

# Impacts of the Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration program

Office of Energy and Climate Change

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Lisa Miller  
Sustainable Councils  
Circular Economy and Sustainability  
Programs

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RERO Energy and Innovation  
Conference

September 2023

# Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of Australia, and the oldest continuing culture in human history. We pay respect to Elders past and present and commit to respecting the lands we walk on, and the communities we walk with.

Artwork:

*Regeneration* by Josie Rose



# Overview

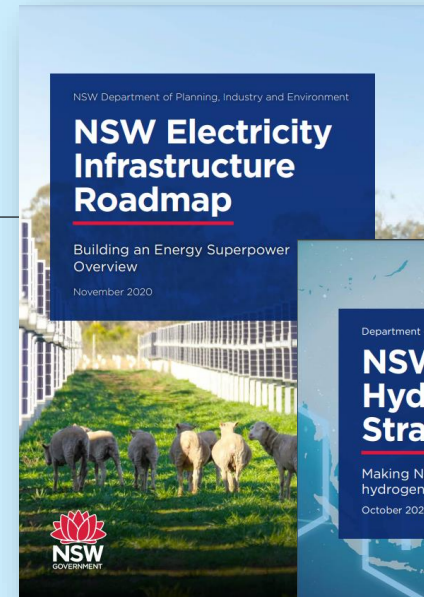
- Why Councils?
- The Size of the Prize
- Sustainable Councils
- JONZA – early impacts



# Place-based collaboration

The NSW Government is:

1. **providing incentives** for local government and their communities to reduce emissions across waste, transport, energy, agriculture, manufacturing and more...
2. **helping to build capacity** across NSW councils and communities through guidance, tools and resources
3. **Sustainable Councils team:** assisting resource constrained councils identify and deliver energy and resource efficiency projects, save money and reduce emissions.



# Why Councils

The two-pronged promise...

- 1: Emitters in their own right
- 2: Influence over community LGA emissions



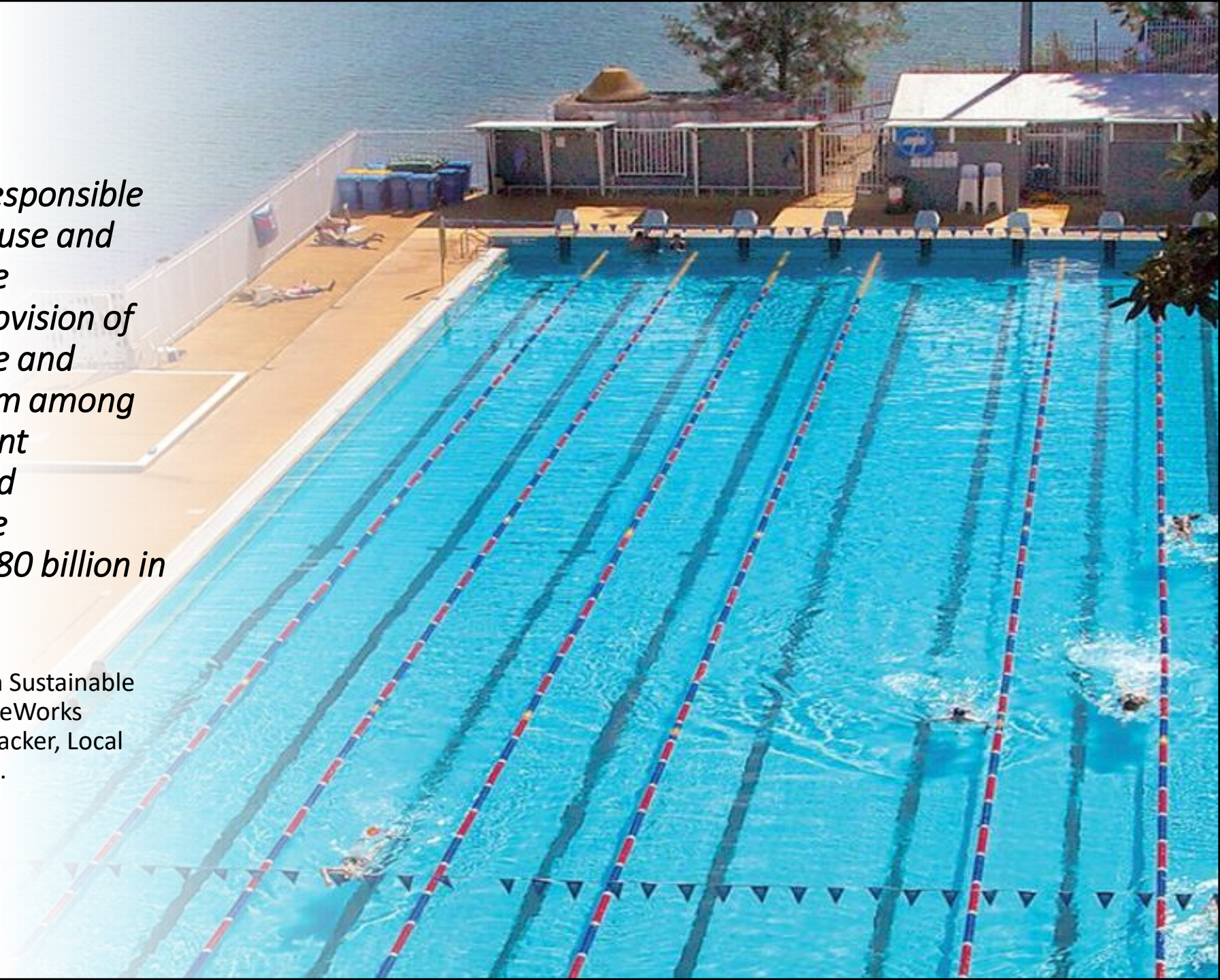
# The Size of the Prize (i)

Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from activities of local councils in NSW may account for 3,319 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, or **2.52% of the State's GHG emissions (2,819 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e or 2.14% without non-energy scope 3).**



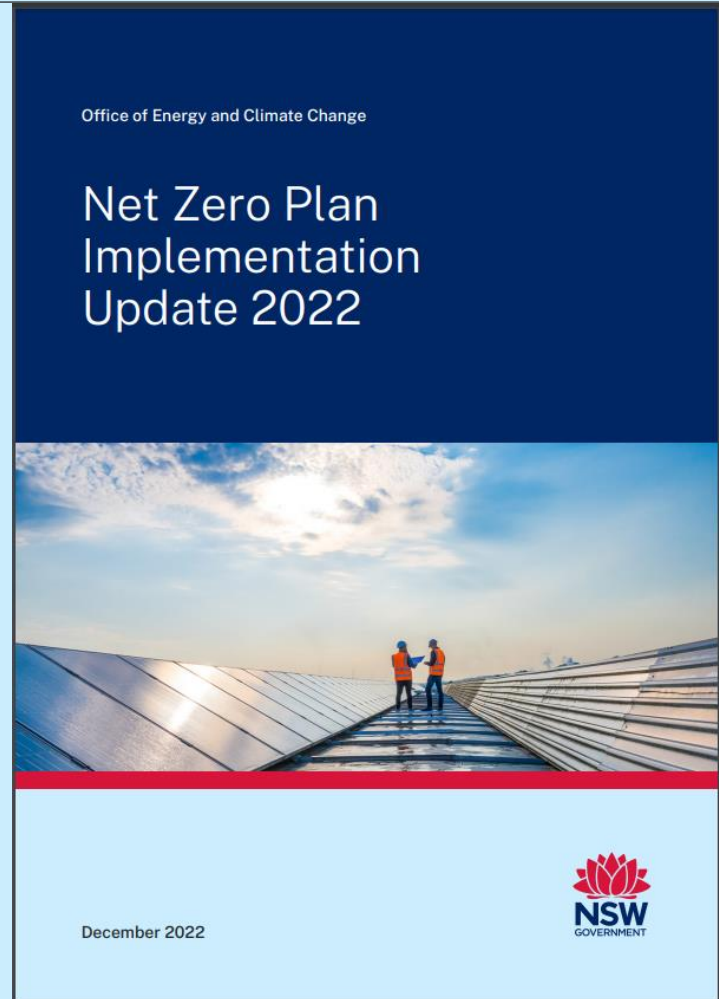
*Australian councils are responsible for urban planning, land use and building approvals, waste management and the provision of community infrastructure and services. That makes them among Australia's most significant infrastructure owners and managers, with collective responsibility for over \$380 billion in infrastructure and land.*

2020, Monash University, Monash Sustainable Development Institute and ClimateWorks Australia, Net Zero Momentum Tracker, Local Government Sector, January 2020.  
[www.netzerotracker.org](http://www.netzerotracker.org)



# The Size of the Prize (ii)

*NSW Councils play a key role in supporting decarbonisation as local leaders and through their connection to local communities. By reducing emissions, local councils can help in increase the resilience of their communities and act as a catalyst for New South Wales to meet its net zero emissions objective.*





# Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener

October 2021

## Role and influence of Councils (ii)

- *“The combination of devolved, local and regional authorities’ legal powers, assets, access to targeted funding, local knowledge and relationship with stakeholders, enables them to drive local progress towards net zero”*
- *“Not only does local government drive action directly, but it also plays a key role in communicating with, and inspiring action by, local businesses, communities and civil society.”*
- *“... **over 30%** of the emissions reductions needed across all sectors... rely on local authority involvement to some degree.”*
- *Of all UK emissions, **82%** are within the scope of influence of local authorities.*
- *(3-5% of emissions directly controlled by local authorities)*

# Sustainable Councils - Overview

**Objective:** The Sustainable Councils program helps local governments in NSW save energy reduce emissions, and set and accelerate a path to net zero.

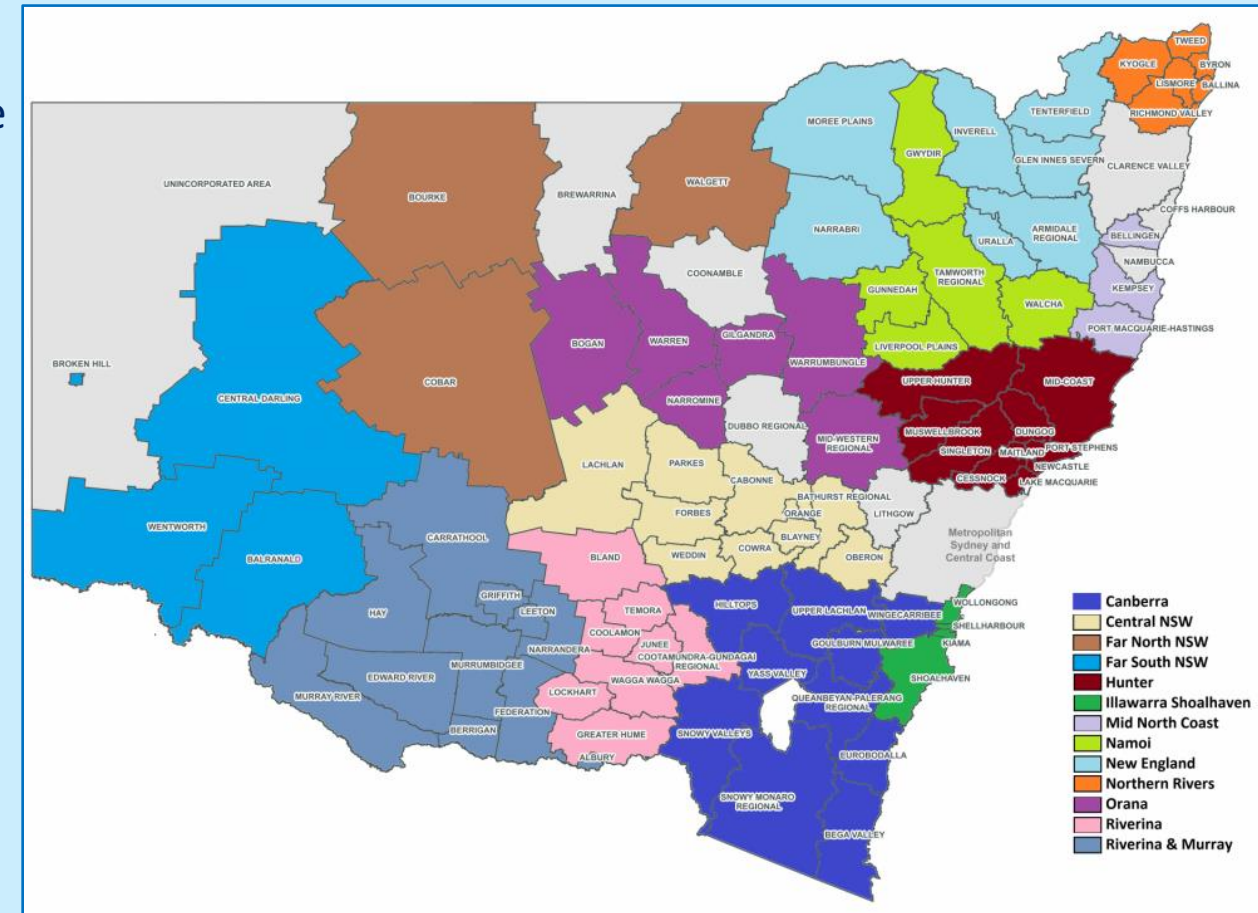
**Problem addressed:** The program was designed to address a key barrier in regional councils, chronic resource and staff constraints around energy and emissions management.

**Method:** Partnering with councils and council clusters, provides expert support, advice, to develop structured energy strategies, investment-ready business cases, and pathways to renewable energy financing, so councils can implement projects with confidence.



# Net Zero partners: Joint Organisations

- NSW has a network of 13 joint organisations to strengthen collaboration and engagement between State and local governments and improve infrastructure and service delivery to regional communities.
- OECC partnering with 9 out of 13 JOs covering 68 regional councils through Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) initiative
- Partnership with Resilient Sydney – 33 councils



# Sustainable Councils – Priorities

1. Enabling partners to work at Scale: JONZA
2. Strategic Projects: eg EV Site Suitability Project
3. Position councils and JOs for external funding: ARENA, Commonwealth
4. Creating Tools, Guides and Content
5. Working through existing partners: LGNSW (webinars), Resilient Sydney



# Sustainable Councils: Guides and Tools

- Offsite Renewable Energy: A Guide for NSW Councils
- Revolving Energy Funds
- NZ Pools and Aquatic Centres
- STP and WTPs tools
- Beam Solar Tool - Mid-large scale solar/battery assessment
- SunSPoT
- Webinars and training – partnership with LGNSW



# Sustainable Councils: Guides and Tools (due 2023)

- NZ Community Emissions Guidance
- Offsets Primer
- EV Fleet Transition Template
- Tariff Optimisation Tool



# JONZA – the big ideas

**Improve scale:** enable more councils to access program resourcing and support

**Improve efficiency:** keep as much place-based and customer-based tailoring as possible, but deliver support and solutions at cluster (or bigger) scale

**Improve speed/acceleration:** in local government action

**Improve visibility of action** – not only to NSW, but peer to peer



# JONZA NET ZERO MANAGERS



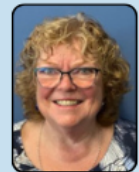
**Far North West JO**  
Ellen O'Brien

- Byron Shire
- Lismore City
- Clarence Valley
- Kyogle
- Richmond Valley
- Tweed Shire
- Ballina Shire



**Central NSW JO**  
Kate Barker

- Bathurst Regional
- Blayney Shire
- Cabonne
- Cowra
- Forbes Shire
- Lachlan Shire
- Oberon
- Orange City
- Parkes Shire
- Weddin Shire



**Riverina and Murray JO**  
Narelle Martin

- Albury City
- Berrigan Shire
- Carrathool Shire
- Edward River
- Federation
- Griffith City
- Hay Shire
- Leeton Shire
- Murray River
- Murrumbidgee
- Narrandera Shire



**Riverina Eastern (REROC)**  
William Adlong

- Bland Shire
- Coolamon Shire
- Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional
- Goldenfields Water County
- Junee Shire
- Lockhart Shire
- Temora Shire
- Greater Hume Shire



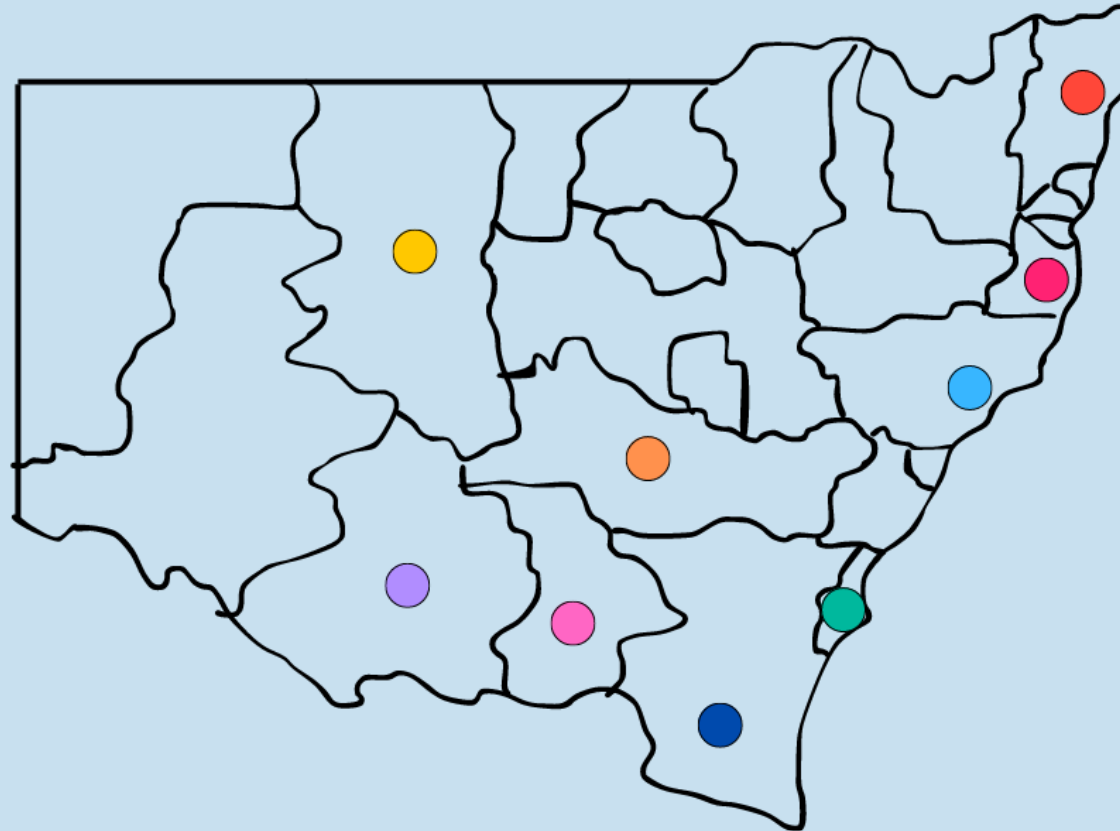
**Canberra Region JO**  
Cecilia Kemp

- Bega Valley
- Eurobodalla
- Goulburn-Mulwaree
- Hilltops
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Snowy Monaro
- Snowy Valleys
- Upper Lachlan
- Wingecarribee
- Yass Valley



**Illawarra Shoalhaven JO (ISJO)**  
Walter Moore

- Kiama
- Shellharbour
- Shoalhaven
- Wollongong



**Northern Rivers JO**  
Phil Ridler

- Byron Shire
- Lismore City
- Clarence Valley
- Kyogle
- Richmond Valley
- Tweed Shire
- Ballina Shire



**Mid North Coast JO**  
Noam Bardea

- Port Macquarie Hastings
- Bellingen Shire
- Kempsey Shire



**Hunter JO**  
Lexi Crouch

- City of Newcastle
- Cessnock City
- Dungog Shire
- Lake Macquarie City
- Maitland City
- MidCoast
- Muswellbrook Shire
- Port Stephens
- Singleton Council
- Upper Hunter Shire





# Collaboration

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# JONZA impacts and actions



Councils Energy Savings Action Plans – leading to



Active Energy portfolio management - \$\$\$ saved



Regional Energy Strategies.

# The Takeaway

- The two-pronged promise
- Sustainable Councils
- JONZA – a regional NZ network



# Local Government Climate Change Survey

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## About the survey

- **Presented by:** OECC with LGNSW
- **Who should participate?** All NSW councils, JOs and ROCs

## Why participate?

This survey seeks to understand local government's readiness to respond to the impacts of climate change. Your feedback will inform the design and delivery of climate adaptation and mitigation resources, strategies, and funding opportunities to support your council and community.

The 2023 survey is the third Local Government Climate Change Survey – it was also completed in 2015 and 2018. Past surveys have helped build the business case and design of programs which provided \$3.9m in funding to local government.

## Deadline

- **Return by:** Monday 25 September 2023

## More information

- [All councils should have received their unique link to the survey](#)

# Thankyou

[scc@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scc@environment.nsw.gov.au)