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## Online Submission

Mar 24 (21 days ago)

To:

I congratulate the Department on finishing the two draft plans.

My main feedback is:

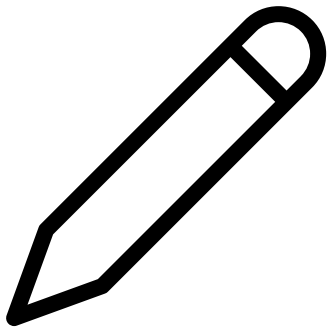
- I would request that you please consider using the name Greater Newcastle or Metropolitan Newcastle instead of Hunter City. I think the 'Hunter' name is more regional than metropolitan in effect and to locals is more of a physical-geographical identifier than a cultural one. To people from outside of the Hunter Valley, the term Hunter is more of an identifier for the wine, mining and agricultural region than for the contiguous urban area that makes up Newcastle. The Hunter City term would need a lot of buy-in from the community to take off, and I think Metro Newcastle is a better term that quickly identifies the part of the region that consists of the conurbation of dozens of former towns and has some kind of cultural and political dominance as well as the highest concentration of human outputs. Metro-polis = "mother-city"

-I love the idea of a steering committee to set actions and review the progress of existing actions.

- What can be concluded is that the same barriers which caused issues with the implementation of previous strategies are still in place. This is evident when making comparisons with global best-practice strategic plans and is further established through the governance problems that persist at the State Govt level, somewhat preventing strategic planners from doing what they are educated and trained to do. The positive note is that this government's attempts to link infrastructure and strategic planning have worked relatively well. The strategic thinking involved in these new Regional Plans as well as the broader framework of plans released out of what began as the White Paper Planning Reforms has proven successful in positioning each planning goal more clearly amongst overarching policy. This has given planners the perception that even though large problems with governance and political interference with these long term plans still persist, these regional plans are in themselves more strategically aligned with other policy. They also include better quality actions for implementation than previous plans have managed to do.

-It should be stated more clearly that the growth figures are projections, not targets.

-the State Government is certainly well on its way to improving its strategic planning in the area of infrastructure. Good infrastructure planning forms the base for good strategic planning outcomes in other areas, including environmental sustainability, economic productivity and social outcomes, however, more context needs to be given to these other areas. WHY do we plan? My understanding is that is is for our city and region to get above the rest, for people to lead meaningful, happy, prosperous lives and to enable the continuation of human and non-human life on earth. Economy in isolation is pretty boring stuff. Think lifestyle, image, fun, health, ultimate goals, which are based on economic, environmental and social factors in equal proportions.



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