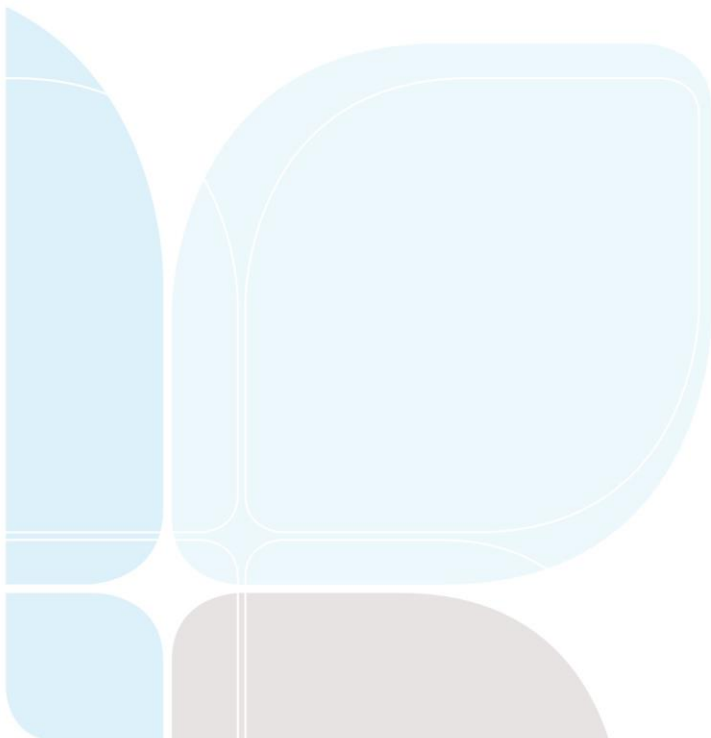




Local Land  
Services  
Hunter

# Consultation Summary Report

Hunter Local Strategic Plan  
2016 - 2021



Hunter Local Land Services undertook public exhibition and consultation on its draft Hunter Local Strategic Plan (the Plan) for six weeks in October and November 2015. We received valuable and constructive feedback from groups, organisations and individuals through meetings and submissions. The consultation process has helped Hunter Local Land Services gain a greater understanding of stakeholders' issues and expectations, inform our service delivery priorities, and further develop relationships. Some amendments were also made to the Plan.

This report summarises the consultation process and the outcomes from consultation, including common themes and actions taken.

## Consultation process

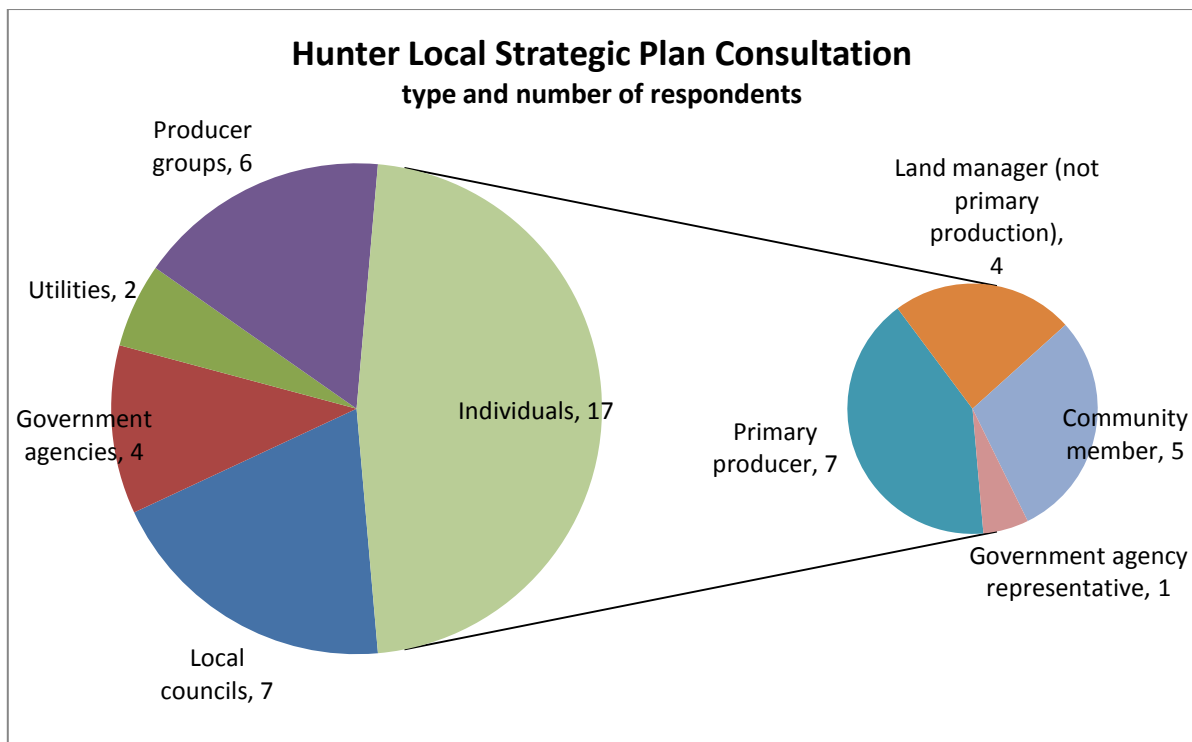
The Hunter Local Strategic Plan was on public exhibition from 12 October 2015 to 22 November 2015. During this period we undertook consultation to:

- Raise awareness within the community about Hunter LLS' business functions and its plans for the next 5 years.
- Reach a range of customers and stakeholders, and provide them with an opportunity to raise issues, clarify their needs and give feedback on the Plan and its implementation.

Our consultation process targeted different groups of stakeholders through different methods. We used media, online and direct contact methods to notify of the public exhibition. Feedback was invited through an online forum and survey, a feedback form, submissions, and one-on-one meetings.

## Who responded

We conducted 14 targeted consultations with stakeholders (including local councils, government agencies and industry groups), received seven submissions from individuals and organisations, and received 18 responses through an online survey and feedback form. The following chart shows the type and number of respondents.



## Summary of feedback

In total, we received over 200 comments on the Plan and Hunter LLS' generally.

The majority of respondents to the survey (60 per cent) agreed that the draft Plan helped them to understand Hunter LLS' role and direction.

In response to a question on the importance of the goals of the Plan, 80 per cent of survey respondents said that Goals 2 and 3, relating to primary industries and natural environments respectively, were very important to them. Around half (50 per cent) said that Goals 1 and 4, relating to local communities and our organisation respectively, were very important to them.

The following table summarises specific feedback raised by different groups:

Feedback	Who from	Hunter LLS response
The plan lacks detail on specific priorities, especially for natural resources, meaning that it is difficult for stakeholders to contribute  Need for collaboration in priority-setting	Local government  Government agencies	Acknowledged. Hunter LLS are undertaking further work during 2016/17 to define priorities, through implementation strategies and district priorities.
Greater definition of agriculture extension and advisory services required	Government agencies  NSW Farmers	Strategy 2 amended to include more comprehensive description.  Feedback will also inform development of implementation strategies in 2016/17.
Emergency management strategy (Strategy 3) does not clearly describe LLS role and how it is integrated with other organisations.  Uncertainty around how emergencies (especially animal disease) would be managed.	Local government  Beef producers	Strategy 3 amended to include greater definition of LLS responsibilities, and a specific action to provide information to the community on emergency management processes and contacts.  Feedback will also inform development of implementation strategies in 2016/17.
Biosecurity (pests, weeds and disease) the highest priority issue for many industries.  New legislation will require a concerted information campaign.	Beef producers, viticulture industry  Government agencies	Strategy 1 amended to include specific action to provide information to priority stakeholders on biosecurity obligations in collaboration with DPI.  Feedback will also inform development of industry service delivery priorities.
Staff continuity and knowledge/expertise essential, transparency of Board processes important.	Individuals	Acknowledged.  Feedback will also inform development of implementation strategies in 2016/17.
Need to outline how progress will be measured, the proposed indicators of success are insufficient.	Individuals	Acknowledged.  We are proposing improved KPIs in implementation strategies, and are awaiting the finalisation of a state MERI framework. This will allow us to improve our monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress.

<p>Many opportunities for collaboration exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In weed and pest animal management</li> <li>• In agricultural research, development and extension</li> <li>• Involving different land managers and producers in a catchment-wide approach for improving water quality and supply</li> <li>• Delivering consent and compliance services</li> <li>• Contributing to industry goals and targets</li> <li>• Aligning with government environmental programs eg. Saving our Species.</li> </ul>	<p>Government agencies Water utilities Local government Oyster producers</p>	<p>Acknowledged. Feedback will also inform development of implementation strategies and industry service delivery in 2016/17.</p>
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In addition, many industry representatives named specific priorities for their industry. This feedback is informing our service delivery priorities.

## Actions taken

All feedback has been constructive and has led to either: changes to our list of priorities under each goal; amendments to the Plan's actions; refinements to the priority stakeholders for each strategy; and/or changes to our success indicators.

The most important outcomes of the consultation process were the continual improvement in our understanding of community and stakeholder needs, and the building of relationships.

## More information

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