



HPS Outlook

Hunter Region Part 1

JUNE 2021



HEALTH PROJECT SERVICES

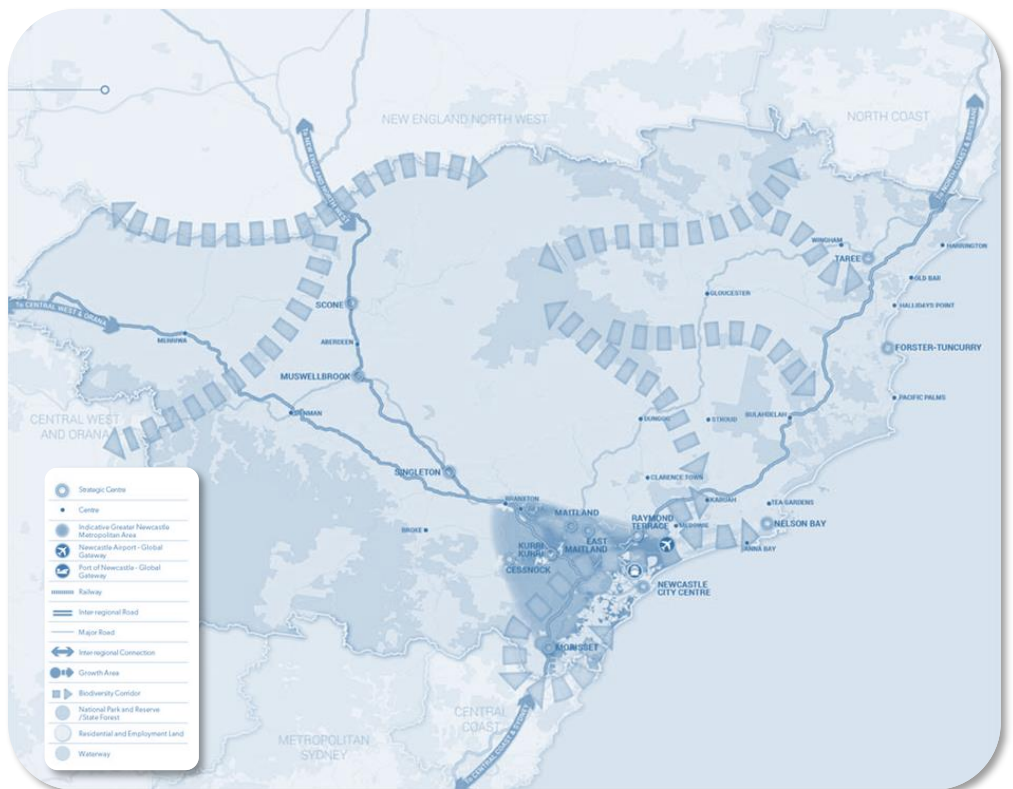
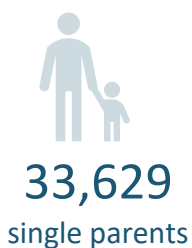
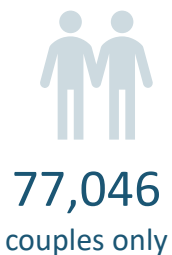
Research • Analysis • Strategy • Delivery

Hunter Region Part 1

Across Australia, the Hunter region is one of the largest regional economies, and the Hunter Regional Plan (HRP) 2036 outlines how growth will be supported and encouraged to realise goals by 2036.

The region includes the Local Government Areas (LGA's) of Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, MidCoast, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton and Upper Hunter.

Demographic Snapshot



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 1: Hunter 2036

Source: ABS Census 2016



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The Hunter Regional Plan 2036 was established to strategically guide growth and development over the next two decades. The Plan states regionally focused goals include:

1. A leading regional economy in Australia;
2. A biodiversity-rich natural environment;
3. Thriving communities; and
4. Greater housing choice and jobs.

The region comprises three regions Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter and Mid-Coast, each are comprised of the LGA's summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Hunter Region LGA's summary

Region	LGA's
Lower Hunter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cessnock LGA • Lake Macquarie LGA • Maitland LGA • Port Stephens LGA • Newcastle LGA
Upper Hunter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muswellbrook LGA • Singleton LGA • Upper Hunter Shire LGA
MidCoast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MidCoast LGA • Dungog LGA



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 2: Hunter region context map



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The Greater Newcastle will be the major centre, Newcastle the city for the region. The Plan identifies infrastructure investment as a major catalyst for the region and will play a key role for freight, agribusiness, tourism and health and education services.

The Hunter Regional Plan will work in collaboration with the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan which is based on the following four key fundamentals:

- Connect strategic centres in Greater Newcastle;
- Develop a national Centre of Excellence for Health and Education;
- Expand the capacity of Global Gateways – Newcastle port and airport; and
- Establish governance.

Goal 1 – The leading regional economy in Australia

The Hunter is one of the largest regional economies and has seen strong growth in health care, social assistance, accommodation, food and professional services. The region provides ~322,000 jobs, with an additional 62,000 jobs forecast by 2036.

The plan has 13 directions to help achieve Goal 1 which are stated as:

Direction 1	Grow Greater Newcastle as Australia's next metropolitan city
Direction 2	Enhance connections to the Asia-Pacific through global gateways
Direction 3	Revitalise Newcastle City Centre
Direction 4	Enhance inter-regional linkages to support economic growth
Direction 5	Transform the productivity of the Upper Hunter
Direction 6	Grow the economy of Mid-coast and Port Stephens
Direction 7	Develop advanced manufacturing, defence and aerospace hubs
Direction 8	Promote innovative small business and growth in service sectors
Direction 9	Grow tourism in the region
Direction 10	Protect and enhance agricultural productivity
Direction 11	Manage the ongoing use of natural resources
Direction 12	Diversify and grow the energy sector
Direction 13	Plan for greater land use compatibility

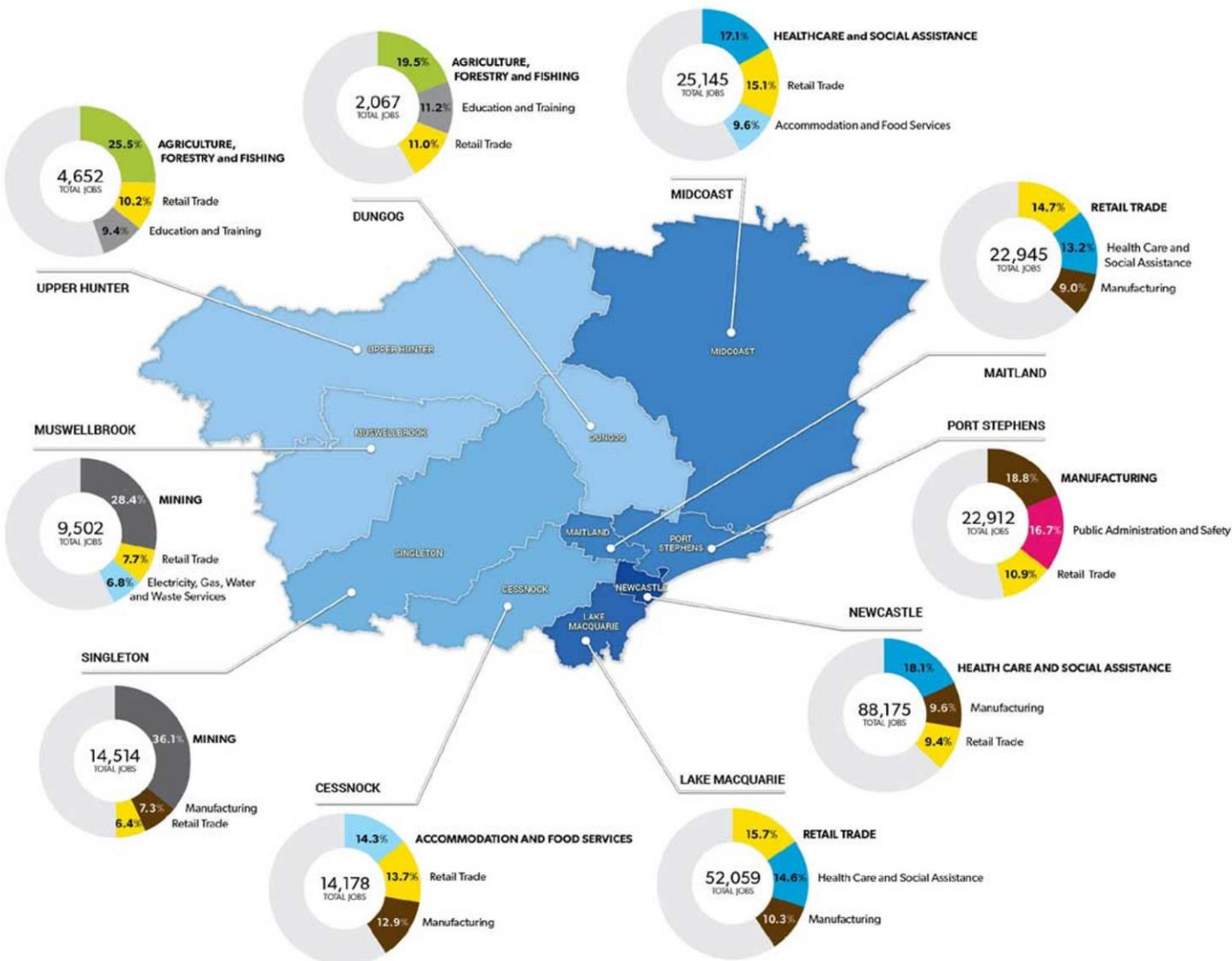


Across the Hunter, health and education is expected to account for one in five jobs or ~73,000 jobs by 2036. The Plan will focus on maximizing existing health infrastructure, with health precincts to be concentrated near key hospitals throughout the region.

The majority of jobs are located in Newcastle with over 88,000 jobs, followed by Lake Macquarie LGA (52,059 jobs) and MidCoast LGA (25,145 jobs).

One in five jobs will be in health and education sectors by 2036.

An additional 61,500 jobs will be created during this timeframe.



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 3: Main employment sectors for each LGA map



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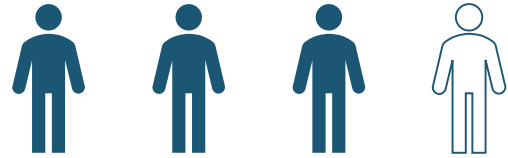
Goal 2 – A biodiversity-rich environment

Goal 2 focuses on conserving the natural environment which will also benefit the community, increase population and attract tourists to the region. There are three directions dedicated to achieve this goal:

Direction 14	Protect and connect natural areas
Direction 15	Sustain water quality and security
Direction 16	Increase resilience to hazards and climate change

Goal 3 - Thriving communities

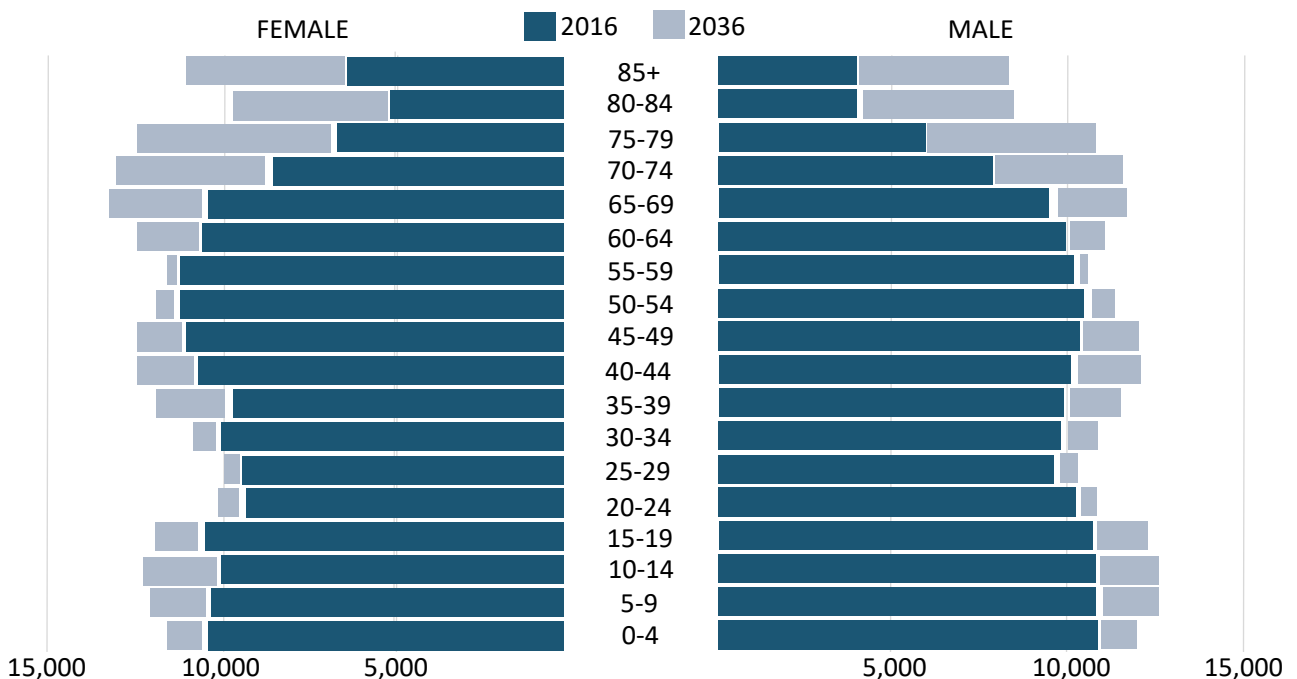
Communities play an important part in the Hunter region and the Plan understands a need to ensure sufficient social infrastructure is provided to support residents. By 2036, the State Government forecasts the total population to rise to over 860,000 people.



One in four people will be aged 65 years and over by 2036.

Four key directions have been identified to reach this goal:

Direction 17	Create healthy built environments
Direction 18	Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces
Direction 19	Identify and protect the region's heritage
Direction 20	Revitalise existing communities



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 4: 2016-2036 Population pyramid



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Goal 4 – Greater housing choice and jobs

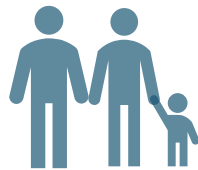
With population expected to grow over 860,000 people, the State Government anticipate the region will need an additional 70,000 dwellings.

Supply of new housing will concentrate on maximizing existing centres, with housing to be located near major infrastructure, services and employment. Settlements maps for greater Newcastle and Nelson Bay, Taree to Forster-Tuncurry, Singleton to Scone and Inner Newcastle are shown.



70,000
new dwellings

Average household size to decline to 2.28 persons.



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 5: Greater Newcastle settlement pattern



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 6: Taree to Forster-Tuncurry settlement pattern



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 7: Scone to Singleton settlement pattern



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Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 8: Inner Newcastle map

Over the next two decades as the population grows and the demographic profile changes, the plan identifies a need for greater housing diversity. This will accommodate family and smaller household sizes and help affordability across the region. By 2036, the plan anticipates almost 70,000 people aged over 65 years will reside in the Hunter, this will place upward pressure on services including healthcare.



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 9: Northern Lake Macquarie map

To support Goal 4, the plan has identified the following directions:

Direction 21	Create a compact settlement
Direction 22	Promote housing diversity
Direction 23	Grow centres and renewal corridors
Direction 24	Protect the economic functions of employment land

Direction 25	Monitor housing and employment supply and demand
Direction 26	Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities
Direction 27	Strengthen the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities

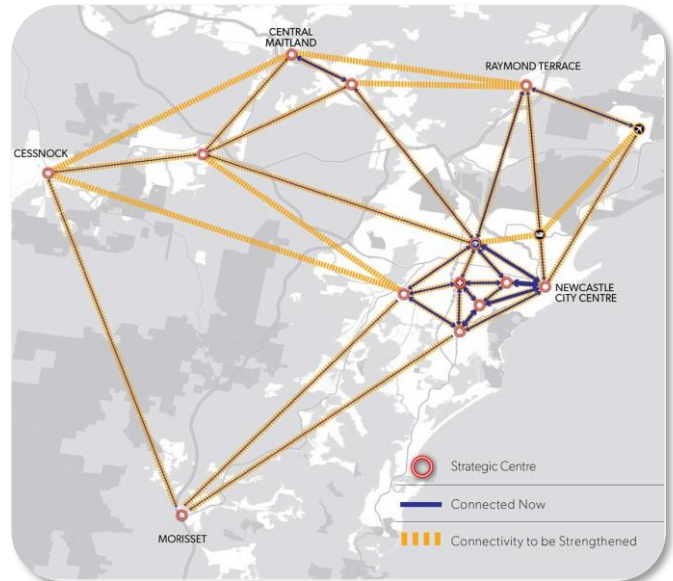


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During this timeframe, Strategic Centres and urban renewal corridors will continue to support population and economic growth through the Hunter. Strategic Centres across the Hunter comprise the following:

Region	Strategic Centre
Upper Hunter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muswellbrook • Scone • Singleton
MidCoast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forster-Tuncurry • Taree
Lower Hunter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadmeadow Sport and Recreation Precinct (emerging) • Central Maitland • Callaghan Precinct • Cessnock • Charlestown • East Maitland • Cardiff-Glendale (Emerging) • John Hunter Hospital • Kotara • Kurri Kurri • Morisset • Newcastle City Centre • Nelson Bay • Raymond Terrace
Global Gateways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle Airport • Port of Newcastle

Strategic Centres are considered to form a network, with each centre providing a unique function within the Hunter as shown in **Figure 10**.



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Figure 10: Greater Newcastle Strategic Centre Connectivity map

Our next newsletter will examine population, dwelling and employment projections for each LGA within the Hunter region.

If you would like more information about this newsletter or need to discuss your health project, please contact:

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