



LOCAL JOBS, REGIONAL IMPACT: COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



LOCAL COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The ten councils of the Hunter Joint Organisation are ready to deliver a program of shovel-ready investments in local infrastructure and community facilities to support region-wide recovery from the combined impacts of COVID-19, droughts and fires.

Local projects create local jobs and contracts while providing confidence to 'mum and dad' businesses of a sustained pipeline of work. Able to be rolled out quickly while providing dispersed benefits, these council-led projects complement investments in catalytic major projects including the Newcastle Airport upgrades, University of Newcastle's STEMM hub and Newcastle Port's Multi-purpose Deepwater Terminal.

We have identified an integrated, region-wide program of council works that target the communities and sectors most impacted by coronavirus. Delivered collectively, this program will provide immediate and broad stimulus responsive to the particular needs of local regional economies. These investments in essential community facilities and services will improve community wellbeing and quality of life during an uncertain and challenging time, while attracting visitors back to the region. Importantly, these investments will work to diversify the Hunter economy in the longer-term, making us more resilient and self-sufficient in the future.

“The councils of the Hunter Joint Organisation are working strategically and collectively to deliver local infrastructure projects across the region. Investing in local projects, focused on and connected across the region, is a key foundation stone upon which to rebuild Australia's largest regional economy and the local communities that underpin this prosperity. In doing so the Hunter can help lead the country's broader recovery.”

Bob Pynsent, Chair, Hunter Joint Organisation

PARTNER WITH US

The councils of the Hunter have the commitment, established systems and capacity to rapidly deliver local infrastructure and scaled up economic stimulus across the region. A coordinated region wide program of shovel ready works has been identified, with projects drawn from established 10 year Community Strategic Plans, 4 year Delivery Programs and Annual Operational Plans of Councils, and from planning strategies and master plans that have the support of local communities. Council revenues have been impacted by COVID-19. As a result Councils are making cuts to capital investment programs at the time when it is most needed. Support will arrest that, while smart investment – as proposed by the councils of the Hunter Joint Organisation – will ensure value for money, delivery and impact.

MILESTONES

These projects are all advanced in planning and ready for contracts to be awarded if additional support is secured. Typical milestones for any project include:



Projects to drive this locally-led recovery effort have been identified in the following priority areas. Many projects address several priority areas:

FOCUS AREAS	COMBINED PROJECTS VALUE
<p>Regional Aviation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Infrastructure upgrades to expand Williamstown aerospace industry precinct and support Defence and Airport activities, development and employment growth ✓ Delivery in the Port Stephens Local Government Area 	<p>\$5 million</p>
<p>Destination / Tourism Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Upgrades and expansions to existing tourist facilities (regional art galleries, historic buildings and natural areas); new aviation / adventure-based tourism facilities; RV-friendly infrastructure; and regional play areas ✓ Delivery across the Cessnock, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Port Stephens and Dungog Council Areas 	<p>\$79.45 million</p>
<p>Road Safety and Congestion Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety upgrades to local road networks across the region ✓ Improvements to public transport facilities – city wide bus stop upgrades and building new commuter car parking facilities ✓ Enabling infrastructure for establishment of a northern transport hub ✓ Delivery across the Cessnock, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Mid-coast and Port Stephens Council Areas 	<p>\$57.7 million</p>
<p>Cycling and Pedestrian Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Construction of visitor focused local and regional cycleway infrastructure linking tourism facilities and localities, and providing regional scale walking and cycling opportunities (e.g. Richmond Vale Rail Trail) ✓ Construction of cycleways to improve urban connectivity, establish cycling as a viable and safe transport option, and improve the health and liveability of communities ✓ Delivery across the Cessnock, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Newcastle and Maitland Council Areas 	<p>\$92.22 million</p>
<p>Town Centres Revitalisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Revitalisation programs across the region that deliver strategic infrastructure renewal of local and neighbourhood centres to improve local environments, create vibrant and active public places, improve liveability and support local business activity ✓ Delivery across the Cessnock, Singleton, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie Council Areas 	<p>\$15.77 million</p>
<p>Community Infrastructure and Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Upgrade and improvement works (e.g. walking tracks, lookouts and boardwalks) in public reserves to increase community access, safety and amenity ✓ Construction and upgrade of water supply and treatment facilities for drought resilience and to support local growth ✓ Local playground upgrades ✓ Delivery of Coastal Management Programs to protect beach amenity and facilitate ongoing community access ✓ Construction of multi-function sports facilities ✓ Delivery across the Cessnock, Newcastle, Muswellbrook, Mid-coast, Maitland, Port Stephens and Singleton Council Areas 	<p>\$150.23 million</p>

The Committee for the Hunter and the Hunter Joint Organisation are collaborating on this initiative to provide a united voice for the Hunter.

ABOUT HUNTER JOINT ORGANISATION

The Hunter Joint Organisation is the collaborative body that brings together the ten councils in the region to provide a united and local voice for the region's communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, the Joint Organisation's 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.

The member councils of the Hunter Joint Organisation comprise: Cessnock City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Maitland City Council, Mid-coast Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, City of Newcastle, Port Stephens Council, Singleton Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council.

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE FOR THE HUNTER

The Committee for the Hunter is an independent and non-partisan collaboration that brings together business, industry and community leaders with the common goal of driving growth, prosperity and economic diversity in the Hunter.

It provides a unified voice for the Hunter and a platform for our community leaders to reach agreement across disparate interests and collaborate for the region as a whole. We work together to: drive more private and public investment in the Hunter; to influence policy and reforms in the long-term interest of our community; and to build local capacity so we can shape and build our own future.

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DESIGN AND PROJECT SUPPORT
OUT OF THE SQUARE

