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DRAFT HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN

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MIDCOAST WATER SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN

MidCoast Water welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Hunter Regional Plan, acknowledging that the Hunter Regional Plan will consolidate the land use and infrastructure strategic planning considerations for 11 local government areas, including parts of the previous Mid North Coast Regional Strategy 2006.

MidCoast Water is responsible for water and sewerage services in the Great Lakes Council and Gloucester Shire Council, (population 40,000) which are in the Hunter region, as well as Greater Taree City Council, (population 40,000) in the North Coast region. The Manning District Water Supply Scheme is MidCoast Water's largest scheme and provides water for residents in both the Hunter and North Coast regions from Harrington in the north to Pacific Palms in the south. Water is sourced from the Manning River and treated at the Bootawa Water Treatment Plant, which is located in the Greater Taree LGA. The Manning catchment extends up from Greater Taree into Gloucester Shire, and then upward into the Upper Hunter and Tamworth Regional Council local government areas. The recent proposal for Coal Seam Gas development in Gloucester has brought catchment management into sharper focus for the people of the Manning and Great Lakes.

The NSW Government's vision of the Hunter, in particular planning for "sustainable and healthy environments" aligns with MidCoast Water's mission "to manage the provision of sustainable water related services to meet our community's needs". MidCoast Water supports regional growth, but also needs to ensure existing communities ultimately receive we have several unserviced small villages, at North Arm Cove, Pindimar, Bundabah, Coomba Park, Stroud Road, Nerong and Allworth some of which are on or near sensitive waterways. Infrastructure NSW and DPI Water have requested MidCoast Water submit proposals for these projects for state government funding assistance.

MidCoast Water has recently reviewed and adopted its long term Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, Our Water Our Future, in line with the DPI Water requirements. Our Water Our Future was developed in collaboration with our community, regulators and local councils, and sets out the direction for sustainable management of water and sewer services in our area over the next 30 years. MidCoast Water would like to see the goals of Our Water Our Future aligned with Hunter Region plans, in particular with regard to water security and the Draft Hunter Regional Plan Direction 3.2 Secure the health of water resources and coastal landscapes.

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Key Infrastructure

Key infrastructure to be delivered this year includes:

Project	Estimated cost	Estimated completion date
Upgrade of the Gloucester Water Treatment Plant	\$895,000	November 2016
Gloucester Recycled Water Scheme - which will see recycled water used for farm irrigation	\$1,475,000	June 2016
Commissioning of recycled water at Myall Park as part of the Hawks Nest Recycled Water Scheme	\$40,000	April 2016

Key infrastructure to be developed by MidCoast Water in the Hunter region over the coming years includes:

Project	Estimated cost	Estimated completion date
Nabiac Inland Dune Aquifer Water Supply System – this will provide an additional drinking water source for the Manning Supply Scheme and will increase the security of supply for the scheme.	\$34,600,000	Late 2018
Pacific Palms Sewage Treatment Plant Stage 1 – this will see wet weather storage constructed at the site for the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant	\$3,000,000	Early 2018
Replacement of the Gloucester Sewage Treatment Plant	\$8,000,000	2020
Provision of sewerage services to seven unserved villages; North Arm Cove, Pindimar, Bundabah, Coomba Park, Stroud Road, Nerong and Allworth	\$57,500,000	Dependent upon state government funding

Our key infrastructure plans align with NSW 2021 goals and objectives including to “Invest in critical infrastructure” (Goal 19), “Secure potable water supplies” (Goal 21), and “Protect our natural environment” (Goal 22).

Consultation and Collaboration

As a water utility and a county council, MidCoast Water would like to have representation in the group of councils seated on the coordinating and monitoring committee, to ensure that planning for investment in infrastructure aligns with the goals and aspirations of the broader Hunter Region and the NSW Government priorities and budgets. Catchment management is a priority for MidCoast Water and we would like to ensure that we are consulted on any upstream activity that might increase risks in our drinking water catchments. Please contact Tracey Hamer, Section Leader Planning on 6591 7552 or Daniel Brauer, Group Manager Planning and Development on 6591 7501.

Yours faithfully,



Tracey Hamer,
For and on behalf of Daniel Brauer
Group Manager Planning and Development

