

The Hunter – An SDG Region

The Case for the Hunter to pave the way in driving action through a collaborative and coordinated approach by the community.

The Starting Point

This concept came about from some motivated parties coming together from a position of urgency and positivity. The parties held a common understanding that, not only were the businesses or organisations that they represented working directly on addressing some the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, but that similar not for profit organisations, government bodies, private business and individuals within the Hunter were also doing work to directly address the goals.

So what is the problem? Well many of them were not aware that the work they are doing directly aligned with the global movement which is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The parties then raised the point that if these motivated members of the community had no idea that they aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and contributed to achieving them, then chances are the broader community also might have a general lack of knowledge.

From there we set a goal of our own: as a region we would demonstrate to the world our commitment and contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal.

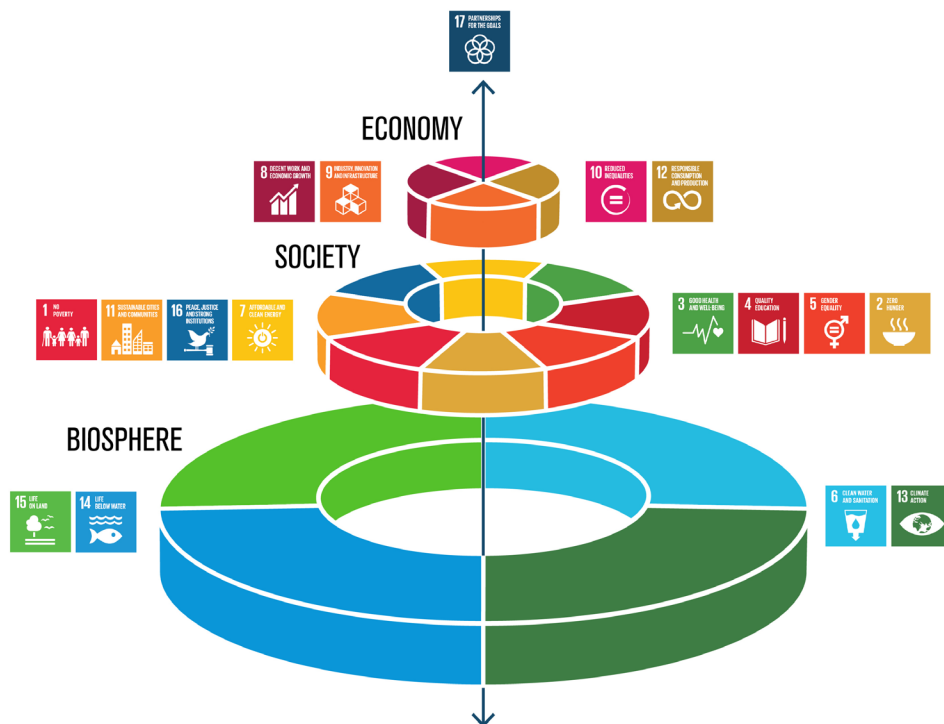
How?

Step 1: Form a Task Force to advocate and facilitate education and collaboration to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to accelerate the delivery in our region.

Step 2: Form a network of 17 Action Groups and encourage and empower businesses, community organisations, not for profits and civil society to work on achieving the goals through not only their current actions but by also identifying any other opportunities to better address social, environmental and economic sustainability across our region.

Key outputs:

Those who commit to the network will establish regular opportunities to meet and to work directly on each of the goals, setting regional targets and planning for successful delivery while recognising the interconnectedness of the goals (as per Figure 1 below) and using the Task Force forum to collaborate and achieve the SDGs across the region.



Graphics by Berken Lubanwa/Rozette

Figure 1: Interconnectedness of the Goals

The Task Force will use the Hunter SDG Task Force website to share resources and host educational webinars, outline targets and demonstrate region success and outcomes in the Hunter / Newcastle becoming an *SDG Cities Region*.

The Network will focus on providing resources, business cases and education programs for the business community of the Hunter (and community more broadly) on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal. Advocating the importance of the goals and the 2020-2030 decade to deliver and leveraging existing networks to this common purpose.

What do we need from you?

We are seeking members from across the community, businesses, government and not-for-profit, who are committed to being part of this regional movement and actively working in one or more of the following areas to accelerate and achieve the SDGs across the Newcastle / Hunter Region to come forward and be part of this committed network:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Poverty | 4. Quality Education |
| 2. Zero hunger | 5. Gender equality |
| 3. Health – good health and well-being | 6. Clean energy and sanitation |

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 7. Affordable and clean energy | 13. Climate action |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth | 14. Life Below Water |
| 9. Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure | 15. Life on Land |
| 10. Reduced Inequalities | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities | 17. Partnerships for the goals |
| 12. Responsible consumption and production | |

We would love for you to get in contact at <https://huntersdgtaskforce.org/> and express your commitment to achieving the SDGs across our region and join this network.

So how does it look?

We aim to develop a committed network of business and community as outlined in this Terms of Reference to achieve the Hunter - United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Region. We have adopted a fail-fast and win big approach. Joining the Network will allow you to contribute to the resources to support others in developing targets and also to demonstrate actions your organisation is taking or share successes that contribute to achieving the Goals.

TITLE

The definition of a Task Force is a commitment to the network for the purpose of accomplishing a definite objective. The network will be formed to represent the 17 SDGs, each of which will be represented by Direct Action Groups. The 17 SDG Direct Action Groups will focus on the relevant goal to ensure we advocate for and achieve action in all areas of sustainability. The network and direct-action groups will work together to coordinate collaboration and education programs across the region.

The name of the network is the SDG Hunter Region Task Force.

2. PURPOSE

Advocating and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs through facilitating - collaboration, education and accreditation - across the region. We aim to advocate, accelerate and achieve an SDG Region across the Hunter. We will achieve this with a two-tier approach.

3. Commitment

3.1 the Network is open to all interested parties in the region who are working directly or indirectly in realising the SDGs. To assist in establishing and forming the network, a coordinator will be nominated to facilitate those committing to the Task Force and a formal commitment or pledge from business and organisations will be submitted via the website. The region includes the following LGAs;

1. Lake Mac
2. Newcastle
3. Port Stephens
4. Cessnock
5. Muswellbrook
6. Singleton
7. Maitland
8. Dungog
9. Upper Hunter
10. MidCoast

3.2 Committing to the Hunter Region Task Force

The Hunter Region Task Force is made up of at least 1 and no more than three representatives of each of the 17 SDG Direct Action Groups. The aim is to ensure the Task Force includes representatives for each goal. The Task Force and those committed to an Action Group will all form “the network”.

The representatives of the Hunter Region Task Force will be responsible for the administration of the group and ensuring the website demonstrates what we achieve across the network, Task Force representatives will also facilitate the webinars.

3.2 Direct Action Groups

Ideally there would be representation from business and industry, community groups and individuals on each of the Action Groups and networks can register which goal/s they would like to commit to. Government representation (any level) is highly desirable. The 17 Action Groups must be working either directly or indirectly with the targets of the subject SDG.

Affiliates can be on more than one of the 17 Action Groups if they are directly affecting the realisation of more than one of the goals.

4. HOLDING ACTION GROUP MEETINGS

4.1 To ensure a meeting can proceed there needs to be a quorum of participants.

A quorum consists of at least 4 Network members being present for the meeting.

4.2 Internal or external persons may be invited to attend the meetings at the request of the Action Group to provide advice, information and assistance where necessary. These invited persons will have no voting rights and may be requested to leave the meeting at any time by the Chair.

4.3 Decisions will be made by consensus however in the case where a consensus cannot be reached the Action Group will vote; if this results in a tied decision the Chair will have the deciding vote and this decision will be final.

Meetings shall be held as determined by the action group but be no less than bimonthly. Minutes are to be provided to subgroup 17 for recording and reporting.

4.4 The role of the Minute Taker or representative group is to:

- Prepare agendas and issuing notices for meetings, and ensure all necessary documents requiring discussion or comment are attached to the agenda.

- Distribute the Agenda in consultation with the Chair no later than two (2) days prior to the meeting
- Take notes of proceedings and prepare minutes of meeting.
- Distribute the minutes to all Action Group members and subgroup 17 one week after the meeting.

The minutes shall be checked by the Chair and accepted by Action Group members as a true and accurate record at the commencement of the next meeting.

5. FUNCTIONS OF THE SDG ACTION GROUPS

5.1 Functions of the SDG Action Group are:

- Collaborate between action groups noting the interconnectedness of the goals (as per Figure 1) and ensure one goal is not being met the expense of another
- Advocate and promote the SDGs across the Hunter
- Share information and resources – training, accreditation, reporting – with the Action Groups and the broader business community and others
- Represent the SDGs and establish local goals for each subgroup to commit to and achieve
- Collaborate with partners across the region to advocate, accelerate and achieve an SDG Region
- Establish a framework for others to achieve the same outcomes and become an SDG Region
- Pledge – commitment to achieving an SDG Region

6. HOLDING HUNTER REGION TASK FORCE MEETINGS

The Hunter Region Force will meet as nominated by the group but no less than quarterly.

7. FUNCTIONS OF THE HUNTER REGION TASK FORCE

The Hunter Region Task Force will be responsible for Coordinating the approach to the SDGs in the region through the overseeing the website and administration.

The Hunter Region Task Force will be responsible for educating the broader community, facilitating, collaborating on these objectives and addressing any major wholes or deficits of the region in attaining the SDGs by 2030. Actions which the Task Force or Network may implement include events, articles and conducting/supporting research.

8. AMENDMENTS

The terms of reference shall be reviewed annually from the date of approval. They may be altered to meet the current needs of the Network, by agreement of the majority of employer and employee representatives.

