

Attachment B: Lower Hunter Regional Sustainability Plan – Requirements

As part of this Agreement the State will address regional sustainability planning in their review of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy and the Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan; key elements include;

- Infrastructure – utilities, transport, open space and other social services or amenities are provided in a timely and efficient way.
- Access – accessible and sustainable transport options for efficient and sustainable travel between homes, jobs, services and recreation are existing or to be provided.
- Housing – provide a diverse range of housing to meet the needs of a growing and changing regional population.
- Water – address water use efficiency, long term water supply planning and water recovery for the environment.
- Employment – plan for and facilitate the growth of employment to support the regional economy.
- Environment and heritage – seek to protect and enhance cultural and indigenous heritage, and the environmental values of soil, water quality and biodiversity, including through effective weed and pest animal control, and land conservation measures.
- MNES - protect MNES from impacts of proposed development activities and/or mitigate/offset those impacts.
- Climate Change - address the anticipated impacts of climate change on people, economic activity and the natural environment through adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Land use - seek to avoid land use conflicts with adjacent existing or future land use. Avoid development in inappropriate areas e.g floodplains, highly erodible land etc.

Background studies

It is anticipated that background studies, surveys of the presence and condition of MNES and gap analysis will be required to inform development of the RSP. Development of the RSP will subsequently inform development of the Program and Strategic Assessment Report.

Study requirements will be identified collaboratively by the State, the Department and Lower Hunter Councils during an analysis of key information gaps in the initial stages of the RSP development.

The Department will consider the gap analysis and other funding priorities in deciding, on a case-by-case basis, which studies it may undertake (or contract outside expertise to undertake) in support of development and implementation of the Lower Hunter RSP.