

Innovation

Collaboration

Networking

27/02/ 2018

To the Department of Planning and Environment

Re: Draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

HunterNet has concerns over a statement made in the draft Plan in respect of the Carrington Precinct of the Port of Newcastle. Port Waratah Coal Services owns and operates the Kooragang and Carrington terminals in the Port of Newcastle. HunterNet and our members consider the Two Ports (Air & Seaport) as the two most significant infrastructure zones in our region. It's with this thought in mind that our concern turns to the future and viability of our members within the coal supply chain.

We feel the statement on page 84 provides commentary contrary to the Port of Newcastle activities and State Government Future planning:

"The Port of Newcastle, working with Newcastle City Council and NSW Department of Planning and Environment will investigate the potential to relocate coal export facilities and bulk fuel storages away from residential areas and explore options to renew the Carrington Precinct for alternative uses (including tourism)."

The State Government plan states:

"Enhance connections to the Asia Pacific through global gateways ... The Port of Newcastle will continue to play an important role in the regional economy through the international export of goods (including coal and grains) from the Hunter and regional NSW. It is the largest coal exporting port in the world."

The Port of Newcastle in particular is a significant player in the Coal Supply Chain both locally and internationally. This supply Chain is integral to our members and to the direct viability of their businesses. NSW has the largest cluster of Mining Equipment & Technology Services (METS) in Australia and any disruption to the chain affects businesses in our region and has flow on affects globally.

HunterNet is widely recognised within Australian manufacturing and academia as the most successful industry 'cluster' of its type nationally. Incorporated in 1992, HunterNet is a network of small and medium-sized manufacturing, engineering and consulting companies located in the Hunter and Central Coast Regions of NSW. Formed as a non-trading, not for profit Co-Operative, it engages over 200 companies, active in national and international markets in defence, power generation, mineral processing, transportation and major resource projects. Through its membership, HunterNet represents over 70,000 employees. A significant amount of those members are engaged in the METS sector.

Our vision for the region is one of growth and prosperity. HunterNet has taken considerable steps over a number of years to promote export and expose our members to opportunities in the ASEAN region to grow their businesses. This has been on the back of Asia's increasing demands on coal and

our region being seen as experts in this supply chain. A major contributor to growing this expertise is PWCS who spent almost \$80 million dollars last year alone in the Hunter & Central Coast regions. This local spend contributed to propping up a substantial number of Small to medium Enterprises (SME's) who are the backbone of local employment. SME's are also the drivers of innovation and through PWCS, the University of Newcastle and Industry combined they have contributed to minimizing environmental impacts within the region. The innovations born out of SME's have transcended other industry sectors to provide a conducive environment for Industry and residential to co-habitat. This is of particular consequence to the Carrington Terminal which has been living with the residences for many years.

We respect the views of all and we advocate for what we see as in the best interest of the community and our region. We are supportive in general with the Draft plan and have, as part of HunterNet's DNA been supporters of the invigoration of our region for our 25 years of existence. Our concerns relate to the statement on page 84 and the insecurity this creates for the supply chain and our members own strategic planning's.

As a metaphor for strength, security and growth, it is incumbent of our region to ensure the Carrington terminal remains as a constant on our industrial landscape for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wayne H Diemar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wayne H Diemar
Senior Project Director