

Hunter Local Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021 Overview

Our Approach

'Local people, delivering high quality, integrated services for healthy, productive landscapes'

Our Organisation

Hunter Local Land Services delivers services and programs that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, protect primary production from pests and disease, and help local communities prepare for and respond to emergencies, such as flood and fire.

Hunter Local Land Services is governed by a Board comprising both appointed and elected members. Our locally based Board and staff have a range of skills and expertise and work closely with landholders, farmers and communities to deliver local and relevant services across:

Agricultural
Advice

Natural
Resource
Management

Emergency
Management

Animal Health
& Biosecurity

Our Region

The Hunter region covers an area of approximately 33,000 square kilometres. It takes in the local government areas of MidCoast, Dungog, Port Stephens, Maitland, Cessnock, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter.

The landscape ranges from estuarine wetlands and mangroves, rainforests and freshwater wetlands to open grasslands, woodlands, eucalypt forests, lakes and foreshores. Our region has a rich cultural heritage and its landscapes and natural resources traditionally sustained a significant Aboriginal population.

The region has good soils, a subtropical climate and abundant rainfall which support a wide range of industries, including farming, forestry, fishing, oyster farming, tourism and nature-based recreation. Residential and commercial development dominates the coastal fringe.

Our Plan

The Hunter Local Strategic Plan prioritises and directs our customer services, partnerships and investment across the region for the next five years. It sets out our goals for the Hunter Local Land Services, defines our organisational priorities, outlines the strategies through which these goals and priorities will be addressed, and describes how we will assess success.



Local Land
Services
Hunter

Our Goals and Priorities

The Hunter Local Strategic Plan outlines four goals that describe the outcomes we are aiming for, and the priorities under each.



COMMUNITIES RESILIENT, SELF-RELIANT AND PREPARED LOCAL COMMUNITIES

GOAL 1

The priorities for Hunter Local Land Services are:

- ▶ Preparing industries and communities for, and responding to, biosecurity incidents, emergencies and natural disasters to minimise impacts to agriculture and animals.
- ▶ Preparing the community for floods and improving the effectiveness of the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme.
- ▶ Supporting Aboriginal communities in caring for Country.
- ▶ Supporting the community to adapt to climate risks – increasing climate variability and rising temperatures.
- ▶ Building the capacity of the community to participate in decision making and improve production and natural resource management.



INDUSTRIES BIOSECURE, PROFITABLE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

GOAL 2

The priorities for Hunter Local Land Services are:

- ▶ Increasing the productivity of primary production, identifying highly productive agricultural land and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices.
- ▶ Supporting land managers and producers to manage weeds, and improving regional coordination of weed management.
- ▶ Supporting land managers and producers to manage pest animals.
- ▶ Responding to and managing animal biosecurity and welfare issues, including livestock health surveillance and certification, and responding to and managing plant biosecurity issues.
- ▶ Managing land to deal with the impacts of soil degradation.
- ▶ Continuously improving the skills, resources and knowledge of producers.



GOAL 3



NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS HEALTHY, DIVERSE, CONNECTED NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

The priorities for Hunter Local Land Services are:

- ▶ Improving the condition of rivers, estuaries and nationally and internationally important wetlands.
- ▶ Improving native vegetation connectivity for resilience and maintaining or improving native vegetation.
- ▶ Implementing landscape-scale approaches to deal with threats to the natural environment and threatened species and ecological communities.
- ▶ Working with stakeholders and land managers on surface and groundwater resource availability.



GOAL 4



OUR ORGANISATION INNOVATIVE, COMMERCIALY FOCUSED AND COLLABORATIVE PEOPLE DELIVERING BEST PRACTICE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND REDUCING RED TAPE

The priorities for Hunter Local Land Services are:

- ▶ Being responsive and accountable to a diverse range of customers, investors and stakeholders.
- ▶ Developing partnerships with a wide range of service delivery organisations.
- ▶ Involving communities through Community Advisory Groups.
- ▶ Providing customers with efficient and effective processes when dealing with Local Land Services.
- ▶ Ensuring investment decision-making is transparent and objective.
- ▶ Ensuring best available knowledge is accessible and that staff incorporate it into service delivery.
- ▶ Responding to a complex and changing legislative and policy environment.

Our Strategies

The Hunter Local Strategic Plan contains further detail on the outcomes, actions, key stakeholder groups, and indicators for each strategy. The following table summarises our key strategies, and the goals that each strategy is aimed towards (represented by symbols).

Summary of Hunter Local Land Services key strategies		
1.	Provide information that supports customers' decision-making in relation to biosecurity, agricultural production, natural resource management and emergency management.	  
2.	Deliver integrated services to help primary producers and land managers in priority industries or landscapes implement improved practices for economic, social and environmental outcomes.	  
3.	Deliver emergency management services that improve the capacity of industries and communities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, and recover from, biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies.	  
4.	Collaborate with stakeholders through effective partnerships to add value to service delivery.	  
5.	Enable participation of local people, partners and stakeholders in LLS decision-making.	 
6.	Foster research and development through partnerships to fill knowledge gaps.	 
7.	Support and partner Aboriginal culture by providing Aboriginal people with information, skills and capacity to care for Country and practice traditional land management.	  
8.	Deliver consent and compliance services that increase understanding of, and compliance with, statutory and industry requirements for managing livestock, land and native vegetation.	 
9.	Manage Crown Lands in line with best practice, particularly travelling stock reserves.	 
Strategies 10, 11 and 12 are focussed on our organisational capacity (refer to the Strategic Plan for further detail).		

How we will implement the Plan

The Hunter Local Strategic Plan, and the services and programs we deliver, are relevant to all land managers and primary producers within the Hunter region including public and private land managers; ratepayers and non-ratepayers. Yet with limited resources, we need to target and prioritise how, who and where we deliver our services and programs.

The Hunter Local Strategic Plan identifies regional priorities and outlines our approach to prioritising our work. Our implementation strategies and district priorities will identify priority industry sectors or land managers for different services or issues. Visit our website for more information.

We are also interested in building networks with groups and organisations that share common goals and may be interested in developing partnerships with us. Call your local office or our Community Engagement Team on 4930 1030 to discuss partnership opportunities.



Local Land
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To obtain a copy of the Plan visit our website:
www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au or call your local office.

Contact us

If you have any enquiries please contact
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Merriwa

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Paterson

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Scone

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Singleton

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