

**Your job.
Your home.
Your lifestyle.
Your future
Lower Hunter**

**Have
your say**

The Lower Hunter over the next 20 years:
A Discussion Paper



**Planning &
Infrastructure**



You can play an important role in shaping how the Lower Hunter grows over the next 20 years.

We want to know what you want for:



housing



jobs



transport



**community
infrastructure**



the environment

We are consulting with local communities on a new strategy for the Lower Hunter. This will help to align new housing and jobs with the new Hunter Transport Plan and Hunter Strategic Infrastructure Plan. The Lower Hunter's population is likely to grow from around 540,000 to between 650,000 and 670,000 people over the next 20 years.

We need to support this growth in a sustainable way, and increase the number of homes and jobs available in the Lower Hunter.

You can have your say, and hear what others have to say at:

planning.nsw.gov.au/lowerhunter

- join our online discussion forums
- enter our photography competition
- attend one of our community events
- answer our Hunter community questionnaire

You can also:

Email: lowerhunter@planning.nsw.gov.au

Write to us: PO Box 1226 Newcastle, NSW 2300

Twitter: [#planlowerhunter](https://twitter.com/planlowerhunter)

Find out more at planning.nsw.gov.au/lowerhunter

You can also download a full copy of The Lower Hunter over the next 20 years: A Discussion Paper.

Submissions close 3 May 2013.

**We want
to hear
your ideas
on ways
to improve
the Lower
Hunter.**

Housing



**By 2031, we'll need up
to 75,000 new homes.**

75,000

Giving people a choice of housing that is affordable, of the right type and size, and in the right places can have a big impact on the wellbeing of communities.

Ensuring that enough homes are being built will help to reduce the cost of housing in the Lower Hunter.

Since 2006, the majority of homes have been built in existing urban areas. Building more homes in new areas of the Lower Hunter will help to ensure there is an adequate supply and choice of housing across the region.

**Is housing affordability an issue
for you or members of your
family?**

Where do we need more housing?

**What types of housing do
we need?**

Have your say

Jobs



Jobs in the Lower Hunter have grown at a rate of 3% in the past 10 years, compared with 2% across NSW.

The Lower Hunter's strong economy is underpinned by its coal and natural water resources, productive agricultural sector, manufacturing sector, and innovative business culture.

As well as continuing to support these sectors, it's important to ensure there is a wider range of job and business opportunities.

Areas that have been identified for growth include:

- the airport and port-related industries
- tourism expansion to the cruise ship and resort sectors
- clean energy and low-carbon technology and research
- manufacturing of transport infrastructure (rail, buses and ferries)
- expansion of the University of Newcastle in the city and potentially other regional locations

What do you think about these areas for growth?

What are the key issues that workers and businesses face in the Lower Hunter?

How can we better support workers and businesses across the region?

Have your say

Transport

We want public transport to provide 20% of all commuter trips to and from the Newcastle CBD.



More than a million people live in the Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Upper Hunter and lower Mid North Coast.

We need to plan for efficient transport connections in, out and around the Lower Hunter.

We also need to ensure that transport helps to support housing and employment opportunities in the major centres, and increase the number of trips made by public transport.

Major planned projects, which will help to boost the economy, include:

- \$1.7 billion Hunter Expressway
- \$1 billion upgrade of the rail line between Sydney and the Lower Hunter
- improvements to the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor between Hexham and Strathfield
- \$11.2 billion expansion of the Port of Newcastle and the coal chain that links it to the Upper Hunter, which will double the Port's capacity

What do you think should be the major transport priorities, and why?

How can we encourage people to use public transport?

Have your say

Community infrastructure



The Lower Hunter's population is changing. The proportion of people aged 65 and over is likely to increase from 16% to 24%. This will have an impact on the types of homes we live in and the services we use.

Social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, shops and cultural, recreational and sporting facilities help to ensure residents have the services they need.

This can help to promote encourage community involvement, give people access to a better lifestyle, and improve social inclusion.

How important is it for you to live close to shops, cafes, schools, hospitals and other services?

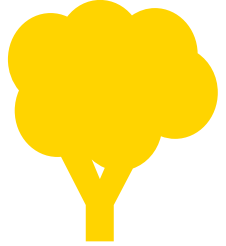
What can we do to help increase access to services in your area?

What are your other ideas for improving your community?

Have your say

Environment

Growth in the Lower Hunter region has the potential to affect the quality of water, air and soil, biodiversity, and food production.



We also need to plan for natural hazards, such as bushfires, heatwaves, severe storms, coastal erosion and sea level rise.

Encouraging sustainable building design, and a climate change adaptation strategy are just some of the ways we can help to support the environment. The Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan is also helping to direct and drive conservation efforts in the region.

How can we better protect the environment?

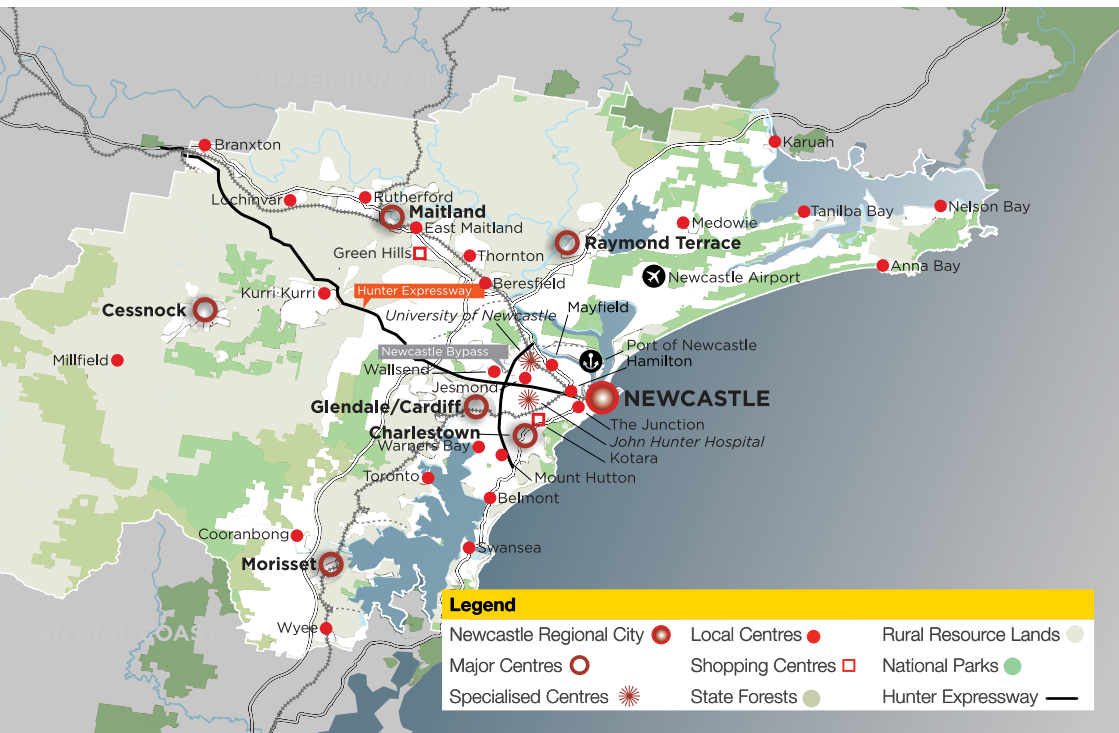
How can we improve energy and water efficiency?

Should we identify and protect certain areas of rural land for their agriculture, heritage or cultural importance?

How should we deal with the impacts of resource extraction and mining?

Have your say

The Lower Hunter



The Lower Hunter region includes the five local government areas of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland and Cessnock.

We are working in partnership with the public, community groups, councils, businesses and industry to develop a new strategy for the region.

We want to hear your ideas on ways to improve the Lower Hunter.

Your feedback will be used to help develop the draft strategy. You will also have your chance to comment on this draft when it is released later in 2013.

Don't miss the chance to have your say at:
planning.nsw.gov.au/lowerhunter