

The Hunter Co-operative Statement

Our vision is...

A protected green corridor linking our estuary with the wild country of the Watagans and beyond.

Our goals are...

- * To retain habitat for a diverse range of species in the lower Hunter Region.
- * To sustain into the future our fishing and tourism industries.
- * To provide improved lifestyle opportunities for our children and our children's children.
- * To highlight to our community the value of ecosystem services to our local economy.

The way ahead...

Connecting the inter-dependent ecological areas of the lower Hunter before they are degraded and lost.

And specifically...

- * Incorporation of the low-lying coastal forests between Kooragang and the coast into an enlarged Stockton Bight National Park.
- * Incorporation of the "Tomago buffer lands" and Ash Island areas and State-protected fringing wetlands into the internationally recognised Hunter River Estuary Wetlands, with the whole area managed and accessed through The Wetlands Centre, with appropriate funding and resourcing.
- * Conservation and, where needed, revegetation of the transitional ecosystems between the wetlands and the forests, including the strategically-important "Tank Paddock", the Pambalong Swamp Nature Reserve and the connecting areas to the Blue Gum Hills Regional Park.
- * Protection in reserve systems of the corridor areas between the transitional ecosystems and Mount Sugarloaf and the Watagans and Wollemi National Parks.

Until this occurs...

We call for the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to:

- * Incorporate the Lower Hunter Biodiversity Conservation Corridor in relevant regional plans, including the (proposed) Hunter Regional Strategy and the Thornton-Killingworth Subregional Conservation and Development Strategy.
- * Make directions to relevant local councils prohibiting all rezoning and development decisions that would compromise our Lower Hunter Biodiversity Conservation Corridor.

The lower Hunter Biodiversity Conservation Corridor

Supporting Groups



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United Resident Groups for the Environment of Lake Macquarie

Centre of Full Employment and Equity



The Newcastle Residents Group



Concerned citizens of the western corridor



The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)
Hunter Regional Committee



EcoNetwork



Lake Macquarie Coastal and Wetlands Alliance





