



Planning &
Environment

2036

Hunter

***Regional
Plan***

Implementation Plan 2016-2018

HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN 2036-Implementation Plan 2016-2018
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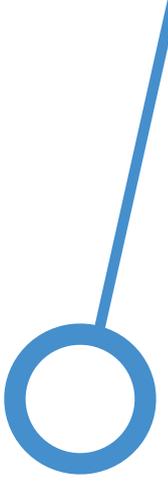
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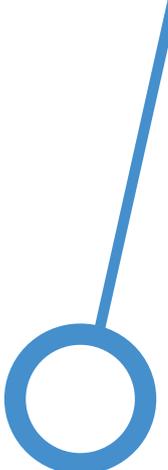
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Introduction



The *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* is the NSW Government's strategy for guiding land use planning decisions for the Hunter region for the next 20 years.

The Hunter region consists of ten local government areas: Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland, Dungog, MidCoast, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter.

The Regional Plan sets out four goals for the Hunter region:

- ***The leading regional economy in Australia***
- ***A biodiversity-rich natural environment***
- ***Thriving communities***
- ***Greater housing choice and jobs***

The Hunter Development Corporation will oversee implementation of the vision, goals and actions in the Regional Plan. An annual monitoring report will be prepared to outline progress against the implementation plan.

Purpose

Responsibility for implementing actions and monitoring the intended outcomes in the Regional Plan is shared with our important regional stakeholders, including Councils, other State agencies, service providers and the development industry. All stakeholders need to have a good understanding of the priorities and the deliverables.

The purpose of this Implementation Plan is to:

- ***ensure ongoing collaboration and agreement on the implementation of actions;***
- ***assign accountabilities for the implementation of actions;***
- ***explain the role of different groups and committees involved in implementation;***
- ***guide the Hunter Development Corporation in its role of overseeing delivery of the Regional Plan; and***
- ***inform the Annual Monitoring Report.***

Implementation

Goals, directions and actions

The Regional Plan comprises four goals, 27 directions and 126 actions. The goals articulate the intended outcome; the directions identify the broad issues or policy areas that we need to focus on and the actions represent the steps we need to take or initiatives we need to introduce/ implement to achieve the goals. Actions are either implemented as strategies or as initiatives.

The NSW Government has identified a lead agency and relevant partner stakeholders for each action. The lead agency is responsible for project managing the various tasks required to ensure success. Key stakeholders are those agencies, councils or organisations considered important partners for implementation. The list of partners is not exclusive and additional stakeholders may be identified as implementation progresses.

Indicative timings for actions are as follows:

- Immediate – 0-2 years;
- Short term – 3-5 years;
- Medium term – 5-10 years;
- Long term – 10+ years.

Some actions are also designated as ‘ongoing’ to reflect their delivery being achieved through Local Environmental Plans, local planning strategies and other land use planning that are required to be consistent with the Regional Plan.

Each action in the Regional Plan will be implemented through a mix of mechanisms that reflect a range of ongoing strategies and catalyst initiatives that will deliver on the vision and directions in the Plan, including:

Strategies:

- Local planning directions issued under Section 117 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* by the Minister for Planning that ensure council planning strategies and controls are consistent with the Regional Plan;
- Integrated planning and reporting under the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- Whole-of government policy alignment;

Progress on delivering these actions will be reviewed as part of any review or adjustment to the Regional Plan.

Catalyst initiatives:

- Regional district plans for matters that cross council or jurisdictional boundaries;
- Publication of reports or data; and
- Regional collaboration across government, business, key stakeholders and the wider community for specific projects and processes.

Funding will be provided in growth areas for regional infrastructure through the review of infrastructure contributions plans for the Hunter. The NSW Government will use the Regional Plan, along with the annual monitoring report of development activity through the Hunter Urban Development Program to advise infrastructure agencies about the timing of new investments.

Priority actions for 2016–2018

Priorities for the Hunter are economic and jobs growth, greater housing choice to meet demand, delivering infrastructure to support growth and communities and protecting natural areas. Actions to support these outcomes represent the immediate areas of focus.

Nine priority actions have been identified for implementation in 2016–2018. These actions respond to strong representations made in feedback to the draft Regional Plan or are areas where initial investigations or planning are required. These priorities will be overseen by the Hunter Development Corporation and will require a collaborative effort involving multiple agencies, councils and stakeholders.

1. Prepare a metropolitan plan for Greater Newcastle
2. Develop and review strategies and masterplans for the global gateways and surrounding lands to support their growth, diversification and sustainability
3. Prepare a strategy for land along the Hunter Expressway that considers its region-shaping potential
4. Investigate new housing opportunities in urban areas to maximise the use of existing infrastructure
5. Review and finalise the Hunter Special Infrastructure Contributions Plan
6. Take steps to secure the long term protection of regionally significant biodiversity corridors (led by the Office of Environment and Heritage)
7. Establish and implement an Urban Development Program to develop data on existing zoned land supply and the servicing status of land available, to monitor dwelling production and take-up rates and coordinate the staged release and rezoning of land
8. Establish and implement an Employment Lands Development Program to develop data on existing and future planned stocks of employment lands
9. Develop a local planning tool kit to assist councils in implementing the Regional Plan



Governance

Effective governance arrangements are critical to successful delivery

Hunter Development Corporation

The Hunter Development Corporation will:

- review progress on the implementation of actions against goals;
- assess the whole region biennially and progress against goals;
- address policy issues and strategy that impact on the delivery of the Implementation Plan; and
- support councils to prepare local plans that will help to translate the vision and guiding principles of the Regional Plan into more detailed priorities for growth and change that can be applied at the local level.

The Government acknowledges the calls to set up a new Commission. This will be investigated by the Government.

Supporting Groups

The Hunter Development Corporation can be supported by outcome-specific groups that bring together appropriate personnel (government, industry or community) to provide advice on particular issues or projects.

Existing governance framework

It is important to recognise the existing broader governance framework in operation within the region to ensure the Hunter Development Corporation complements current activity.

The Hunter Regional Leadership Group, which is a Department of Premier and Cabinet led initiative is a body that supports closer working relationships between NSW Government agencies and the Hunter Pilot Joint Organisation of Councils. The network encourages strategic collaboration, consultation, solution brokerage and engagement on regional priorities across government.

The Hunter Development Corporation benefits from having access to the same agency and local government organisations that comprise the Regional Leadership Group. This is particularly important where the NSW Government 'Fit for the Future' reforms are changing the way Government works with councils on local priorities.

Links to other strategies

The NSW Government has in place, or is developing, a number of other strategies that will influence the implementation of the Regional Plan, including the Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Project and the *Hunter Regional Transport Plan*.

The Hunter Development Corporation will have a role in ensuring that there is appropriate coordination across the implementation of these strategies. This applies particularly to those strategies that address housing, growth and infrastructure. It is anticipated that these strategies will complement the focus on growth in the Regional Plan.

Review mechanisms

Annual Monitoring Report

An Annual Monitoring Report will be prepared to monitor progress on implementation of the Regional Plan. This will report progress on goals, directions and actions, with a particular focus on the priorities that have been agreed with the Hunter Development Corporation. It will also list achievements and important regional highlights from the year. Implementation priorities will be revised and a new program for work will be identified for each subsequent year.

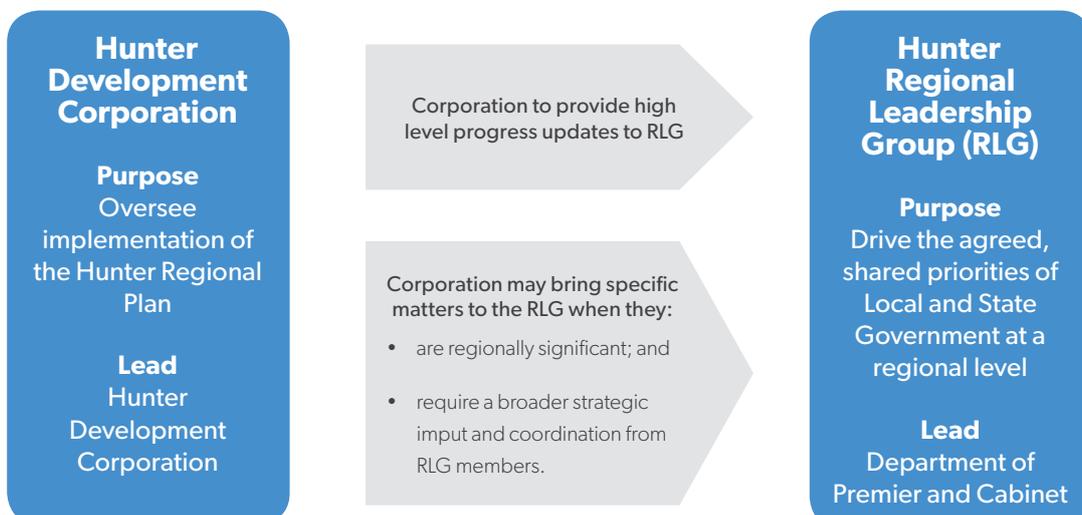
Regional Plan Review

The Regional Plan will be subject to a five-yearly review, or as necessary, to update and revise the strategies provided through the goals, directions and actions. A five-yearly review will revisit regional performance, challenges and opportunities and incorporate the most up-to-date information provided through the census process. The review of the Regional Plan will be informed by the Hunter Development Corporation as well as the Annual Monitoring Reports.

Implementation Plan Updates

The priorities identified in this Implementation Plan will be updated on an annual basis and will form the work program for each subsequent year. This will ensure that implementation of the Regional Plan remains current and responsive to regional conditions.

Figure 1: Regional Governance Framework



Hunter Regional Plan Actions

1	Direction 1: Grow Greater Newcastle as Australia's next metropolitan city				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
1.1	Prepare a Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.	Initiative	DPE	Councils, TfNSW	Immediate
2	Direction 2: Enhance connections to the Asia-Pacific through global gateways				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
2.1	Promote diversification of operations at the Port of Newcastle and the Newcastle Airport and enhanced connectivity to the Asia-Pacific.	Strategy	DPE	TfNSW	Ongoing
2.2	Develop and review strategies and precinct plans for the global gateways and surrounding lands to support their growth, diversification and sustainability.	Initiative	DPE	Councils, TfNSW	Immediate
2.3	Prepare local plans that adequately respond to air, noise and other issues relevant to the gateways to protect their ongoing operation and expansion.	Initiative	Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Short term
3	Direction 3: Revitalise Newcastle City Centre				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
3.1	Promote the growth and renewal of Newcastle City Centre through local strategies and controls.	Strategy	Council	DPE	Ongoing
3.2	Leverage the increased presence of the University of Newcastle in the city centre.	Initiative	DPE	Council, TfNSW	Short term
3.3	Develop local housing strategies for student and visitor accommodation and social and affordable housing.	Initiative	Council	DPE	Short term

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²Partner: Indicates who supports the lead and takes an active role in land use planning.

Timing: immediate: 0-2 years, short term: 3-5 years, medium term: 5-10 years, long term: 10+ years, ongoing – strategies

DPE: Department of Planning and Environment; HDC: Hunter Development Corporation; TfNSW: Transport for NSW; DISRD – Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development; DPC: Department of Premier and Cabinet; OEH: Office of Environment and Heritage; EPA: Environment Protection Authority; DFACS: Department of Family and Community Services; LALC: Local Aboriginal Land Council; RMS: Roads and Maritime Services; RFS: Rural Fire Services; LLS: Local Land Services; MSB: Mine Subsidence Board; UGNSW: Urban Growth NSW; HDC: Hunter Development Corporation.

3.4	<p>Focus investment in developing infrastructure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alleviate pinch points, delivering large-scale renewal projects including site amalgamation and remediation; enhance the public domain and relevant services to make it easier to get around the city centre, recognising Wickham as the public transport gateway into the centre; and lead by example and partner with others to deliver landmark infrastructure projects. 	Strategy	Council and HDC	DPE, TfNSW	Ongoing
4	Direction 4: Enhance inter-regional linkages to support economic growth				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility¹	Partner²	Timing
4.1	Enhance inter-regional transport connections to support economic growth.	Initiative	TfNSW	DPE, Council	Long term
4.2	Work with stakeholders to upgrade transport network capacity in line with changing demands.	Initiative	TfNSW	DPE, Councils, TfNSW	Medium term
4.3	Strengthen and leverage opportunities from the interconnections with other regions, particularly the Pacific Highway, the Golden Highway and the New England Highway.	Strategy	DPE	Council, TfNSW	Ongoing
4.4	Promote freight facilities that leverage the Port of Newcastle and its associated freight transport network.	Initiative	TfNSW	DPE, Councils	Medium term
4.5	Plan for multimodal freight facilities that support economic development of the region and respond to the location of the proposed Freight Rail Bypass.	Initiative	DPE	TfNSW	Long term
4.6	Investigate opportunities for logistics and freight growth and other complementary land uses around airports, leveraging investments at Taree and Newcastle airports.	Initiative	DPE	TfNSW	Medium term
4.7	Enhance the efficiency of existing nationally significant transport corridors and protect their intended use from inappropriate surrounding land uses.	Strategy	TfNSW	Councils, DPE	Ongoing
4.8	Enable development that relies on access to the Hunter Expressway interchanges, provided it encourages efficiencies to the inter-regional transport network.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Ongoing

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4.9	Balance competing interests and deliver conservation, transport and land use planning objectives in the national pinch point area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying preferred habitat corridors and priorities for investment in conservation to sustain habitat connectivity; and developing an integrated management plan for the area. 	Initiative	DPE	TfNSW, Councils	Short term
4.10	Prepare a strategy for land along the Hunter Expressway that considers its region-shaping potential.	Initiative	DPE	TfNSW, Councils	Immediate
4.11	Update the Hunter Regional Transport Plan to ensure there are improved connections to jobs, study and centres for Hunter residents.	Initiative	TfNSW	DPE, UGNSW, HDC, Councils	Short term
5	Direction 5: Transform the productivity of the Upper Hunter				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility¹	Partner²	Timing
5.1	Prepare for the diversification and innovation of the economy in response to long term industry restructuring in coal and power generation and the growth in new high-technology primary industry, associated specialist knowledge-based industries and rural tourism.	Initiative	DPE	Councils, DIRSD	Medium term
5.2	Leverage the regional advantages of the Upper Hunter to create a diverse, thriving and prosperous economy, built upon industry growth and investment.	Initiative	DPC	DISRD, DPE, Councils	Long term
5.3	Identify the land and infrastructure requirements to develop the Hunter's coal and alternative energy resources.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Medium term
5.4	Protect the availability and quality of resources that have the potential to sustain agricultural industries within the region.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, DISRD	Ongoing
5.5	Improve land use certainty and enable innovation by reviewing and amending planning frameworks.	Initiative	Councils	DPE	Short term
5.6	Plan for water security to shape regional infrastructure investment and economic development.	Initiative	DISRD	HWC, MidCoast Water, Councils	Medium term
5.7	Develop the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project report.	Initiative	DPC	DISRD, DPE, Councils	Short term
5.8	Review the <i>Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan</i> .	Initiative	DPE	DISRD, Councils	Short term

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6	Direction 6: Grow the economy of MidCoast and Port Stephens				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
6.1	Enhance tourism infrastructure and connectivity, recognising the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regional and inter-regional connections via the Pacific Highway and the Newcastle and Taree airports and cruise ship gateways; and local routes such as The Lakes Way and Nelson Bay Road. 	Strategy	Councils	TfNSW, Destination NSW	Ongoing
6.2	Enhance links to regional services in Greater Newcastle.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Ongoing
6.3	Enable economic diversity and new tourism opportunities that focus on reducing the impacts of the seasonal nature of tourism and its effect on local economies.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, Destination NSW, DISRD	Ongoing
6.4	Promote growth of industries that can leverage accessibility provided by the Pacific Highway.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
6.5	Plan for and provide infrastructure and facilities that support the ageing population.	Strategy	Councils	Infrastructure providers	Ongoing
7	Direction 7: Develop advanced manufacturing, defence and aerospace hubs				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
7.1	Facilitate development opportunities on land surrounding the Newcastle Airport at Williamstown to cluster emerging high-technology industry, defence and aerospace activities.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, DISRD, TfNSW	Ongoing
7.2	Grow and diversify the manufacturing sector through local planning and appropriate planning controls.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
7.3	Promote manufacturing business export opportunities and become part of global supply chains.	Initiative	DISRD	DPE	Medium Term
7.4	Facilitate research partnerships between tertiary education providers and businesses.	Initiative	Education	DISRD	Medium Term

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7.5	Protect strategic defence establishments with appropriate planning controls and compatible adjoining land uses.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, Department of Defence	Ongoing
8	Direction 8: Promote innovative small business and growth in the service sectors				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
8.1	Implement initiatives to promote small business growth and innovation, particularly in Newcastle City Centre and other strategic centres.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Medium term
8.2	Facilitate opportunities for incubator spaces for technology and non-technology early stage businesses, and ensure opportunities for new and emerging enterprises are encouraged.	Initiative	Councils	DPE	Medium Term
8.3	Improve connectivity to the region's major health and education precincts and strategic centres.	Initiative	TfNSW	Councils	Long Term
8.4	Foster education precincts in Greater Newcastle to encourage a centre of excellence in tertiary and vocational education.	Strategy	Council	DPE	Ongoing
8.5	Establish a health precinct around Metford and other hospitals in the region, including Manning Base Hospital at Taree.	Initiative	Health	DPE, Councils	Medium term
8.6	Determine potential to grow allied health services on land around hospitals and health services located at Kurri Kurri, Belmont, Cessnock, Gloucester, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Nelson Bay and Dungog.	Initiative	DPE	Health, Councils	Medium term
9	Direction 9: Grow tourism in the region				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
9.1	Enable investment in infrastructure to expand the tourism industry, including connections to tourism gateways and attractions.	Initiative	DPE	Councils, Destination NSW, TfNSW	Short term
9.2	Encourage tourism development in natural areas that support conservation outcomes.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
9.3	Undertake a land use assessment across the Viticulture Critical Industry Cluster to balance scenic amenity and ongoing growth in tourism.	Initiative	DPE	Councils, DISRD	Short Term

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9.4	Enable the growth of tourism in the Upper Hunter through integration with the Equine Critical Industry Cluster.	Strategy	DPE	Councils, DISRD	Ongoing
9.5	Develop capacity for growth in food-based tourism in the region.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
10	Direction 10: Protect and enhance agricultural productivity				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
10.1	Protect locations that can accommodate agricultural enterprises from incompatible development, and facilitate the supply chain, including infrastructure, distribution areas, processing facilities and research and development in local plans.	Initiative	DISRD	Councils	Short term
10.2	Address sector-specific considerations for agricultural industries through local plans.	Strategy	Councils	DISRD	Ongoing
10.3	Protect the region's wellbeing and prosperity through increased biosecurity measures.	Strategy	DISRD	Councils	Ongoing
10.4	Encourage niche commercial, tourist and recreation activities that complement and promote a stronger agricultural sector, and build the sector's capacity to adapt to changing circumstances.	Strategy	Councils	DISRD, Destination NSW	Ongoing
10.5	Develop an agribusiness industry strategy in areas experiencing high population growth to retain jobs and agribusiness growth for the Hunter.	Initiative	DISRD	Councils, DPE	Medium Term
10.6	Manage Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land and other important agricultural land as locations for agricultural activities and complementary uses.	Strategy	Council	DISRD	Ongoing
11	Direction 11: Manage the ongoing use of natural resources				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
11.1	Manage the ongoing use of mineral resources and provide access to up-to-date information about these resources through the Department of Industry's Common Ground website and its Geoscientific Data Warehouse.	Strategy	DISRD	DPE	Ongoing

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11.2	Work with relevant stakeholders including councils, communities and industry, to prepare land use plans that respond to the lifecycle of resource activity for active and emerging mining areas.	Strategy	DISRD	Councils, DPE	Ongoing
11.3	Implement the cumulative impact assessment methodology when planning for important agricultural land and water resources.	Strategy	DPE	OEH, DISRD	Ongoing
11.4	Review the Synoptic Plan: Integrated Landscapes for Coal Mine Rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley (1999) in conjunction with the development of the Upper Hunter Strategic Biodiversity Assessment to ensure best-practice rehabilitation and visual impact management for closed mines.	Initiative	DPC	DPE, OEH, EPA, DISRD, Minerals Council, Community	Short term
12	Direction 12: Diversify and grow the energy sector				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility¹	Partner²	Timing
12.1	Diversify and grow the energy sector by working with stakeholders, including councils, communities and industry, to identify and support opportunities for smaller-scale renewable energy initiatives such as those using bioenergy or waste coalmine methane.	Strategy	DoI - DRE	Councils, DPE, OEH	Ongoing
12.2	Enable new opportunities for renewable energy industries by reviewing local planning controls.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Medium term
12.3	Promote new opportunities arising from the closure of coal-fired power stations that enable long term sustainable economic and employment growth in the region.	Initiative	DISRD and DPE		Long term
13	Direction 13: Plan for greater land use compatibility				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility¹	Partner²	Timing
13.1	Identify and protect important agricultural land, including intensive agriculture clusters, in local plans to avoid land use conflicts, particularly associated with residential expansion.	Initiative	DISRD, Councils	DPE	Short term
13.2	Limit urban and rural housing encroachment into identified agricultural and extractive resource areas, industrial areas, and transport infrastructure when preparing local strategies.	Strategy	Councils	DISRD	Ongoing

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13.3	Amend planning controls to deliver greater certainty of land use.	Initiative	Councils	DPE	Short term
13.4	Provide non-statutory guidance on the types of land uses that would be considered most appropriate, suitable or sympathetic with existing land uses in the Upper Hunter and other areas where land use conflicts occur.	Initiative	DPE	DISRD, Councils	Long term
14	Direction 14: Protect and connect natural areas				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
14.1	Identify terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity values and protect areas of high environmental value to sustain the lifestyle, economic success and environmental health of the region.	Strategy	OEH, Councils	DPE, DISRD	Ongoing
14.2	Identify and strengthen biodiversity corridors as places for priority biodiversity offsets.	Strategy	OEH, Councils	DPE	Ongoing
14.3	Improve the quality of, and access to, information relating to high environmental values.	Strategy	OEH, Councils	DPE, DISRD	Ongoing
14.4	Protect biodiversity by maintaining and, where possible, enhancing existing protection of high environmental value areas; implementing appropriate measures to conserve validated high environmental value areas; developing local strategies to avoid and minimise the impacts of development on areas of high environmental value and biodiversity corridors; and identifying offsets or other mitigation measures for unavoidable impacts.	Strategy	OEH, Councils	DPE, DISRD	Ongoing
14.5	Secure the long term protection of regionally significant biodiversity corridors.	Initiative	OEH	DPE	Immediate
15	Direction 15: Sustain water quality and security				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
15.1	Protect water catchments to sustain high quality and dependable water supplies across the region.	Strategy	Councils	HWC, DISRD MidCoastWater, DPE	Ongoing
15.2	Effectively manage surface and groundwater use in agricultural areas to support ecosystem function, food production, and to cater for the increasing demand of urban communities and industry.	Strategy	DISRD	LLS	Ongoing

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15.3	Plan for the security of the region's town water supply.	Strategy	HWC, MidCoast Water, Councils	DISRD	Ongoing
15.4	Implement catchment-based plans for the ongoing sustainable management and health of estuaries.	Initiative	LLS	HWC, MidCoast Water, Councils, DISRD	Short term
15.5	Apply the neutral or beneficial water quality objectives to land use planning in surface and groundwater drinking water catchment areas to minimise the effects of development on waterways, including watercourses, wetlands, groundwater dependent ecosystems, riparian lands, estuaries, lakes, beaches and marine waters.	Strategy	Councils	HWC, MidCoast Water, Councils, DISRD	Ongoing
15.6	Reduce the risk of introduction or spread of aquatic pests and diseases from new development that may affect fisheries and aquaculture industry practices.	Strategy	Councils	LLS, DISRD	Ongoing
15.7	Incorporate water-sensitive design into development that is likely to have an adverse impact on coastal water catchments, water quality and flows.	Strategy	Councils	DPE, DIRSD	Ongoing
16	Direction 16: Increase resilience to hazards and climate change				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility¹	Partner²	Timing
16.1	Manage the risks of climate change and improve the region's resilience to flooding, sea level rise, bushfire, mine subsidence and land contamination.	Strategy	Councils	EPA, OEH, RFS, DPE, MSB	Ongoing
16.2	Review and consistently update floodplain risk and coastal zone management plans, particularly where urban growth is being investigated.	Strategy	Councils, OEH	DPE, DISRD	Ongoing
16.3	Incorporate new knowledge on regional climate projections and related cumulative impacts in local plans for new urban development.	Strategy	Council, OEH, DISRD	DPE	Ongoing
16.4	Review and update the Newcastle Mines Grouting Fund and investigate its relevance to other areas.	Initiative	MSB	Councils	Short term

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17	Direction 17: Create healthy built environments through good design				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
17.1	<i>Develop best-practice guidelines for planning, designing and developing healthy built environments.</i>	<i>Initiative</i>	DPE	Councils, TfNSW	Medium Term
17.2	<i>Enhance access to fresh food by promoting initiatives that increase urban food production and access to produce from local farmers.</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
17.3	<i>Enhance the quality of neighbourhoods by integrating recreational walking and cycling networks into the design of new communities to encourage physical activity.</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	Councils	TfNSW	Ongoing
18	Direction 18: Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open space				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
18.1	<i>Facilitate more recreational walking and cycling paths including planning for the Richmond Vale Rail Trail and expanded inter-regional and intra-regional walking and cycling links, including the NSW Coastal Cycleway.</i>	<i>Initiative</i>	Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Short term
18.2	<i>Deliver connected biodiversity-rich corridors and open space areas for community enjoyment.</i>	<i>Initiative</i>	OEH, Councils	DPE	Short term
18.3	<i>Enhance public access to natural areas, including coastal and lake foreshores.</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Ongoing
18.4	<i>Assist councils to develop open space and recreation strategies that identify a range of accessible open space and recreation opportunities; integrate open space, active transport and recreation networks; and improve public foreshore access.</i>	<i>Initiative</i>	Councils	DPE, OEH, TfNSW	Short term
18.5	<i>Implement actions and invest in boating infrastructure priorities identified in regional boating plans to improve boating safety, boat storage and waterway access.</i>	<i>Initiative</i>	TfNSW		Short term

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19	Direction 19: Identify and protect the region's heritage				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
19.1	Consult with the local Aboriginal communities to identify and protect heritage values to minimise the impact of urban growth and development, and to recognise their contribution to the character and landscape of the region.	Strategy	Councils, OEH	DPE	Ongoing
19.2	Assist the preparation of appropriate heritage studies to inform the development of strategic plans, including regional Aboriginal cultural heritage studies.	Strategy	Councils, OEH	DPE	Ongoing
20	Direction 20: Revitalise existing communities				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
20.1	Accelerate urban revitalisation by directing social infrastructure where there is growth.	Strategy	Councils	Infrastructure providers	Ongoing
20.2	Undertake planning and place-making for main streets and centres.	Initiative	Councils	DPE	Short term
20.3	Enhance the amenity and attractiveness of existing places.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
21	Direction 21: Create a compact settlement				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
21.1	Promote development that respects the landscape attributes and the character of the metropolitan area, towns and villages.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
21.2	Focus development to create compact settlements in locations with established services and infrastructure, including the Maitland Corridor growth area; Newcastle – Lake Macquarie Western Corridor growth area; the emerging growth area around Cooranbong, Morrisset and Wyee; and in existing towns and villages, and sites identified in an endorsed regional or local strategy.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing

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21.3	Identify opportunities for urban redevelopment or renewal in urban locations with access to public transport and services within the Greater Newcastle metropolitan area, and where there may no longer be a need for employment land.	Initiative	Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Short Term
21.4	Create a well-planned, functional and compact settlement pattern that responds to settlement planning principles and does not encroach on sensitive land uses, including land subject to hazards, on drinking water catchments or on areas with high environmental values.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
21.5	Promote small-scale renewal in existing urban areas, in consultation with the community and industry to ensure that this occurs in the right locations.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
21.6	Provide greater housing choice by delivering diverse housing, lot types and sizes, including small-lot housing in infill and greenfield housing locations.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
21.7	Promote new housing opportunities in urban areas to maximise the use of existing infrastructure	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Immediate
22	Direction 22: Promote housing diversity				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility¹	Partner²	Timing
22.1	Respond to the demand for housing and services for weekend visitors, students, seasonal workers, the ageing community and resource industry personnel.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Short term
22.2	Encourage housing diversity including studio and one and two-bedroom dwellings, to match forecast changes in household sizes.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
22.3	Develop local housing strategies to respond to housing needs, including social and affordable housing, and support initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing.	Initiative	Councils	DPE, DFACS	Short term
22.4	Develop Settlement Planning Principles and a local planning toolkit to assist councils in implementing the Plan.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Immediate
22.5	Include guidance in local land use strategies for expanding rural villages and rural-residential development so that future rural residential development will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not impact on strategic or important agricultural land, energy, mineral or extractive resource viability or biodiversity values; • not impact on drinking water catchments; 	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not result in greater natural hazard risk; • occur on land that is unlikely to be needed for urban development; • contribute to the conservation of important biodiversity values or the establishment of important corridor linkages; and • facilitate expansion of existing and new tourism development activities in agricultural or resource lands and related industries across the region. 				
23	Direction 23: Grow centres and renewal corridors				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
23.1	Concentrate growth in strategic centres, local centres and urban renewal corridors to support economic and population growth and a mix of uses.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
23.2	Develop precinct plans for centres to take an integrated approach to transport, open space, urban form and liveable neighbourhoods, and investigate the capacity of centres to accommodate additional housing and diversity, without compromising employment growth.	Initiative	DPE, Councils	DPE, TfNSW	Short term
23.3	Consider improvements to the public transport network when planning new renewal corridors and precincts.	Strategy	Councils, TfNSW	DPE	Ongoing
23.4	Investigate locations for new and expanded centres, including within the Newcastle – Lake Macquarie Western Corridor and Maitland Corridor growth areas, and in the established urban areas that are projected to have high demand for housing growth is projected.	Initiative	Councils	DPE	Short term
23.5	Focus commercial and retail development within existing centres and transport hubs and ensure that locations for new centres are integrated with existing or planned residential development; do not undermine existing centres; encompass high quality urban design; and consider transport and access requirements.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing

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24	Direction 24: Protect the economic functions of employment land				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
24.1	Locate new employment land so that it does not conflict with surrounding residential uses.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
24.2	Protect the economic functions of employment land by not permitting non-industrial uses unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities for urban renewal arise through the relocation of industry and in locations well serviced by public transport; and contaminated land can be remediated. 	Strategy	Council	DPE	Ongoing
24.3	Provide for mixed use opportunities and themed employment precincts in local plans.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
25	Direction 25: Monitor housing and employment supply and demand				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
25.1	Establish and implement an Urban Development Program to develop data on existing zoned land supply and its servicing status, monitor dwelling production and take-up rates, and coordinate the staged release and rezoning of land.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Immediate
25.2	Establish and implement an Employment Lands Development Program to develop data on existing and future planned stocks of employment land.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Immediate
25.3	Sequence new greenfield urban development that makes efficient use of infrastructure networks and capacity.	Strategy	Councils	DPE	Ongoing
25.4	Maintain an adequate supply of employment land that is appropriately serviced and to respond to changing industry demands for land use, location and floor space.	Strategy	DPE	Infrastructure Providers	Ongoing

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26	Direction 26: Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
26.1	Align land use and infrastructure planning to maximise the use and capacity of existing infrastructure and the efficiency of new infrastructure.	Strategy	DPE, Council	Infrastructure providers	Ongoing
26.2	Enable the delivery of health facilities, education, emergency services, energy production and supply, water and waste water, waste disposal areas, cemeteries and crematoria, in partnership with the infrastructure providers.	Strategy	Relevant agencies, Councils	DPE	Ongoing
26.3	Protect existing and planned major infrastructure corridors and sites, including inter-regional transport routes like the M1 Pacific Motorway and the railway, port and airport, to support their intended function.	Strategy	DPE	Councils, TfNSW	Ongoing
26.4	Coordinate the delivery of infrastructure to support the timely and efficient release of land for development, including working with councils and service providers on inter-regional infrastructure and service delivery issues between growing areas.	Strategy	DPE	Councils	Ongoing
26.5	Ensure growth is serviced by enabling and supporting infrastructure.	Strategy	DPE	Councils, Infrastructure providers	Ongoing
26.6	Review and finalise the Hunter Special Infrastructure Contributions Plan.	Initiative	DPE	Councils, Infrastructure providers	Immediate
27	Direction 27: Strengthen the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities				
	Action	Initiative or Strategy	Governance		
			Responsibility ¹	Partner ²	Timing
27.1	Work with the Purfleet–Taree, Forster, Karuah, Worimi, Mindaribba, Awabakal, Bahtabah, Biraban and Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Councils to identify priority sites that can create a pipeline of potential Initiatives.	Initiative	DPE	Councils	Short term - medium term
27.2	Identify landholdings and map the level of constraint at a strategic scale for each site to develop options for the potential commercial use of the land.	Initiative	DPE, LALCs	Councils	Short term - medium term

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