



Government administration and defence

Government administration and defence

Employment (1993 ANZSIC)

The table over provides details of employment in the *government administration and defence* sector (defined by the 1993 version of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification - ANZSIC) in the Lower Hunter and Hunter Balance sub-Regions (upper section of the table), and the Hunter Region and State (lower section). According to the *Census of Population and Housing*:

- In 2006 there were 12,616 people employed in the *government administration and defence* sector in the Hunter, 27 per cent more than 10 years earlier in 1996. In the State, employment in the sector increased by 24 per cent over the decade.
- The bulk of this regional employment (10,989 persons, or 87 per cent in 2006) was in the Lower Hunter.
- Within the sector, 73 per cent of regional employment in 2006 was in *government administration* (lower than the State proportion of 80 per cent). Employment in this sub-sector in the Hunter increased by 43 per cent between 1996 and 2006, compared with an increase of 36 per cent in the State. The increase in the Hunter Balance LGAs was substantially lower than in the Lower Hunter LGAs
- A total of 24 per cent of regional employment in 2006 was in *defence*, a higher proportion than in the State (15 per cent). Employment in *defence* declined by 5 per cent over the decade, though a large reduction (of 61 per cent) in the Upper Hunter was substantially offset by an increase of 16 per cent in the Lower Hunter. In the State, *defence* employment fell by 12 per cent between 1996 and 2006.
- The sector accounted for 5.1 per cent of all regional employment in 2006, a slightly higher proportion than in the State (4.7 per cent).

An overview of sectoral employment and structural change in the regional economy are also discussed in the Labour Force chapter. Additional information on broadcasting is provided in the Communications chapter.

Employment in government administration and defence, Hunter and NSW, 1996 and 2006 (1993 ANZSIC)

	Lower Hunter (1)				Hunter Balance (2)			
	1996	2006	% change 1996-2006	% sector total 2006	1996	2006	% change 1996-2006	% sector total 2006
Defence	2,344	2,729	16%	24.8%	864	335	-61%	20.5%
Foreign government representation	0	0	-	0.0%	0	0	-	0.0%
Government administration	5,466	7,963	46%	72.5%	996	1,267	27%	77.6%
Government administration and defence, undefined	26	7	-73%	0.1%	4	4	0%	0.2%
Government administration, undefined	51	23	-55%	0.2%	6	6	0%	0.4%
Justice	160	267	67%	2.4%	11	21	91%	1.3%
Total government administration and defence	8,047	10,989	37%	100.0%	1,881	1,633	-13%	100.0%
	Hunter (3)				New South Wales			
	1996	2006	% change 1996-2006	% sector total 2006	1996	2006	% change 1996-2006	% sector total 2006
Defence	3,208	3,061	-5%	24.3%	23,573	20,673	-12%	15.2%
Foreign government representation	3	0	-100%	0.0%	474	246	-48%	0.2%
Government administration	6,462	9,225	43%	73.1%	80,357	108,950	36%	80.1%
Government administration and defence, undefined	30	15	-50%	0.1%	898	136	-85%	0.1%
Government administration, undefined	57	29	-49%	0.2%	920	525	-43%	0.4%
Justice	171	286	67%	2.3%	3,825	5,454	43%	4.0%
Total government administration and defence	9,931	12,616	27%	100.0%	110,047	135,984	24%	100.0%

Note: Employment is classified according to the 1993 version of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). Historical comparisons are not available using the latest (2006) version.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing*, 1996 and 2006, Cat. No. 2068.0

(1) Local Government Areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens.

(2) Local Government Areas of Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shire.

(3) There may be slight discrepancies between data shown for the Hunter Region and the sum of data for the Lower Hunter and Hunter Balance sub-Regions.

Employment (2006 ANZSIC)

Under the latest (2006) version of ANZSIC the government administration and defence sector has been 'absorbed' by the newly-created *public administration and safety* sector. This sector includes *public order, safety and regulatory services*, predominately police, fire, emergency, coastwatch, correctional and detention services which were previously classified as 'personal and other services' under the 1993 ANZSIC.

Employment in public administration and safety, Hunter and NSW, 2006 (2006 ANZSIC)

	Lower Hunter (1)		Hunter Balance (2)	
	2006	% sector total 2006	2006	% sector total 2006
Defence	2,725	19.9%	340	17.4%
Public administration	7,863	57.5%	1,224	62.6%
Public administration and safety, nfd (4)	47	0.3%	4	0.2%
Public order, safety and regulatory services	3,045	22.3%	386	19.8%
Total public administration and safety	13,680	100.0%	1,954	100.0%
	Hunter (3)		NSW	
	2006	% sector total 2006	2006	% sector total 2006
Defence	3,063	19.6%	20,672	11.8%
Public administration	9,089	58.1%	108,640	62.1%
Public administration and safety, nfd	53	0.3%	730	0.4%
Public order, safety and regulatory services	3,429	21.9%	44,879	25.7%
Total public administration and safety	15,634	100.0%	174,921	100.0%

Note: Employment is classified according to the 2006 version of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). Historical comparisons are not available using this version of the classification.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing*, 1996 and 2006, Cat. No. 2068.0

- (1) Local Government Areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens.
- (2) Local Government Areas of Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shire.
- (3) There may be slight discrepancies between data shown for the Hunter Region and the sum of data for the Lower Hunter and Hunter Balance sub-Regions.
- (4) Not further defined.

Local government councils

The following tables provide some comparative information on local government councils in the Hunter Region, including State Government assistance. Most of the data is from the NSW Department of Local Government (DLG). Comparative, time series information is available in Excel format at http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_complIndex.asp?documenttype=comptime&mi=3&ml=2.

Annual reports from the Local Government Grants Commission may be downloaded from the DLG website (a direct link is not available) <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/>. Excel tables detailing grant assistance are available at <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/Files/Information/grants07.xls>.

Population characteristics (2006) and council employment (2004-05) in Hunter local government areas

	Population characteristics of LGA 2006 (1)				Council employment 2005-06	
	Area sq. km	Population 2006	Population density 2006 persons/sq. km	Average rate of population growth 1996-2006	No. full-time equivalent staff	Variation (2)
Cessnock	1,966.4	46,206	23	0.3%	279	6.1%
Dungog	2,251.2	8,062	4	0.4%	68	4.6%
Gloucester	2,951.6	4,800	2	-0.2%	86	-4.4%
Great Lakes	3,375.4	32,764	10	1.6%	288	-1.0%
Lake Macquarie	752.9	183,139	243	0.6%	831	2.6%
Maitland	391.7	61,881	158	2.1%	304	5.2%
Muswellbrook	3,405.6	15,236	4	-0.1%	187	40.6%
Newcastle	214.5	141,752	661	0.6%	935	4.0%
Port Stephens	979.5	60,484	62	1.7%	406	-1.5%
Singleton	4,895.9	21,940	4	1.1%	190	3.3%
Upper Hunter Shire	8,070.7	12,976	2	-0.8%	166	-0.6%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 1996 and 2006, Cat. No. 2068.0 and NSW Department of Local Government, *Comparative Information on Local Government Councils, 2005-06*

(1) For further details see the Population and Demography chapter.

(2) Change from previous year.

State Government grants to Hunter local government areas, 2007-08

	Grant entitlement 2007-08			Local roads (kms as measured in 2004-05)	
	General purpose component	Local roads component	Total	Total local roads km	Roads component/km local roads
Cessnock	\$4,354,023	\$1,243,574	\$5,597,597	876	1,420
Dungog	\$1,101,465	\$653,042	\$1,754,507	594	1,099
Gloucester	\$904,964	\$660,427	\$1,565,391	633	1,043
Great Lakes	\$4,287,446	\$1,206,952	\$5,494,398	911	1,325
Lake Macquarie	\$10,904,443	\$2,059,798	\$12,964,241	1,216	1,694
Maitland	\$4,584,442	\$909,324	\$5,493,766	566	1,607
Muswellbrook	\$1,980,281	\$655,403	\$2,635,684	577	1,136
Newcastle	\$9,965,834	\$1,375,039	\$11,340,873	735	1,871
Port Stephens	\$3,509,155	\$882,495	\$4,391,650	570	1,548
Singleton	\$1,795,511	\$882,271	\$2,677,782	724	1,219
Upper Hunter Shire	\$2,022,443	\$1,403,527	\$3,425,970	1,575	891

Source: NSW Local Government Grants Commission, *Annual Report, 2004-05* and <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/Files/Information/grants07.xls>

Revenue from rates and charges, Hunter local government areas, 2005-06

	Average rate per residential assessment		Average rate per business Assessment		Rates and annual charges revenue		User charges and fees revenue	
	2005-06	Variation (1)	2005-06	Variation (1)	Variation (1)	Prop'n of revenue (2)	Variation (1)	Prop'n of revenue (2)
Cessnock	\$688.96	4.7%	\$2,582.08	0.0%	5.74%	50.83%	5.68%	18.26%
Dungog	\$483.14	5.2%	\$520.55	8.3%	2.87%	40.89%	6.56%	10.93%
Gloucester	\$505.86	3.3%	\$655.74	-3.3%	2.87%	21.96%	19.02%	6.38%
Great Lakes	\$668.33	3.2%	\$1,803.42	2.9%	5.27%	41.73%	6.64%	16.98%
Lake Macquarie	\$694.97	5.3%	\$2,484.31	5.1%	6.08%	48.24%	-10.09%	8.33%
Maitland	\$642.06	2.8%	\$3,362.04	11.0%	5.17%	49.37%	19.38%	13.87%
Muswellbrook	\$516.91	4.3%	\$1,251.98	4.4%	10.26%	37.47%	29.28%	23.60%
Newcastle	\$702.76	4.3%	\$5,772.36	0.2%	5.34%	50.53%	3.84%	23.66%
Port Stephens	\$671.40	1.5%	\$2,417.69	50.7%	7.99%	38.85%	-4.82%	23.72%
Singleton	\$512.05	2.6%	\$1,117.63	5.2%	5.74%	39.45%	2.97%	23.94%
Upper Hunter Shire	\$449.62	4.5%	\$727.27	10.9%	5.47%	34.38%	-5.00%	28.12%

Source: NSW Department of Local Government, *Comparative Information on Local Government Councils, 2005-06*

(1) Change from previous year.

(2) Other sources of revenue for ordinary activities include interest, grants (see table above), contributions and donations.

Revenue and expenditure, Hunter local government areas, 2005-06

	Revenue from ordinary activities			Expenditure on ordinary activities			Debt service ratio (2)	Capital expenditure ratio (3)
	Total	Per capita	Variation (1)	Total	Per capita	Variation (1)		
	\$'000	Value		\$'000	Value			
Cessnock	\$46,133	\$998.42	6.4%	\$45,814	\$991.52	11.1%	4.47%	1.63
Dungog	\$11,293	\$1,400.77	-5.2%	\$9,895	\$1,227.36	3.5%	2.72%	2.23
Gloucester	\$17,935	\$3,736.46	-5.0%	\$15,437	\$3,216.04	7.8%	0.47%	2.56
Great Lakes	\$51,055	\$1,558.27	-0.6%	\$46,257	\$1,411.82	11.8%	7.19%	1.43
Lake Macquarie	\$150,938	\$824.17	16.8%	\$115,063	\$628.28	0.0%	6.25%	1.04
Maitland	\$52,118	\$842.23	-6.1%	\$41,230	\$666.28	11.2%	5.07%	2.76
Muswellbrook	\$25,580	\$1,678.92	20.5%	\$21,499	\$1,411.07	10.7%	2.59%	2.09
Newcastle	\$152,109	\$1,073.06	4.2%	\$148,212	\$1,045.57	4.9%	1.80%	-0.10
Port Stephens	\$82,044	\$1,356.46	3.3%	\$75,114	\$1,241.88	13.3%	5.42%	1.37
Singleton	\$33,182	\$1,512.40	7.4%	\$28,500	\$1,299.00	5.0%	3.03%	1.36
Upper Hunter Shire	\$26,395	\$2,034.14	2.8%	\$24,407	\$1,880.93	1.9%	1.58%	-20.08

Source: NSW Department of Local Government, *Comparative Information on Local Government Councils, 2005-06* and Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2006*, Cat. No. 2068.0

(1) Change from previous year.

(2) Net debt service costs/revenue from continuing operations.

(3) (Total 2005-06 property, plant and equipment – total 2004-05 property, plant and equipment)/2005-06 depreciation expense. Note: excluding water and sewerage.

Domestic waste services and development applications, Hunter local government areas, 2005-06

	Domestic waste services				Development applications			
	Average charge	Variation (1)	Cost/ service	Variation (1)	No. determined	Variation (1)	Av. no. days/determination	Variation (1)
Cessnock	\$206.75	3.5%	\$109.65	8.4%	1,209	-10.8%	66.25	13.3%
Dungog	\$193.86	33.2%	\$80.59	20.0%	239	-12.1%	57.49	14.3%
Gloucester	\$261.16	-42.3%	\$147.15	19.7%	189	-31.3%	39.07	35.6%
Great Lakes	\$246.38	5.6%	\$107.41	3.0%	887	-21.4%	47.13	34.6%
Lake Macquarie	\$184.60	2.0%	\$105.25	13.5%	3,075	-12.7%	82.93	-15.9%
Maitland	\$105.25	-56.8%	\$123.50	13.2%	1,504	27.5%	39.00	5.4%
Muswellbrook	\$154.49	12.6%	\$50.11	-6.4%	472	-5.4%	33.00	32.7%
Newcastle	\$164.12	11.6%	\$99.30	12.7%	2,228	-11.6%	56.29	23.3%
Port Stephens	\$228.83	0.1%	\$66.69	-15.8%	1,748	-1.2%	79.86	-13.2%
Singleton	\$217.40	7.4%	\$97.01	-26.9%	763	-19.0%	40.20	-10.3%
Upper Hunter Shire	\$232.70	18.9%	\$160.32	173.7%	376	-0.3%	25.99	-20.7%

Source: NSW Department of Local Government, *Comparative Information on Local Government Councils, 2005-06*

(1) Change from previous year.

Defence

Note: since the previous edition of Newcastle and the Hunter Region was published in 2005 all websites detailing defence installations in the Hunter have been either eliminated or substantially minimised. Consequently little information on the characteristics and operation of these installations is publicly available.

RAAF Base Williamtown – operations units

The RAAF Base at Williamtown is located approximately 30 km north of Newcastle. It was established in 1941 to provide protection for the strategic ports and industrial areas of the Hunter Region. The base initially comprised four runways, each 1,100 m long by 46 m wide to service the Williamtown Flying School. The School consisted of 62 buildings designed to accommodate 366 officers and men. Major expansions occurred during the 1960s as the site was developed to meet the new demands on it as the main fighter base in Australia. The facility was extended to 482 ha, and many of the World War II huts progressively replaced by modern buildings. In 1975 the Australian Defence Forces Warfare Centre was added to the base. It has continued to expand as new structures and facilities are constructed to meet its ever changing needs (see below for major capital expenditure projects). The second table below lists units operating out of RAAF Base Williamtown. The RAAF Base Williamtown website is http://www.defence.gov.au/raaf/organisation/info_on/bases/williamtown/index.htm.

Team Hunter is a group of regional organisations and defence industry businesses that have joined forces to promote the Hunter's defence industry capabilities. The group provides the following description of RAAF Base Williamtown. Currently Williamtown is the primary fighter base for the Royal Australian Air Force. The Base employs approximately 3,200 personnel, including military, civilians and contractors, and injects \$150

million per annum in salaries into the Hunter's economy. Williamtown is home to Air Combat Group headquarters and operates the F/A-18 Hornet, BAE Hawk 127 and Pilatus PC9 aircraft. Surveillance and Response Group controls all the Air Force's air surveillance assets including air traffic control, and will add six Airborne Early Warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft to their inventory in 2007-08. The Defence Materiel Organisation operates two Systems Program Offices (SPOs) from Williamtown: Tactical Fighter SPO (TFSP0) which manages the acquisition and through-life support of F/A-18 and Hawk aircraft, and the Ground Telecommunications SPO (GTESPO) which supports various surveillance, control and communications equipment.

RAAF Base Williamtown – major capital expenditure

The table below shows major capital facilities projects which have been approved for RAAF Base Williamtown. The Redevelopment Stage 1 and Airborne Early Warning and Control Works provided a major upgrade to the base infrastructure including pavements, a fuel farm, a refuelling reticulation system, a high-voltage electrical reticulation system, a sewerage farm, a new central emergency power station and airfield lighting systems. The project also included the construction of a new headquarters building, hangar and working accommodation for the airborne early warning and control capability. These works have been completed. The remaining project element, construction of an ordnance loading complex, was scheduled to commence in late 2007, with completion anticipated by mid 2008.

Major capital facilities projects approved for RAAF Base Williamtown

	Total estimated expenditure (\$ million)	Cumulative expenditure to 30 June 2007 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure 2006-07 (\$ million)
Redevelopment Stage 1 and Airborne Early Warning and Control Works	\$129.2	\$115.3	\$5.4
Aircraft Clear Water Rinse Facility	\$5.578	\$.068	\$.068
Noise Attenuation Works – Salt Ash and Williamtown Public Schools	\$.900	\$.451	-

Source: Australian Government Department of Defence, *Defence Annual Report, 2006–07*, http://www.defence.gov.au/budget/06-07/dar/2006-2007_Defence_DAR_04_v1_s3.pdf

Units operating out of RAAF Base Williamtown

Unit	Full name	Group	Aircraft
1ATSDETWIL	No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment – Williamtown		
2SQN	No. 2 Surveillance and Control Squadron	Surveillance and Response Group	B737 AEW&C
2ATHS	No. 2 Air Transportable Health Squadron	Combat Support Group	
2OCU	No. 2 Tactical Fighter Operational Conversion Unit	Air Combat Group (tactical fighter training unit)	F/A-18
3SQN	No. 3 Squadron	Air Combat Group (tactical fighter squadron)	F/A-18
3CRU	No. 3 Control and Reporting Unit		
26SQN	No. 26 Reserve Squadron		
76SQN	No. 76 Squadron	Air Combat Group (training squadron)	BAe-Hawk 127 (Lead in Fighter)
77SQN	No. 77 Squadron	Air Combat Group (tactical fighter squadron)	F/A-18 Pilatus PC-9
278SQN	No. 278 Squadron	Air Combat Group (tactical fighter training squadron)	F/A-18
381ECSS	No. 381 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron	Combat Support Group (airfield defence squadron)	
ATCDET-WLM	Air Traffic Control Detachment – Williamtown		
	Australian Defence Warfare Centre		
CSU-WLM	Combat Support Unit – Williamtown	Combat Support Group	
FACDU	Forward Air Control Development Unit	Air Combat Group	Pilatus PC-9
HQ41WG	Headquarters No. 41 Wing	Surveillance and Response Group	
HQ42WG	Headquarters No. 42 Wing	Surveillance and Response Group	
HQ44WG	Headquarters No. 44 Wing	Surveillance and Response Group	
HQ78WG	Headquarters No. 78 Wing	Air Combat Group	
HQ81WG	Headquarters No. 81 Wing	Air Combat Group	
HQACG	Headquarters Air Combat Group	Air Combat Group	
HQSRG	Headquarters Surveillance and Response Group	Surveillance and Response Group	
SACTU	Surveillance and Control Training Unit	Surveillance and Response Group	

Note: the Hunter Valley Research Foundation was unable to have the content and accuracy of this table confirmed by a representative from RAAF Base Williamtown.

Sources:

Australian Government Department of Defence, *Defence Annual Report, 2006–07*, http://www.defence.gov.au/budget/06-07/dar/2006-2007_Defence_dar_online02.pdf

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAAF_Base_Williamtown

RAAF Base Williamtown, http://www.defence.gov.au/raaf/organisation/info_on/bases/williamtown/index.htm

Singleton Military Area

The Singleton Military Area (Lone Pine Barracks), located 90 km west of Newcastle, houses the School of Infantry and the Special Forces Training Centre, part of Special Ops.

Adamstown Army Base

The Adamstown Army Base houses the RACT (Royal Australian Corps of Transport) Pipes and Drums and the Australian Army Band, Newcastle, as well as No. 8 Combat Engineering Regiment.

Myambat Logistics Company

Myambat Logistics Company (MLC) is located approximately two hours (150 km) north-west of Newcastle and 10 km from the nearest town of Denman in the Upper Hunter sub-Region. The role of the depot is to store, maintain and distribute all forms of ammunition and explosives used by the Australian Defence Force.

Public order and safety

Cessnock Correctional Centre is a minimum and maximum security institution for males, located in the Hunter 151 km north-west of Sydney and 48 km west of Newcastle. It is the reception prison for the Newcastle/Hunter Region.

Correctional centres

Cessnock is a large industrial complex employing inmates in a variety of jobs including engineering (mostly light fabrication), furniture manufacture (upholstery and timber products), demountable refurbishment for the Department of Education, food services, maintenance of the Centre's grounds and buildings, laundry logistics, motor workshop, staff canteen, and a number of hygiene programs.

In all business and service units inmates are encouraged to participate vocational and education programs offered to enhance their work readiness. The Centre offers a 12 month traineeship in general construction, conducted in the demountables refurbishment workshops. It is available for up to 10 minimum security inmates who are required to meet the selection criteria.

The community projects/Mobile Outreach Program operates as a self sufficient camp enabling minimum security inmates to undertake community projects within a 500 km radius of the Centre.

The website for Cessnock Correctional Centre is http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/offender_management/offender_management_in_custody/Correctional_Centres/cessnock.asp.

St Heliers Correctional Complex is a minimum security institution for males, situated on the outskirts of Muswellbrook, 128 km north-west of Newcastle and 242 km north of Sydney. The Complex holds a maximum of 256 inmates and has a total of 71 staff, including 39 custodial officers.

Five business units employ a total of 170 inmates who undertake training programs in beef production, vegetable farming, welding, spray painting, furniture refurbishment, vegetable preparation, farm, and laundry. Six

service industries employ 86 inmates in catering, ground maintenance, building maintenance, and domestic work.

Inmates are encouraged to participate in the various vocational and education programs offered. The community projects/Mobile Outreach Program includes development and maintenance of community recreational, sporting and tourist areas, ground maintenance of Memorial Drive and local cemeteries, building and maintenance of the Riding for the Disabled Centre, restoration of community halls, assisting local bushfire brigade services, restoration of disaster-affected areas, and charity activities.

The website for St Heliers Correctional Complex is http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/offender_management/offender_management_in_custody/Correctional_Centres/stheliers.asp.

The Department of Corrective Service also operates the Tomago Periodic Detention Centre at Tomago in the Hunter Region.

The tables below indicate the number of offenders in each of the facilities in 2006 and 2007.

No. of offenders under detention in Cessnock and St Heliers correctional facilities, 2006 and 2007

	Population at 25 June 2006		Population at 24 June 2007	
	Remand	Sentenced	Remand	Sentenced
Cessnock (males only)				
Maximum	66	40	61	44
Minimum		334		336
Total	66	374	61	380
St Heliers (males only)				
Total		251		280

Source: NSW Department of Corrective Services, *Statistical Report, 2006-07*

No. of offenders under detention in Tomago Periodic Detention Centre

	Population 2006		Population June 2007	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
On day of count (25 June 2006; 24 June 2007)	80	11	115	11
Daily average - financial year ended June of each year	95	10	102	11

Source: NSW Department of Corrective Services, *Statistical Report, 2006-07*

Fire services – NSW Fire Brigades

The NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) is the State Government agency responsible for managing fire emergencies in the major cities, metropolitan areas, and towns across rural and regional NSW. Under the *Fire Brigades Act, 1989*, the NSWFB also protects the State from hazardous material incidents and, by extension of this capability, the consequences of terrorism. Support is also provided to other government agencies during and after bushfires, storms, floods, landslides, building collapses, earthquakes and other emergency situations.

The NSWFB has a central office in Elizabeth Street, Sydney; a logistics support centre at Greenacre; operational communication centres at Alexandria, Newcastle, Wollongong and Katoomba; a training college at Alexandria; a network of 339 fire stations across the State; and a fleet of 882 vehicles. Currently the NSWFB has around 6,500 firefighters, 6,000 community fire unit members, and 360 administrative and trades staff.

Specific responsibilities are to:

- Manage fire emergencies in major cities, metropolitan areas, and towns across regional and rural NSW
- Support the Rural Fire Service of NSW during and after bushfires in the State, and work to prevent the occurrence of bushfires through hazard reduction strategies.
- Conduct rescue at road, household and industrial incidents
- Provide protection from hazardous materials incidents
- Locate, provide medical assistance to, and remove victims who have been trapped or affected by a structural collapse (through Urban Search and Rescue, a specialist capability)
- Manage the planning, development and implementation of the Brigades' counter-terrorism and aviation capability (the Counter-terrorism and Aviation Unit was established in March 2003)
- Provide investigative and research services to both internal and external customers, including research into human and structural behaviour during fire, and the associated impacts for performance-based building design (through the Fire Investigation and Research Unit)
- Contribute to building safety, both legislatively and as a community service
- Use the expertise and experience of firefighters to educate others in ways to prevent and prepare for emergencies.

The NSWFB's service area is divided into three regions (north, south and west) as well as metropolitan. The first table below provides counts of responses and activities in regions, and zones within the regions, for brigades located in the Hunter. The second table indicates the number of various types of incidents according to local government area. The website for NSWFB is <http://www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au/>.

Reported responses by NSW Fire Brigades according to region, zone and brigade, 2006-07

Region, zone and brigade	Responses			Community (1)
	Fire	Other	Total	
Metropolitan North 1				
222 Belmont	117	213	330	149
231 Boolaroo	82	172	254	11
251 Cardiff	238	477	715	167
252 Carrington	45	168	213	3
255 Charlestown	268	457	725	189
260 Newcastle	230	993	1223	180
320 Hamilton	192	814	1006	259
357 Lambton	77	374	451	16
376 Merewether	61	182	243	9
377 Minmi	44	55	99	27
383 Morisset	93	205	298	19
404 New Lambton	67	338	405	6
446 Stockton	29	173	202	7
447 Swansea	77	100	177	100
454 Tarro	165	240	405	48
458 Teralba	95	196	291	4
462 Mayfield West	116	477	593	169
464 Toronto	201	232	433	141
484 Wallsend	124	239	363	103
485 Wangi Wangi	40	151	191	55
486 Waratah	179	561	740	96
498 West Wallsend	114	102	216	31
500 Tingira Heights	319	396	715	180
Total (whole of zone)	2,973	7,315	10,288	1,969
Metropolitan North 3				
202 Abermain	38	33	71	17
220 Bellbird	49	116	165	57
237 Branxton Greta	29	218	247	10
254 Cessnock	213	287	500	163
282 Dungog	13	38	51	39
344 Kearsley	47	40	87	90
349 Kurri Kurri	136	112	248	386
373 East Maitland	200	239	439	211
374 Maitland	143	322	465	78
382 Morpeth	55	72	127	24
402 Nelson Bay	72	243	315	21
418 Paxton	23	26	49	22
432 Raymond Terrace	198	191	389	23
455 Telarah	109	264	373	70
497 Weston	90	86	176	40
Total (whole of zone)	1,415	2,287	3,702	1,251

...Continued over

Region, zone and brigade	Responses			Community (1)
	Fire	Other	Total	
Regional North 1				
295 Forster	76	245	321	62
303 Gloucester	9	24	33	29
471 Tea Gardens	14	27	41	0
Total (partial zone)	99	296	395	91
Regional West 2				
208 Aberdeen	14	39	53	18
283 Denman	9	18	27	0
390 Murrurundi	4	20	24	16
392 Muswellbrook	94	140	234	48
393 Merriwa	10	22	32	1
443 Scone	16	50	66	73
444 Singleton	66	277	343	341
Total (partial zone)	213	566	779	497
Total Hunter	4,700	10,464	15,164	3,808

Source: NSW Fire Brigades, *Annual Report, 2006-07*, Appendix 11

- (i) Community safety, preparedness and engagement activities - this data is sourced from the NSWFB's Community Activity Reporting System, used to record the initial or follow-up involvement of fire stations and units to a community safety program, meeting or community engagement activity. The data under-represents the level of prevention activities performed by fire officers as not all such activities are currently reported.

Types of incidents attended by NSW Fire Brigades according local government area, 2006-07

	Fires, explosions	Non-fire Rescue	Hazardous conditions calls	Service, salvage calls	Good intent calls	False calls	Other calls	Total primary incidents
Cessnock	516	80	132	84	95	224	18	1,149
Dungog	13	14	6	-	2	11	5	51
Gloucester	9	2	9	-	1	12	-	33
Great Lakes	91	15	27	14	106	104	11	368
Lake Macquarie	1,324	201	390	223	283	805	81	3,307
Maitland	419	52	132	68	120	263	22	1,076
Muswellbrook	101	8	30	13	24	57	13	246
Newcastle	882	255	380	246	278	1,617	107	3,765
Port Stephens	282	47	55	48	65	229	13	739
Singleton	74	25	44	30	37	153	98	461
Upper Hunter Shire	38	4	25	2	11	42	6	128
Total Hunter	3,749	703	1,230	728	1,022	3,517	374	11,323

Source: NSW Fire Brigades, *Annual Report, 2006-07*, Appendix 10

Fire services – NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is the world's largest fire service. It is comprised of 2,094 brigades and has a total volunteer membership of approximately 70,000, providing emergency services to over 95 per cent of NSW. In addition to the volunteers, approximately 700 salaried staff are employed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Service at headquarters, regional offices and district fire control centres.

The RFS was established by an act of parliament on 1 September 1997, as the successor to the first bush fire brigade. RFS regions provide support to volunteers and district, team and zone staff by assisting with operational preparation activities, and monitoring resources, incidents and conditions at a regional level to assist forward planning.

RFS headquarters are located at Homebush and comprise five directorates, each headed by an executive director. NSW is divided into four regions, each staffed by a regional manager. RFS regional operations are responsible for maintaining a regional picture of incident activity, providing advice and support to districts/teams and zones and advice and briefings to RFS headquarters. RFS headquarters assists by providing resources and information to RFS regions. The four RFS regions are:

- Region East encompassing the densely populated Sydney basin, the coastal zones north to Port Macquarie and south to Kiama, and stretching inland to Bathurst, Muswellbrook and Merriwa. The bulk of the Hunter is serviced by the following teams and zone in Region East:
 - Manning Team – covering the local government areas (LGAs) of Gloucester, Greter Taree, Great Lakes and Hastings
 - Lower Hunter Zone – covering the LGAs of Dungog and Port Stephens
 - Hunter Valley Team – covering the LGAs of Muswellbrook and Singleton
 - Hunter Team – covering the LGAs of Cessnock and Maitland
 - The Lakes Team – covering the LGAs of Lake Macquarie and Wyong.
- Region North covering the popular coastal tourist areas from Coffs Harbour to the Tweed Shire, and the large inland cities of Tamworth and Armidale. Rural centres include Narrabri, Gunnedah, Inverell and Moree. For the Hunter, the relevant team in this region is the:
 - Liverpool Range Team – covering the LGAs of Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains and Upper Hunter Shire.
- Region South taking in the South Coast, Southern Tablelands and the western areas of the Riverina. The Region covers all of the NSW/Victoria border, surrounds the ACT and includes areas such as the Bega Valley, the Snowy River and Wagga Wagga.
- Region West covering almost 53 per cent of NSW, from Mudgee in the east to the South Australian border in the west.

Note that the Newcastle LGA is not covered by the RFS.

At the district or local government level, fire control officers are appointed to manage the day-to-day affairs of brigades. In addition to fighting bush fires, rural fire brigades are regularly called upon to attend road accidents, assist in search and rescue operations, and storm and flood recovery.

The website for the RFS is <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>.

Police services

The Hunter is part of the NSW Police Force's Northern Region, with services provided through six of the 12 Local Area Commands (LACs) in that region. The regional command is located at Newcastle. Most officers in LACs work as general duties police, detectives, highway patrol officers and in traffic services. Assistance is provided by units with specialist roles such as road safety, fingerprinting, rescue, water police, air wing, intelligence analysis, anti-terrorist and hostage negotiation, drug enforcement, child protection, fraud and major crime investigation.

Following are the LACs in the Hunter, with brief extracts from the *NSW Police Annual Report, 2006-07* highlighting major activities in each command in 2006-07.

- **Newcastle LAC** (Church and Watt Streets, Newcastle) - Police at Newcastle LAC have focused on proactive licensing initiatives, specifically targeting the responsible service of alcohol in Newcastle city. Alcohol-related crime is also heavily targeted using Vikings operations, with support from the Department of Liquor, Gaming and Racing. In addition, Newcastle police participate in a crime prevention partnership with the Premier's Department and other government services. Next reporting year they will specifically target a reduction in non-domestic assaults, which are usually alcohol related.
- **Waratah LAC** (Harriet Street, Waratah) - Strike Force Kaberry, led by Waratah LAC, dismantled an extensive amphetamine distribution network operating in the area. Police arrested six offenders on significant drug supply charges, all of whom have received gaol sentences. Action is underway to seize assets worth an estimated \$1.5 million.
- **Lake Macquarie LAC** (Main Road, Boolaroo) - Strike Force Darangan was a complex investigation by Lake Macquarie LAC into a large scale international fraud which involved the assistance of international law enforcement and financial institutions. Investigators worked with authorities from three European countries, as well as staff from Australia Post; the Australian Consulate in The Hague, Netherlands; the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department; and the Australian Federal Police Financial Investigations Unit. The offender pleaded guilty to dealing with the proceeds of crime (in excess of \$1 million), stealing mail articles, and break, enter and steal. He was sentenced to nine years imprisonment with a six year non-parole period.

- **Lower Hunter LAC** (Caroline Place, Maitland) - Police from Lower Hunter LAC involved in Strike Force Islander successfully dismantled a local drug network when they arrested 14 offenders on a range of drug-related charges. They included supply large commercial quantity of drug, ongoing supply of prohibited drug, supply and possess prohibited drug, and money laundering offences.
- **Hunter Valley LAC** (William Street, Muswellbrook) - A new police station at Muswellbrook was opened in March 2007. The \$7.6 million building incorporates the original police station, built in 1860, which originally housed seven police officers. The new accommodation houses more than 30 full-time police officers.
- **Manning/Great Lakes LAC** (Lake and West Streets, Forster) - Operation Wallis, an initiative of the Manning Great Lakes LAC, targeted the stealing of motor vehicles in the Forster area. Police arrested 11 offenders, which has made a significant impact on the number of vehicles stolen from the area.

The website for the NSW Police Force is <http://www.police.nsw.gov.au>.

State Emergency Services

The State Emergency Service (SES) is an emergency and rescue service made up almost entirely of volunteers, with 232 units located in 17 regions based on major river systems throughout New South Wales. Each region is led by a region controller. The units comprise more than 10,000 volunteer members.

While the major SES responsibilities are for flood and storm operations, the organisation also provides the majority of general rescue effort in the rural parts of the State. This includes road accident rescue, vertical rescue, bush search and rescue, evidence searches (both metropolitan and rural) and other forms of specialist rescue that may be required due to local threats. The SES also supports the full-time emergency services during major disasters (including the NSW Police Service, the NSW Rural Fire Service, the NSW Fire Brigades and the Ambulance Service of NSW), and is involved in a range of community activities.

Each region controller is responsible for the operational control of emergency flood and storm responses, including planning, training, operational support and other functions within their area of control. The region headquarters also provides administrative support to the units in its region; all have fully functioning operations centres and a group of volunteers who help with training, planning, operational and other functions. The region controller is normally assisted by three paid staff members.

Every council area in NSW has an SES presence, and some of the more populous council areas have units with more than 100 SES volunteers. Most council areas have a single SES unit which is led by a local controller, but some council areas have two or more units, each of which is led by a unit controller. NSW councils, in partnership with the State Government, provide strong financial and practical support to their local SES Units.

Frequently, SES volunteers travel outside their own areas at short notice, sometimes for days at a time to respond to emergency situations in other communities.

The Hunter Region SES headquarters are at Metford, with units at Cessnock, Cooranbong, Dungog, Karuah Valley, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Tomaree.

Other SES units in the Hunter are located at Aberdeen, Denman, Dungog, Gloucester Merriwa, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook, Scone and Singleton .

The website for the SES is <http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/>.

Note: see the Health and Community Services chapter for ambulance and rescue helicopter services.