. More recently, the DRNSW team have provided advice and support to organisations for Stream 1 and 2 projects under the BCSDF.

The Accelerating Regional Innovation Fund (ARIF) \$2M program also opened at the end of July to support regional entrepreneurs and start-ups in emerging sector and future industries outlined in the refreshed 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW. Grants between \$300,000 and \$700,000 million will be available to help resource projects such as delivering innovation-based events, training and workshops, providing new knowledge and business skills, and facilitating access to capital raising opportunities. Applications close 30 September 2022.

Recommendation:

That the Board note the update on key activities of the Department of Regional NSW relating to current funding opportunities.

8. Matters Raised by Members

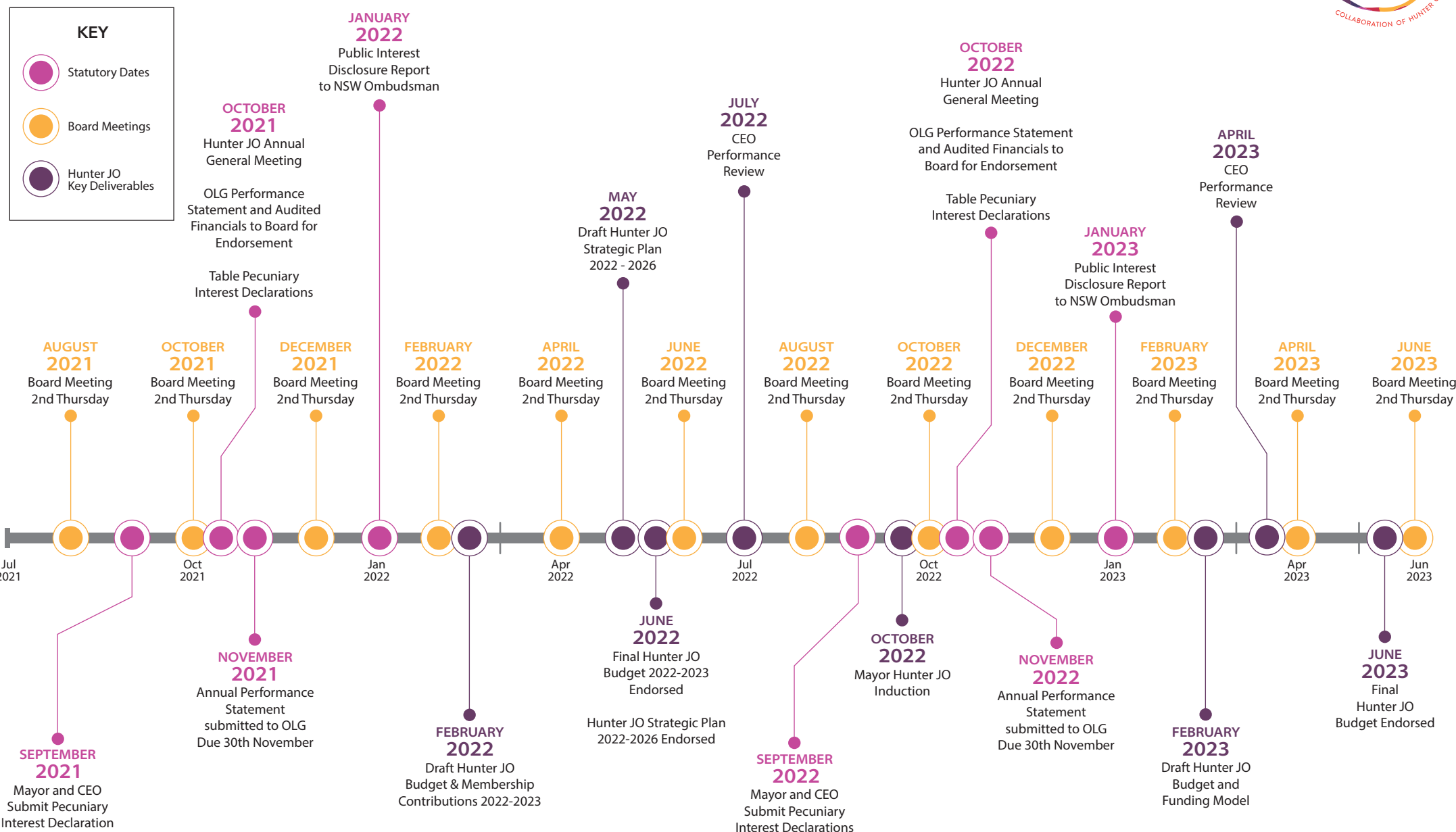
Nil.

9. General Business

9.1 Compliance & Governance Calendars

- Attachment 6 - HJO Board Forward Planner and Governance Calendar
- Attachment 7 - JO-Calendar-of-Compliance-and-Reporting-Requirements-2021-2022

HUNTER JO BOARD FORWARD PLANNER & GOVERNANCE CALENDAR



JOINT ORGANISATION CALENDAR OF COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 2021-22

GOVERNMENT Local Government													
	JULY 2021	AUGUST 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021	OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021	JANUARY 2022	FEBRUARY 2022	MARCH 2022	APRIL 2022	MAY 2022	JUNE 2022	
FINANCE	7 Proposed loan borrowings return to be submitted to TCorp					5 Last day for meeting to be held to present audited financial statements [LGA s418(2)]							
	31 GST Certificate to be submitted to OLG [Commonwealth Constitution s114]			17 Request for extension to lodge financial statements to be submitted in writing to OLG [LGA s416(2); Code]									
	31 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	30 Capacity Building Funding Stage 2 - Report to OLG with action plan, key delivery milestones and budget		31 Audited Financial Statements to be lodged with OLG [LGA s417(5); Code]		28 Last day for annual performance statement to be published [LGReg cl 397J(2)]				30 Capacity Building Funding Stage 2 - Report to OLG detailing delivery progress for expenditure of the funding, benefits, and report against budget.			
	Joint Organisations to notify OLG throughout the year when loans are drawn down (LGReg cl 230)												
GOVERNANCE			4 REMINDER: Election of the chairperson at the first meeting of the JO after the ordinary election of councils (give member councils time to elect mayors who make up the JO board)										
				30 Annual Report of obligations under PIDA to the Minister and the Ombudsman [PIDA s311]									
	30 Public interest disclosures report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]		30 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]	30 Annual Report of obligations under GIPA to the Minister and the Information Commissioner [GIPA s125]	30 Annual Performance Statement due [LGReg cl 397J(1)]	31 Report to JO Board [MCCP cl 11.2] and OLG [MCCP cl 11.2] on code of conduct complaint statistics	30 Public interest disclosures report due to the NSW Ombudsman [PIDA s6CA]					30 Last day to adopt Statement of Revenue Policy and Budget [LGReg cl 397I]	
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												
	Elections: Requirements within 12 months after the elections: Amend Local Policy (s.165(4)); Re-determine Organisation Structure (s.333); Review delegations (s.380); Review JO adopted Code of Conduct (s.440(7)); Adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the model code and a policy concerning the payment of expenses (LGA s360 (3) and s252(1) LGReg cl 397M)												
	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, Update No. 28, March 2020. 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. PIDA = Public Interests Disclosures Act 1994. GIPA = Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.													