

Statement of Expectations for Hunter Water Corporation

Date: 26/4/2022

Issued by: Treasurer, the Hon Matt Kean MP
Minister for Finance and Small Business, the Hon Damien Tudehope MLC
Shareholding Ministers

Minister for Lands and Water, the Hon. Kevin Anderson MP
Portfolio Minister

The purpose of this statement is to help Hunter Water ensure its strategic direction aligns with the Government's expectations. We seek to clarify the Government's key priorities relevant to the work of Hunter Water, while it continues to operate its business in a commercial manner.

The objectives and functions of Hunter Water are described in the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989* and *Hunter Water Act 1991*. This statement does not replace any aspect of the relationship between Hunter Water, its Shareholding Ministers, and the Portfolio Minister as set out in applicable legislation.

Government expectations

Align with Government's strategic planning

We expect Hunter Water to:

- finalise the Lower Hunter Water Security Plan and implement the relevant actions through its long-term capital planning and operations planning, consistent with the water security risk profile identified in the Strategy
- contribute to and support the implementation of the NSW Water Strategy 2021
- contribute to and support the finalisation and implementation of the State Drought Plan
- support the delivery of the Government's economic recovery and ongoing economic sustainability through the efficient and effective delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure and services.

Strive for excellence in customer service and experience

We expect Hunter Water to:

- deliver products and services that are relevant and consistent with customer and community expectations
- continuously engage with its customers, the community and other stakeholders to thoroughly understand those expectations.

Build trust with the community and stakeholders

We expect Hunter Water to:

- continue to build trust with its customers, stakeholders and the community through providing transparent, meaningful and timely information and engagement
- share data sets with the public or stakeholders as appropriate to improve transparency of decision-making whilst maintaining customer privacy
- maintain its social licence to operate through the ongoing delivery of quality products and services including water conservation and leakage reduction
- focus on delivering projects on-time and on-budget.

Focus on environmental outcomes

We expect Hunter Water to:

- contribute to the delivery of thriving and liveable communities within the Hunter Region through the better integration of land use planning and waterway health and resource management by integrating water cycle management where appropriate
- operate its business in a way that is consistent with the Government's Net Zero 2050 Plan, including Stage 1 of that plan to fast-track emissions reduction over the next decade
- help support NSW communities to benefit from the economic and employment opportunities created by decarbonisation
- monitor and report annually its activities against agreed sustainability reporting and climate risk disclosure frameworks.

Minimise cost of living pressures

We expect Hunter Water to:

- deliver its products and services and otherwise operate in a manner that seeks to minimise cost of living pressures now and in the future
- prioritise investments and services through meaningful engagement with customers and stakeholders and strategic consideration of alternatives to minimise the pressure on end users' bills.

Ensure the Government's investment of its capital is used efficiently

We expect Hunter Water to:

- optimise business performance, grow revenue and deliver efficiencies to ensure it maximises returns to government without compromising service quality, service cost, environmental performance or safety, now or in the future
- proactively identify surplus or under-utilised assets and land whose value could be realised.



Deliver services safely

We expect Hunter Water to:

- deliver its products and services safely and with respect to the safety and well-being of its employees, the community and the environment and focus on reducing safety incidents in the workplace.

Maintain high standards of public accountability and corporate governance

We expect Hunter Water to:

- proactively communicate and engage with the Government to keep them informed of relevant matters of interest related to their accountabilities
- maintain the highest standards of governance, probity and integrity in line with government policies and community expectations.

Ensure robust procurement and employment practices that support the economic and social outcomes of the state

We expect Hunter Water to:

- support diversity in its suppliers by considering procuring from small and medium enterprises, Aboriginal businesses, regional businesses, disability employment organisations, and social enterprises
- ensure payments to all suppliers, but particularly small and medium enterprises, are made on time, and where possible, faster than the payment terms require
- support diversity and inclusion in its workforce and boost female participation.

SOC response

We expect the guidance in this Statement of Expectations will be reflected in Hunter Water's 2022-23 Statement of Corporate Intent and those of future years for as long as this Statement of Expectations remains in effect.



The Hon. Matt Kean MP
Treasurer
Minister for Energy

21.4.22.



The Hon. Damien Tudehope MLC
Minister for Finance
Minister for Employee Relations
Leader of the Government in the Legislative
Council

24/4/22.



The Hon. Kevin Anderson MP
Minister for Lands and Water
Minister for Hospitality and Racing

26.4.22