

Subject: LMM 23/04/2024 - HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

MOTION:

That City of Newcastle:

- 1 Notes that on Wednesday 10 April 2024, the Hunter Community Alliance (HCA) held its Founding Assembly at the University of Newcastle Great Hall.
- 2 Congratulates Mr David Barrow and the HCA Council for bringing together over 800 Novocastrians and a broad cross section of local organisations with the aim of working collectively to create a more fair, just and sustainable Newcastle.
- 3 Acknowledges the powerful testimonies shared at the Founding Assembly, on issues such as housing, homelessness, climate and community; and the contributions from The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth; and The Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
- 4 Commits to working collaboratively with the HCA, particularly regarding climate change adaptation and risk mitigation at a local level, as well as the housing crisis which is being acutely felt in our region.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Hunter Community Alliance Founding Report



HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOUNDING REPORT

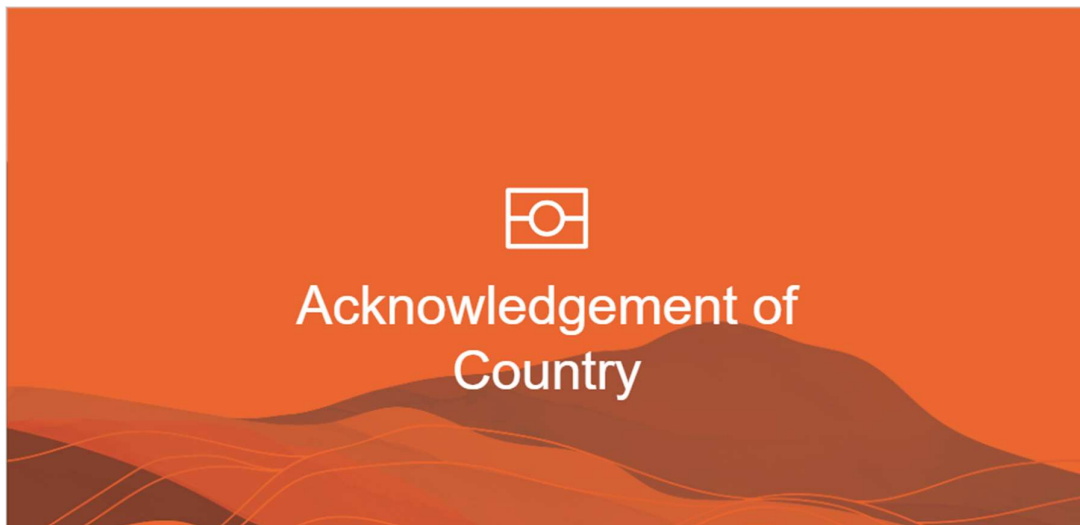


April 2024

This report includes:

- 1. What happened?**
- 2. Recognition**
- 3. Progress on asks and what's next?**
- 4. Internal Evaluation report card**

Photo credits: Scott Pinkham, Grapefruit Creative



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The Assembly took place on Awabakal Land, the Hunter Community Alliance acknowledges the First Nations of the land upon which the assembly took place and recognize the land was never ceded.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands within our footprint areas: the Awabakal, Darkinjung, Biripai, Worimi, and Wonnarua.

The HCA strives to organise with-, not on behalf-of First Nations leaders, organisations, and elders as we work together towards truth, treaty, voice and out common vision and practical outcomes for a fair, just, and sustainable city and region.



1. What happened?

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOUNDING ASSEMBLY APRIL 10 TH 2024 – GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE	
4pm-5:30pm	Ahead of the Assembly a seminar took place with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders at Wollotuka Institute, co-hosted by Purai Global Indigenous History Centre and the HCA.
6:30pm	GATHER IN THE GREAT HALL
6:40pm	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Mr. Bilum Henry, Awabakal Aboriginal Land Council who was planning to provide the welcome sent apologies. Uncle Laurie Perry, Wonnorua Nation Aboriginal Corporation shared an Acknowledgement.
6:43pm	BRIEFING Co-chairs, Rev Rob Hanks (Uniting Church), Members of research-action teams.
6:55pm	PROCESSION <i>You're the Voice, performed by The Newcastle Chamber Choir, written by Andy Qunta, Keith Reid, Maggie Ryder & Chris Thompson, Arr. Benjamin Lambert,</i>
	INTRO TO CO-CHAIRS Andrew Vodic, (Community Disability Alliance CDAH), Teresa Brierley, (Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle), Emeka Ordu (Wesley Mission)
	INTRODUCING THE HCA Kelly Hansen (Nova for Women), Teresa Hetherington (United Workers Union), James Whelan (Climate Action Newcastle), Karen Lizasoain (Glenrock Anglican Church)
	ROLL CALL - 34/39 organisations took part
	RECOGNITION Prof. Alex Zelinsky AO Vice Chancellor, Lisa Allan Editor, Newcastle Herald, Newcastle City Lord Mayor, Councillor Nuatali Nelmes
	PHOTO
	TESTIMONIES & CASE Housing & homelessness. Transition, community & climate Jack Turner (New City Baptist Church), Seema Sanghi (Hunter Aging Alliance), Catherine Caine & Shaylie Pryer (CDAH) Tammy Prince-Doyle (Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter) Peter Coghlan (Hunter Renewal), Alec Roberts (Cleanas), Gwenda Brownell & Pamela Killduf (Uniting Church), Nasif Saifullah Omar Nasif, Bangladeshi Students Association
	<i>Always, written & performed by Heather Price</i>
	NEGOTIATIONS: MLC Abigail Boyd (Greens Representative), <i>Note: SFF, LNP representatives were invited but could not attend.</i> NSW Housing Minister Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, Federal Climate Change & Energy Minister Chris Bowen MP
8:27	Called for an extension of time of 5 minutes (granted by the assembly) to finish negotiations.
8:33pm	CALL TO ACTION: Foundations Training & 1:1 campaign
8:35pm	CLOSED
8:55-9:30pm	Debrief took place in the Purdue Room with 83 participants.



863 People attended. The assembly was co-chaired by Andrew Vodic (Community Disability Alliance Hunter), Teresa Brierley (Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle) and Emeka Ordu (Wesley Mission).

Following the opening of "You're the Voice" sung by the Newcastle Chamber Choir as the leaders of the HCA processed into the Great Hall of the University of Newcastle, the

assembly opened with an acknowledgement of Country from Uncle Laurie Perry, Wonnorua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

Following was an introduction to the Alliance, the roll call, recognition from Prof. Alex Zelinsky AO Vice Chancellor, Lisa Allan Editor, Newcastle Herald, Newcastle City Lord Mayor, Councillor Nuatali Nelmes.

Powerful testimonies shared and the case laid out on each of the issue areas – housing and homelessness and climate, transition and community.

Following the musical item of Always written and performed by Heather Price, negotiations commenced with Abigail Boyd MLC representing the Greens, followed by the NSW Housing Minister Rose Jackson and the Federal Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen.

The night concluded with a call to action and finished with a commitment from those gathered to return again for the next HCA major assembly in 2025.

After the assembly, 83 people gathered for the debrief, and the next day and following week for the evaluation. 35 of 39 organisations announced themselves as founding members of the rollcall.





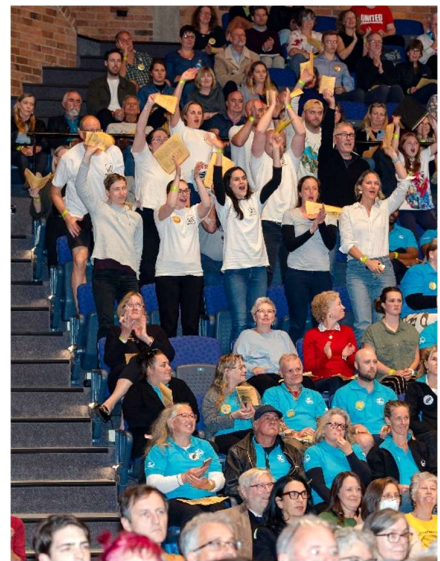
Founding organisations include:

1. Arab Council Australia
2. Australian Conservation Foundation
3. Australian National Imams Council
4. CatholicCare Hunter-Manning
5. Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
6. Cleanas
7. Climate Action Newcastle
8. Community Disability Alliance Hunter
9. Democracy in Colour
10. Faith Housing Alliance
11. Family Inclusion Strategies Hunter Inc.
12. Glenrock Anglican Church
13. Healthy Connection for All
14. Hunter Ageing Alliance
15. Hunter Renewal
16. Hunter Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
17. Macquarie Care
18. National Tertiary Education Union
19. New City Church
20. Newcastle Climate Change Response
21. NOVA for Women and Children
22. NSW Nature Conservation Council
23. Rail, Tram, and Bus Union
24. Salvation Army Housing
25. Settlement Services International
26. Shelter NSW
27. Solar Citizens





28. SDA Newcastle and Northern Branch
29. St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
30. Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance of Lake Macquarie
31. The Wilderness Society
32. United Workers Union
33. Uniting Church Hunter Presbytery
34. Uniting Church Charlestown and Garden Suburb
35. Uniting Church Hamilton
36. Uniting Church Jesmond Park
37. Wesley Mission
38. Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
39. Women's Reconciliation Network





2. Recognition



Dr James Wilson-Miller, academic, author and Wonnarua elder: "I like the way it was structured, pressured – got the politicians to commit. It was a good way to do it, bit subtle in a way. Got them to say – yay or nay, I'd love to have used it in the past in my previous conferences I ran!– the way you all came together, with one – that was something"

Photo credit: ABC

Lisa Allan, Editor Newcastle Herald "I am delighted to be able to formally recognise the Hunter Community Alliance. I welcome the alliance as another willing collaborator for the community and look forward to its contribution to the vibrant shared future of our region. The Herald has always sought to act in the interests of our community and contribute constructively by demanding the transparency and accountability of decision-makers. This does not always make us popular, but I passionately believe that transparency at all levels of government is a fundamental pillar of a healthy democracy". *Photo credit: Newcastle Herald*



Prof. Alex Zelinsky AO Vice Chancellor: "It was fitting that the HCA's founding assembly was held in the Great Hall, which was built by the community. We were delighted to welcome diverse community groups on to campus to participate in our democratic processes. We will work with HCA as we fulfill our role as a provider of education, new ideas and solutions to global challenges".

Dr John Tierney AM, fmr Liberal Senator for NSW & current opinion writer Newcastle Herald attended with the Catholic Diocese delegation, "Sitting in the great hall of the university of Newcastle among the 800-strong crowd of enthusiastic supporters of the Hunter Community Alliance (HCA) at their founding assembly, I let an almost church revivalist meeting' atmosphere... all these organisations have agreed to join and support the HCA formerly and backed with subscriptions. This is to advance the interests of the much-0neglected Hunter by advocating for government policies that will enable the region and our people to thrive, such as the long-promised, but still moribund, Hunter Transition Authority". *Photo credit National Library of Australia*





Rev Stu Cameron, CEO & Superintendent Minister for Wesley Mission:

'Last night I had the privilege of attending (with 862 others!) the Founding Assembly for the Hunter Community Alliance, for which Wesley Mission is a proud founding member. So proud of Chukwuemeka (Emmanuel) Ordu, who is a Team Leader with Wesley and who is a co-chair of the Alliance. The organising team did an incredible job. So much momentum, so much promise, so much collaborative good to do.'



Lord Mayor City of Newcastle, Councillor Nuatali

Nelmes, "I commend the Hunter Community Alliance on the success of the Founding Assembly, which brought thousands of progressive Novocastrians together who have pledged to work collectively to develop policies and actions to address climate change and the housing crisis. City of Newcastle looks forward to continuing to support the efforts of the Hunter Community Alliance."

Greg Piper, MP, Member for Lake Macquarie & Speaker of NSW

Parliament: "It was wonderful to hear of the success of the HCA founding assembly last week, what an inspiring example of democracy in action. Almost 1000 local community members coming together to hold elected officials to account on important matters that affect all of us, but particularly the most vulnerable in our community. I look forward to working with the HCA toward progress and reform in these areas".



Justin Page, Director Hunter Jobs: "The Hunter Jobs Alliance was proud to attend the founding and work closely with HCA on common issues. As two strong advocates in the Hunter working together can only strengthen our collective voices for meaningful outcomes for our region".



Devett Kennedy, Lead Organiser, Queensland Community Alliance:

"As you know, in these evaluations [at National Training] we don't give out grades easily. Based on the politics, drama and tactics. I grade it an A-" *(followed by gasps from those who know Devett's hard-nosed grading).*



Rev Mata Havea Hiliau, Moderator Uniting Church Synod of NSW & ACT: “Thank you to the organisers and the collective effort of civil society across the Hunter Region. Empowering stories from local peoples and Local, State, Federal members of Parliament all responding to our HCA Asks. Uniting, Wesley and Uniting Church all turned up for and with the incredible people of the Hunter Region”

Newcastle City Councillor Charlotte McCabe: “The HCA has a diversity of membership that is clearly very broad. Knowing that these civil society groups have been working together, and have found agreement on the demands proposed on the night, was inspiring and powerful. I found the personal stories very moving and I'm sure all of the decision makers attending will carry those for many years to come”.



David Bliss, Secretary SDA Newcastle & Northern Division: “Last night, I was privileged to represent 13,000 retail, fast food and warehouse members at the Founding Assembly of the Hunter Community Alliance. It was a remarkable event welcoming over 800 individuals, representing unions, faith-based organisations and community groups advocating for a fair, just and sustainable future for the region”.



Associate Professor Amanda Tattersall, founding organiser Sydney Alliance: ‘A powerful night of democracy in action in the Hunter - the founding of Hunter Community Alliance. Congratulations to the 700+ people in the room, the 39 organisations that are part of the Alliance and to Lead organiser David Barrow and the broader Alliance staff team who have helped this community come together’.

Marlon Drake & Zeo Haami Lead Organiser & Organiser of Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau

We were proud to represent Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga at the founding of the Hunter Community Alliance. Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland sits straight across the Tasman Sea. We share those waters, and after attending the HCA Founding we have learned that we share much more; interests, values, and a desire to do good in our communities with people power. We are glad to be in relationship with you, and look forward to deepening our connection. From Aotearoa with **aroha, kia kaha, ngā mihi nui kia koutou!**





In addition we recognise the participation of the additional following elected representatives:

- Local Federal MPs for Patterson and Newcastle Meryl Swanson and Sharon Claydon
- NSW Minister for Women and Member for Charlestown Jodie Harrison
- Newcastle City Council - Deputy Mayor Declan Clausen, and Councillors Liz Adamczyk
- Port Stephen's City Council - Deputy Mayor Leah Anderson, Councillors Rosalyn Armstrong and Peter Francis, Port Stephen's Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council - Deputy Mayor Madeline Bishop and Councillor Adam Schults
- Upper Hunter Shire - Councillor James Burns
- Singleton Council - Councillor Dan Thompson (in his capacity as a member of Hunter Renewal)

We also recognise the important participation of:

- Aunty Di Rayson
- Uncle Laurie Perry
- Aunty Bev Manton
- Other Elders & Indigenous leaders who participated in the evening.





3. Progress on asks and what's next?

Relationship with non-Government MPs

- Meeting with LNP MP Dave Layzell Member for Upper Hunter coming up in May
- Meeting with Shooters Fishers & Farmers planned for June-July.

Abigail Boyd, MLC, representing the NSW Greens



Question	Response / Commitment
Will you commit to meet with the HCA regularly over the term of this government? Will there be an open-door policy?	"Absolutely I will"
Through your role in parliament, will you hold the NSW Government accountable to the commitments they make tonight to us, the Hunter Community Alliance?	"I certainly will, I relish the opportunity"
Next steps: The HCA will follow up with the NSW Greens on a per-needs basis.	



Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, NSW Minister for Housing & Homelessness



Question	Response / Commitment
<p>Question 1: Minister Jackson, can you re-commit the NSW Government to 30% affordable and social housing, or 780 units whichever is greater, as part of any development of Hunter Park? That they will be affordable in perpetuity, leased by government or non-government organisations and built at a minimum of silver accessibility standard with provision for gold and platinum?</p>	<p>Yes: I can recommit to the NSW clear commitment to 30% being social and affordable and silver standard.</p> <p>Planning processes are continuing. Can't give commitment on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perpetuity - Who will run (Gov/Non-gov) - Gold and platinum provision - Direct number of homes.
<p>HCA Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek commitment in meeting with NSW Planning Minister Paul Scully • Follow up with Minister for the Hunter, Yasmin Catley • Seek re-commitment from local council candidates in September elections. 	
<p>Question 2: Minister Jackson, can you commit that the six new transport-oriented developments (tier-2) in the Hunter will also include affordable</p>	<p>Minister cannot commit to this yet. Can commit to committing to setting up/facilitating a meeting with her, Paul Scully to raise the issue in June.</p>



housing held in perpetuity to at least 15% of homes?	
<p>HCA Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up Minister Jackson for meeting with Planning Minister Paul Scully in June. • Raise with the NSW Hunter Caucus. • Seek commitments for these percentages in Newcastle City Council and Lake Macquarie City Council candidates ahead of September elections. 	
<p>Question 3: Minister, can you commit to develop a tenant-led renewal project at Hamilton South funded by Homes NSW with a commitment that the new CEO of Homes NSW will meet with us in June to confirm details and resourcing of roles outlined in our proposal?</p>	<p>Yes!</p>
<p>HCA Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCA to follow up Minister Jackson’s office for meeting in June with Rebecca Pinkstone, CEO Homes NSW. • Seek support from Newcastle City Council candidates ahead of September local elections. 	



^HCA Leaders of tenant-led groups and housing team members negotiate wording ahead of the Housing Minister at Hamilton South Community Centre, the night of the assembly.



Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Energy



^ Nasif Saifullah Omar Nasif sharing his testimony, Chris Bowen MP

Question	Response / Commitment
<p>Question 1: Minister Bowen, can you commit to an expansion of access to affordable renewable energy and/or household energy efficiency programs for low-income households in the upcoming 2024 federal budget?</p>	<p>No, won't announce what might be (or might not) be in the budget. Currently 1.7m Committed.</p>
<p>HCA Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and respond to Federal Budget, May • Continue advocacy towards NSW State Budget, July • <i>Potential:</i> Seek opportunities for energy programs in partnership with Local Councils in lead up to September Council elections. 	
<p>Question 2: Minister Bowen, can you commit tonight, on behalf of the federal skills minister Brendan O'Connor, to funding the new industries training centre at Tighes Hills TAFE using the federal government's national skills agreement funding?"</p>	<p>No, but will commit to setting up a meeting between HCA and Federal Skills Minister Brendan O'Connor</p>
<p>HCA Next steps:</p>	



- Follow up Minister Bowen’s office and arrange meeting with Minister Brendan O’Connor (With our allies Hunter Jobs Alliance).
- Continue to push the NSW Government on their contribution to the funding via local MPs, Hunter Caucus and agitating for the opening up of Resources 4 Regions.



Question 3: Will you reaffirm your commitment that the federal net zero authority will work with the NSW state government’s Hunter Transition Authority?

Yes.

HCA Next Steps:

Primarily a NSW Government issue, the HCA will be following up Hunter Minister Yasmin Catley, Finance Minister Courtney Houssos and Hunter Caucus MPs about the proper funding of the Hunter Transition Authority, and agitating for the opening up of Royalties 4 Rejuvenation.

Question 4A: If you approve feasibility license applications for offshore wind will you require and/or resource the NSW government to develop an offshore wind strategy?

4A: “No I don’t *require* state governments”, I will work with them to make sure there are real community benefits”

Question 4B: If you approve feasibility license applications for offshore wind can you commit or require funding of at least 6 full time community educators to work across the Hunter to:

B: Not going to make a budget commitment. There will be a budget, and one following. Stay tuned. No to 6 full time. There will be a requirement of those who obtain licence to engage with the community

Support communities to participate in planning processes & combat disinformation

HCA Next Steps:

- Further discernment on the next steps of the HCA related to renewable energy, in the context of the Renew Australia for All campaign.
- Ongoing campaigning for funded community educators.



Will you come again?

Question	Response / Commitment
Minister Jackson , will you commit to meeting with the Hunter Community Alliance in assembly once a year?	Yes
Minister Bowen , will you commit to meeting with the Hunter Community Alliance in assembly once a year?	Yes
To all 863 participants in the room – ‘if they come, will you also commit to meeting with the Hunter Community Alliance in assembly once a year?’	Yes – acclamation and applause!
<p>Next steps:</p> <p>Once NSW and Federal Government sitting calendars are finalised, the HCA team will approach the University of Newcastle for a date and coordinate with Minister Jackson (NSW), Minister Bowen (Federal), NSW and Federal Opposition, NSW and Federal Ministers and Hunter MPs to attend the next major assembly. It will not be held in April.</p>	

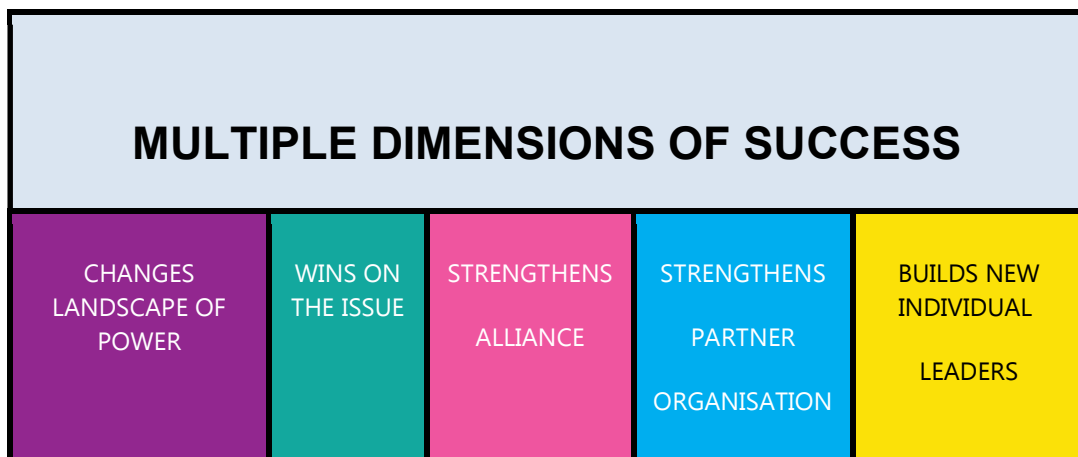
4. Internal Evaluation Report Card

The Founding Assembly is a milestone that represents a full founding period. In May of last year the leaders of the Hunter Community Alliance committed to a 10 month process, meeting monthly and then in 2024 fortnightly.

The following goals and measurements were agreed upon to measure the effectiveness of the Founding action.

Note: grading system is subjective. Assessed by HCA leadership group, HCA organiser and external organisers and leaders who were invited to evaluate the action (Queensland Community Alliance, Sydney Alliance, Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau).

In broad-based community organising there are five pillars of success.





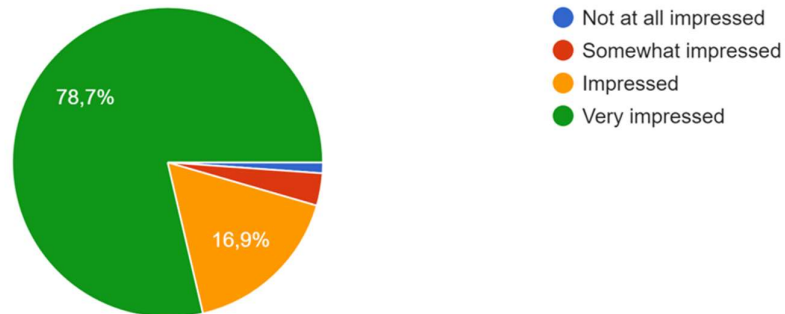
Identify, recruit & develop new leaders		
Goal	Measure	Result / Grade
Expand the diversity of HCA leadership; leaders have used a new skill because of the HCA	<i>Measured by survey of Founding Team (45 members) after the founding.</i>	30/35 members of Founding Team could identify a new skill they had learned as part of Founding. (10 more to follow up) B
Leaders can point to a new relationship with someone outside of their organisation that they have developed through the process	<i>Qualitative</i>	At the closing evaluation every leader had built a relationship with someone from a different organisation in the Alliance. A
10% of the attendees at the Founding Assembly sign up for training	<i>Quantitative</i>	Required 86 sign-ups (10%). Just 24 participants signed up. Team will check again after the May-June training sessions on final attendance. TBC - more to follow up
<i>"People turned up week after week" "We never thought we could do it" "I shared a story with a person in power that changed their mind"</i>	<i>Activist organisation: "We learnt how to walk and chew gum [negotiate]" "I learnt how to share my story" "I learnt how to interrupt a politician" "I learned how to stand up for myself"</i>	



“For people with disability, we were at the centre of this assembly, this is active citizenship”, “I couldn’t have done it without the other leaders backing us up”...

How would you describe your general impression of the Founding Assembly event?

89 respuestas



Based on your experience of the Founding Assembly, to what extent do you believe HCA is, or will be, an impactful organisation for driving positive social change in the Hunter? I think HCA will be:

89 respuestas

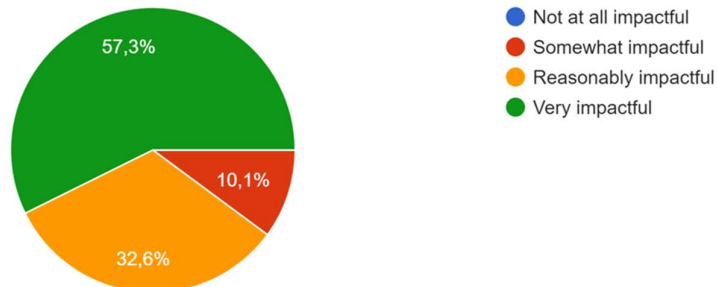


Figure 1 Setting high expectations for the HCA ^



Strengthen partner organizations		
Goal	Measure	Result / Grade
<p>Each partner organisation has set and stated their own goal for involvement in the assembly</p>	<p><i>Qualitative</i></p>	<p>Roll call included 34/39 organisations. More work to be done on supporting state-wide organisations to have a presence and rep in the Hunter.</p> <p>B</p>
<p>Organisations can reach their turnout goals; and other goals; and attribute some success to their involvement in the HCA</p>	<p><i>Turnout numbers</i></p> <p><i>Other goals & attribution – Qualitative</i></p> <p><i>Internal decision makers participate</i></p>	<p>Turnout goals: 25/35 organisations met their stated turnout goal.</p> <p>4 Organisations exceeded their turnout goal: Uniting Church Hunter Presbytery (180/150), Newcastle Climate Change Response (81/7) New City Church (27/25), NTEU NSW (39/35)</p> <p>Alliance aimed for 1096 registrations in November, ended up with 1021. Minus the choir, 990, anticipated 20% drop off. 863 in the room (headcount), 855 checked in.</p> <p>Registration process: A- Alliance-wide turnout: C+ Individual organisations will grade their own turnout.</p>
		<p>Internal decision makers: A- Almost all organisations had their decision makers present.</p>



		<p>Other goals & attribution: More info to gather, but likely B</p>
<p><i>"We had critics in our organisation. They came and were blown away, the following HCA meeting, new members came", a social-action group</i></p>	<p><i>"Alone we have not progressed our issues in a year. But through the HCA we have", an environment group</i></p>	<p><i>"This was a moment of unity for our organisation. A powerful reminder of who we are ourselves", Uniting Church, Hunter Presbytery</i></p>

Strengthens Alliance		
Found the Alliance	<i>Assessment</i>	Met criteria!
Raise resources for a permanent organising budget (organiser + on-costs)	<i>Budget</i>	<p>HCA budget goals for 24-25 is annual \$150k. Currently dues commitment for 2024-25 is \$90k from partner organisations dues (hard money). \$60k gap sought from new members and philanthropic support (soft money). More work to do!</p> <p>C</p>
Members commit for 3 years	<i>Assessment</i>	<p>This goal didn't get followed through as part of Founding process (lost track of it). Was not assessed. While organisations signed up and future looks bright, commitment for 3 years was not part of conversations.</p> <p>Did not meet criteria (F)</p>



Recognition of the HCA as a powerful, authentic, diverse, and legitimate voice in the Hunter.

Recognition from politics (word and deed)

Recognition from other major players in the Hunter (word and deed)

Aboriginal Elders participated in the event. More work to do.

Hunter Workers, Hunter Jobs Alliance participated in the event.

Local, state, and federal elected representatives participated.

Vice Chancellor, Editor of the Newspaper participated.

Major business networks, LNP, Shooters & Fishers and 8 NSW MPs sent apologies. **But** assembly tension secured meetings and commitments to meet in weeks following.

Within 36 hours, another NSW Minister not present mentioned the power of the assembly back to a HCA leader at another forum.

B



Figure 2 Some members of the Founding Team



Strengthens Alliance	
<p>Expand the ownership of the Hunter Community Alliance to a wide range of people from HCA partner organisations.</p> <p><i>Qualitative/ Survey results</i></p>	<p>Over 50% of survey participants at the Assembly were attending a HCA event for the first time.</p> <p>Within organisations, wide spectrum of participation.</p> <p>During the Founding period, 4 new organisations joined: Homelessness NSW, Cleanas, Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance of Lake Macquarie, SDA Newcastle and Northern Division</p> <p>B+</p> <p>Note: More work to do in partnership with Indigenous organisations and leaders.</p> <p>More work to do on cultural diversity. Clash with Eid will be avoided next time.</p>
<p>Exposure of the HCA in the broader community – people know who the HCA is and what it is about</p> <p><i>Media mentions Qualitative</i></p>	<p>Newcastle Herald:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 groups call on region MPs to stop 'short changing' Hunter Michael Parris March 16 2024 • HCA Launches in Newcastle, Newsroom April 10 2024 • Fresh hope for Hamilton South, Jade Lazarevic April 12th 2024 • What Ministers Promised, Jamison Murphy April 15 2024 • Hunter Community Alliance a bold experiment in grassroots democracy, Opinion, Fmr Liberal Senator Dr John Tierney AM, April 16th 2024 <p>ABC Radio Newcastle, April 10th</p> <p>NBN TV News Newcastle-Hunter, April 10th</p> <p>Qualitative: the co-chairs have been stopped by multiple people in the days since the assembly who weren't at the assembly but saw photos and watched online.</p> <p>A-</p>



Win on Issues		
Goal	Measure	Result / Grade
Issues are discerned collectively by the Alliance and owned by the whole	Assessment	<p>Strong ownership of issues from HCA Council reps (60+ leaders representing each organisation). More work to be done to refine buy-in processes from broader organisations and increase the number of table talks that contribute to the agenda.</p> <p>Transition from 'broad goals of the Alliance / policy vision and agenda' to "asks on the night" is always an uneven process.</p> <p>B</p>
Tangible and measurable progress &/or outcomes of our issues	Attribution and result	<p>See political summary earlier.</p> <p>Qualitative assessment is yes, the Alliance progressed outcomes on issues.</p> <p>Wins and their attribution will be tracked over the coming months/years.</p>

Shift the landscape of power		
Goal	Measure	Result / Grade
Decision makers asking us to assist them	Assessment	<p>Yes. All three representatives on the night said this. 6 NSW MPs and 2 Federal MPs articulated this sentiment in meetings in the lead up to Founding.</p> <p>A</p>