

## Local Government in the Hunter welcomes a new era in regional collaboration

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The Chairperson of the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils, Councillor Bob Pynsent, today welcomed the official proclamation of Joint Organisations across NSW.

Joint Organisations of Councils are new entities within the NSW Local Government Act and take the place of a range of sometimes informal cooperative structures across regional NSW. Their roles will be to focus on strategic planning and priority setting, intergovernmental collaboration and regional leadership and advocacy. Importantly, Joint Organisations will focus on the things that matter most to regional communities including building strong business, job creation, improved transport links and enhanced infrastructure, services and facilities.

According to Cr Pynsent, the Hunter's history of working proactively together for over sixty years and the performance of the Hunter Councils as Australia's largest and most diverse local government shared services entity provided a model to the State on what could be achieved when councils collaborate to drive efficiencies, cooperative strategies and achievement of long term goals.

He said, "The State Government has acknowledged the central role local government in the Hunter in the development of the Joint Organisation model and we are delighted that today the State Government's Joint Organisation framework has been finalised and our new regional entity proclaimed."

He added, "The ten local government areas that make up the Hunter Region are extraordinarily diverse but there is a key theme in all that we do. We strive to remove barriers to collaboration and work together for the future of our region. The new Joint Organisation structure will assist us to achieve even more and we are excited by the opportunities before us."

*For further information please contact:*

Cr Bob Pynsent, Chair of The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils and Mayor of Cessnock

Business: 02 4993 4210

Email: [Bob.Pynsent@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bob.Pynsent@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)