

Industry Partner Prospectus

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

HUNTER *wise*
Hunter Women in STEM Network



Pictured above: 2024 Schools Outreach Program students attending a site visit supported by industry partner Glencore. On opposite page: (pictured top, clockwise) Elena Prieto, Sarah Johnson, Anna Giacomini, Camilla Bowdern, Juanita Todd, Erica Wanless, Karen Blackmore, Regina Berretta, Leah Kiem, and (pictured bottom) the 2023 Student Mentor Team.

About HunterWiSE

Hunter Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship (HunterWiSE) is an initiative dedicated to supporting the participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in the Hunter region.

HunterWiSE was established in 2017 by seven female academics from the University of Newcastle, each drawn from a different STEM discipline.

The founding team is comprised of Regina Berretta, Karen Blackmore, Anna Giacomini, Sarah Johnson, Elena Prieto, Juanita Todd and Erica Wanless. This interdisciplinary unit is supported by project officers, a research assistant and casual student mentors, who coordinate and deliver HunterWiSE initiatives and support research and evaluation.

HunterWiSE strives to create opportunities for encouragement and support for women and girls during pivotal periods in their education and STEM professional journeys.

HunterWiSE initiatives are made possible through the generous support of the University of Newcastle, our industry partners, and the commitment of the HunterWiSE Network. HunterWiSE is funded entirely through grants, donations and sponsorship, with all proceeds supporting the development, delivery and evaluation of our initiatives.

The active involvement and support of our industry partners is essential to the sustainability and success of our initiatives.



HunterWiSE aims to support and grow the crucial contribution of women in STEM to regional economies through three interlinked actions: a high school intervention program; scholarships for undergraduate students; and events for the HunterWiSE Network of Women in STEM.



HunterWiSE Schools Outreach Program

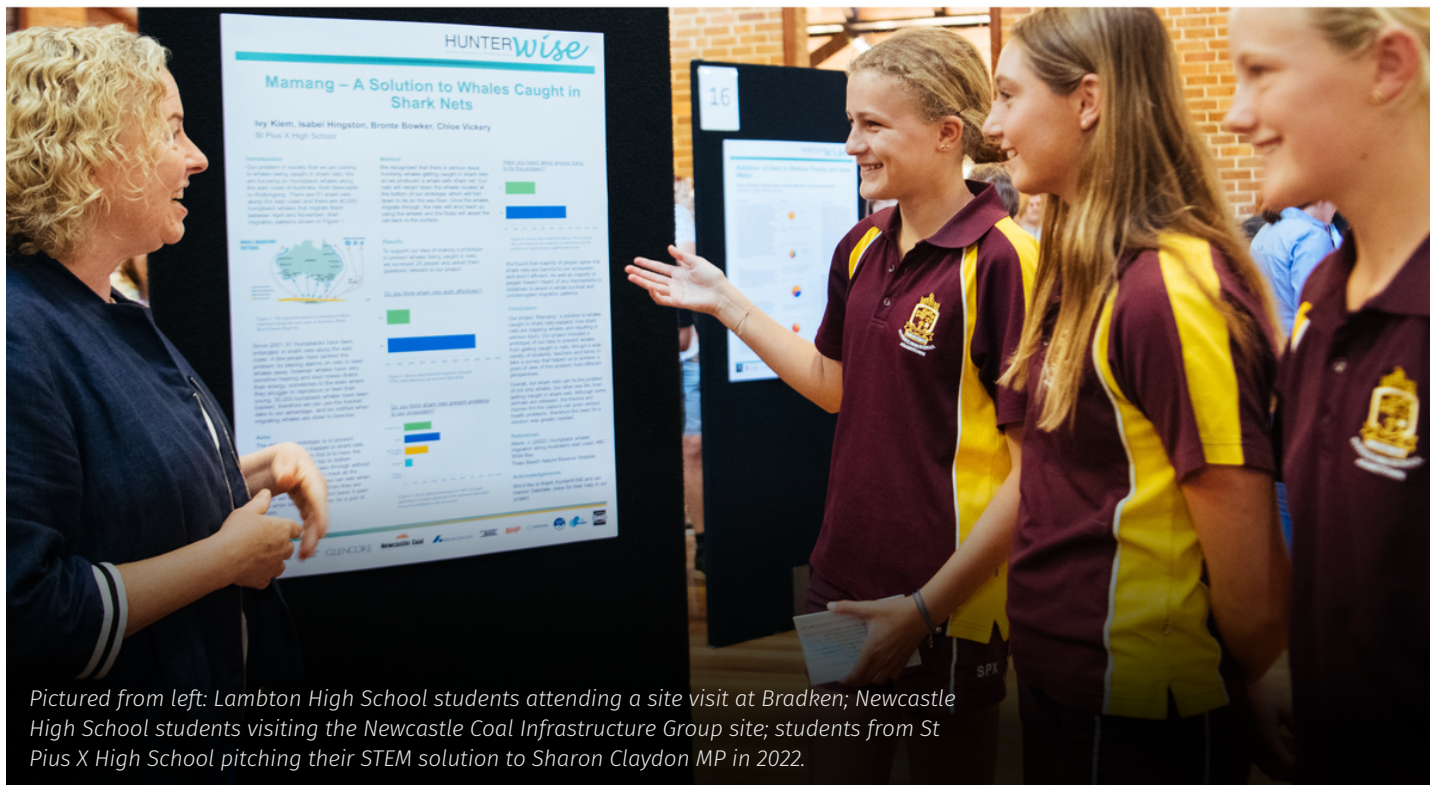
HunterWiSE Outreach is an intensive program for female students in Year 8 from participating high schools across the region. HunterWiSE Outreach aims to positively influence how school-aged girls perceive STEM, encouraging participation in STEM education and careers.

During the 10-week program, students identify an issue in their local community, and then work together to develop a STEM-based solution. In addition to the weekly school sessions, HunterWiSE Outreach includes a visit to the University of Newcastle or an industry site. The program culminates in a presentation night, when students pitch their STEM solutions to industry representatives to compete for prizes.

The Schools Outreach Program runs with the assistance of a team of University of Newcastle student mentors. As STEM students themselves, these women play a pivotal role in influencing the girls' perception of STEM education and careers.

The program links young female students and their teachers with women from a diverse range of STEM careers. The program aims to increase the number of girls taking HSC STEM courses. Ultimately, HunterWiSE Outreach aims to increase female participation in STEM-related university degrees, thereby playing a crucial role in improving gender diversity within Australia's future STEM workforce.

"Kudos to HunterWiSE for creating such a stimulating and inclusive environment for these girls to explore, learn, and dream big. We are honored to be a part of this fantastic program and can't wait to see the brilliant futures these teenagers will shape in the world of STEM." Leanora Horne, Bradken



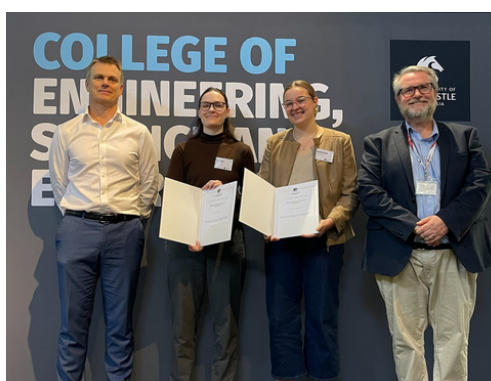
Pictured from left: Lambton High School students attending a site visit at Bradken; Newcastle High School students visiting the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group site; students from St Pius X High School pitching their STEM solution to Sharon Claydon MP in 2022.

HunterWiSE Women in STEM Scholarship

In 2023, HunterWiSE established the Women in STEM Scholarship as a new avenue to encourage gender diversity in STEM.

Funded entirely by philanthropic donations, the Women in STEM Scholarship is a \$5,000 payment to a female student enrolled in a STEM degree at the University of Newcastle. The scholarship is awarded annually, targeting the degrees where women are significantly underrepresented.

The HunterWiSE Women in STEM Scholarship provides financial assistance and access to a professional community that encourages women to pursue STEM careers. HunterWiSE also coordinates donor-funded scholarships that have been established with the support of industry partners. The Women in STEM Scholarship fund is sustained through donations from individuals and organisations, underscoring community support for a more diverse and inclusive STEM landscape.



In 2024, students Amarah Budden and Chloe Martin were the inaugural recipients of the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group HunterWiSE Scholarship for Women in STEM. This scholarship is a collaborative effort between HunterWiSE and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group to support female students in their second or subsequent year of a STEM degree at the University of Newcastle.

Pictured left: Aaron Johansen (NCIG), students Chloe and Amarah, Professor Craig Simmons (The University of Newcastle)

The HunterWiSE Network

The HunterWiSE Network is a community of more than 400 professionals, comprised primarily of women in STEM roles in Newcastle and Hunter.

The network's purpose is to provide avenues for women to find support and mentorship. By fostering a strong regional network of women from industry, business, government, education and academia, HunterWiSE aims to expand entrepreneurial opportunities within the local STEM community.

Since 2017, HunterWiSE has delivered more than 35 network events, including forums, industry panels, workshops, and talks by renowned guest speakers. The network also contributes to the outreach program, with members participating in site visits and classroom engagements, serving as role models for young women interested in STEM careers.

The HunterWiSE student mentors and scholars are an important part of the network. Network events are an opportunity for our University students and industry representatives to establish professional connections, thereby bolstering the STEM pipeline.

The HunterWiSE Network strives to support the retention and advancement of women in STEM. Our aim is to ultimately impact the gender imbalance by promoting STEM as an appealing, accessible, and fulfilling career path.

Pictured opposite (clockwise): students and their mentor at the 2023 Presentation Night; collaborative workshop; 2024 Industry Partner Networking Event. Below: Tiana Leck, Magali Gendre and Bahar Chaichi at a 2024 International Women in Engineering Day event.

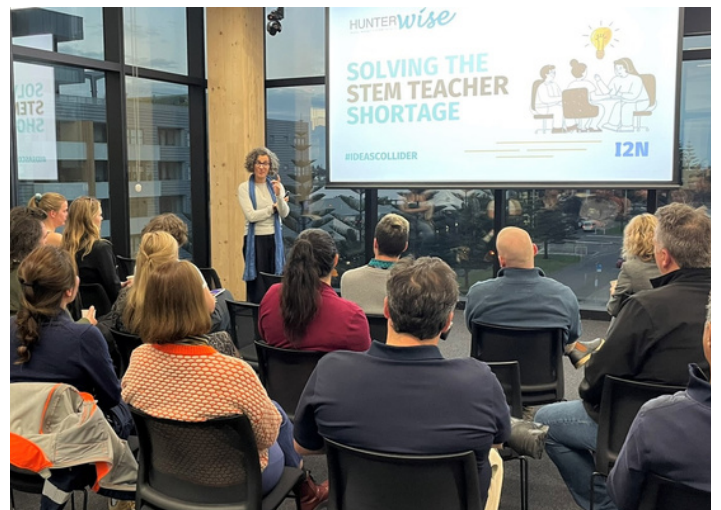
“HunterWiSE is amazing! Thanks again for a high-quality learning and networking opportunity. This event was super valuable and worthwhile. It felt like a safe collaborative space.”

HunterWiSE Network Member



"I feel like I'm doing something valuable by showing these girls that STEM is important. I've also loved that women in industry have taken the time to come and support the program."

HunterWiSE Mentor



HunterWiSE Impact

Growth

From an initial cohort of 27 students from Muswellbrook High School, HunterWiSE has provided opportunities to more than 700 girls to enhance skills, engage with STEM role models, and to reframe STEM as a relevant and accessible career choice. The HunterWiSE Network has grown to 500+ members.

Regional presence

HunterWiSE maintains a presence in the Upper Hunter, where a significant proportion of the working population are employed by STEM industries. It is our vision to be able to deliver this project to as many girls as possible who may not otherwise have access to the support we can provide.

Community engagement

An important element of HunterWiSE is to ensure students gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of STEM to their region. We recognise the influential role played by the students' families, teachers and careers advisers in shaping their attitudes towards STEM education and careers.

Research

HunterWiSE initiatives are evidence-based and data-driven, with research and evaluation informing continuous quality improvement. Research outputs include academic papers and presentations.



**500+ members of the
HunterWiSE Network**



**700+ students
from 20 schools**



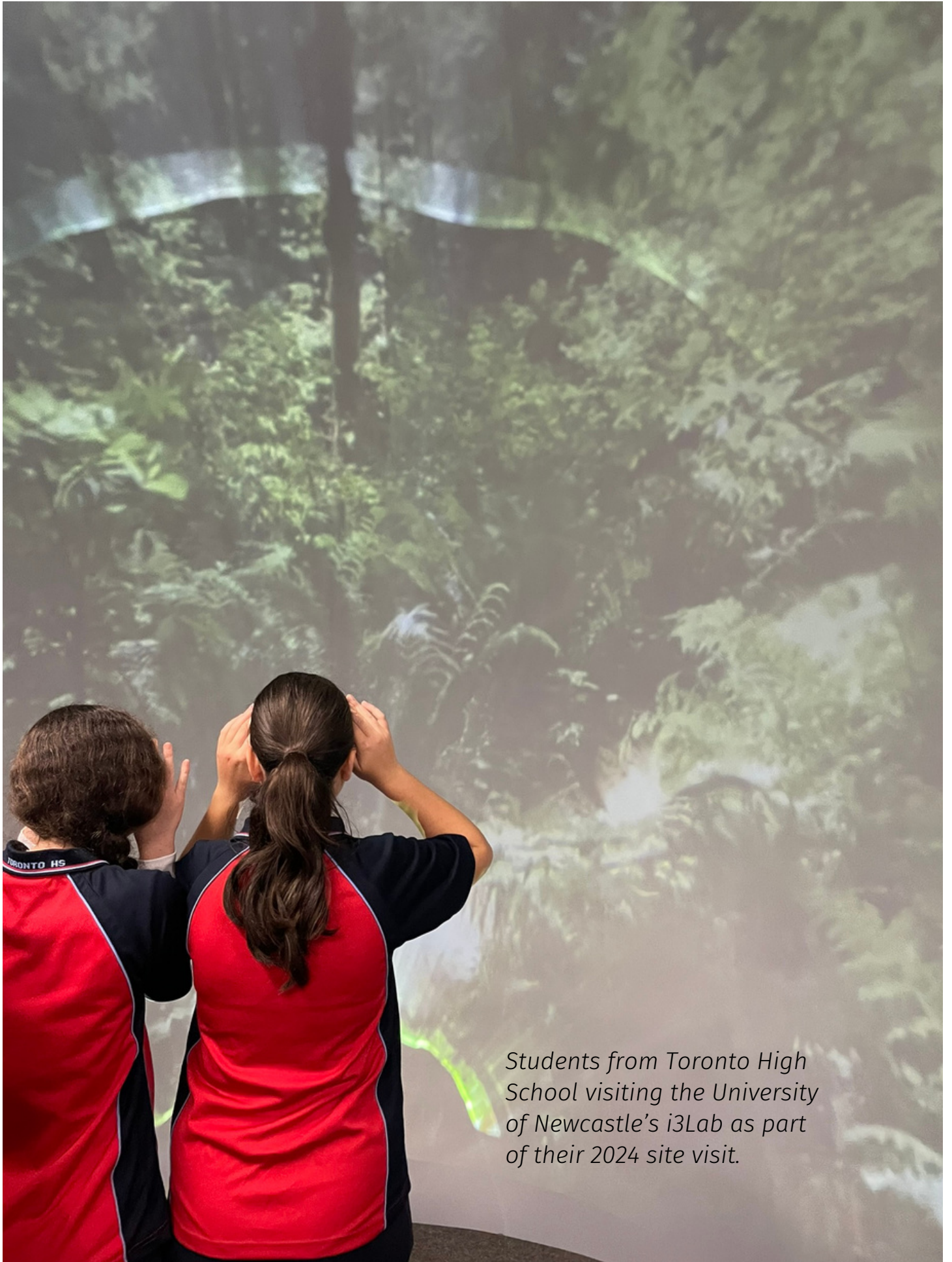
**78 speakers at 35+
events since 2017**



**112 female STEM
student mentors**



HunterWiSE Mentors Lara Godde and Amy Sames (pictured left) participated in HunterWiSE Outreach as Year 8 students in 2018. Now studying STEM-based degrees at the University of Newcastle, Lara and Amy are 'giving back', mentoring students from HSPA, Newcastle, Irrawang, and Singleton High School in 2024.



Students from Toronto High School visiting the University of Newcastle's i3Lab as part of their 2024 site visit.

Thresholds of support

HunterWiSE activities are made possible through the support of the University of Newcastle, industry partners, supporters, and the community. We have identified the funding thresholds that best support the delivery of our initiatives. We welcome the opportunity to meet with prospective partners to discuss your purpose in partnering with HunterWiSE and the threshold of support that best meets those intentions.

Strategic Partner

Strategic Partners support our key objectives, facilitating opportunities for greater impact, and fostering the success of the Schools Outreach Program.

With a donation of \$50,000, Strategic Partners enable HunterWiSE to deliver the Outreach Program in two schools. Representatives from partner organisations have the opportunity to see the impact of your support by engaging directly with students and HunterWiSE mentors through facilitated site and classroom visits.

Funding above the threshold needed for outreach may be used to support other initiatives that align with HunterWiSE strategic objectives of supporting the participation of women and girls in STEM.

KEY POINTS

- Supports two schools in the Outreach Program
- See the impact of support via engagement with students and mentors
- Fund other strategic activities crucial to the success and impact of HunterWiSE
- Suggested minimum threshold \$50,000

Outreach Partner

HunterWiSE values our Outreach Partners' commitment to nurturing the STEM interests of young students and empowering them with valuable experiences and knowledge.

With a donation of \$25,000, Outreach Partners provide essential financial support to implement the intervention in one high school, facilitating its reach and effectiveness. Funding is also directed toward training our team of mentors, who play the crucial role of delivering the program in the classroom.

Outreach Partners actively engage with the program's beneficiaries – the students. This involvement bridges the gap between education and industry, helping to influence the students' perception of STEM as important and relevant.

KEY POINTS

- Essential support for HunterWiSE Outreach
- Direct, meaningful engagement with the program's beneficiaries
- Through ongoing support, foster a relationship with a participating school over several years
- Suggested minimum threshold \$25,000



Network Partner

In supporting events for the HunterWiSE Network, our Network Partners encourage the participation and advancement of women in STEM in the Hunter region.

HunterWiSE Network events are a valuable platform for women across the Hunter region to seek connection and identify opportunities for mentorship. Network Partners' support is instrumental in ensuring the sustainability and impact of this initiative.

To participate as Network Partners, we encourage donations at or beyond \$6,000. Beyond events, funding may be directed towards project evaluation, scholarships, and program enhancement.

KEY POINTS

- Supports HunterWiSE Network Events
- Funding also supports research and evaluation
- Network Partners will be offered opportunities to connect with the HunterWiSE Network and participate in events
- Suggested minimum threshold \$6,000

Supporter

Individuals and organisations may choose to make a philanthropic donation to HunterWiSE at any time via the University website. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Donations to HunterWiSE directly support the HunterWiSE Scholarship for Women in STEM. With permission, donors are acknowledged on the HunterWiSE online honour board.

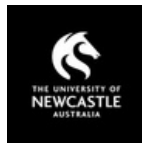
Pictured above: Jo Withford (Transport for NSW), Juanita Todd, and The University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor Professor Alex Zelinsky

To discuss partnering with HunterWiSE, please call our Project Manager on 4921 5085 or email hunterwise@newcastle.edu.au
We'd love to hear from you.

To stay up to date, get involved, or find out more, head to the website to subscribe to our communications.
www.newcastle.edu.au/hunterwise

Thank you to our partners who contributed to
the success and impact of our initiatives in 2024

Strategic Partners



GLENCORE

Outreach Partners



Transport
for NSW



Network Partners



AECOM