

Submission
No 49

**INQUIRY INTO BENEFICIAL AND PRODUCTIVE POST-
MINING LAND USE**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

1. I am concerned about Productive Post Mining Land Use (PMLU) in the Hunter Valley, where I grew up. When the mines move out which will be sooner than predicted as coal prices drop and global warming accelerates, there needs to be a policy and funding from the NSW government. Any cost savings for lease holders need to be reinvested in the communities.

2. As air, water, including the water table and farming and bushland have been affected by the scarring effects of mining, environmental standards must be implemented and enhanced by PMLU reforms and mine lease owners must remain liable for any failure of this rehabilitation, sink holes or contamination failures due to the mining into the future.

3. The 22 coal mines in the Hunter Valley covering hundreds of thousands of hectares need an integrated landscape restoration plan. It really is a case of Richard Llewellyn's book, 'How Green Was My Valley' as growing up there until 1969 it was a few pit heads, very little open cut mining and lots of farming, orchards, bush, dairy cows, green rolling hills, one or two vineyards and none of this health destroying, scarring of a desolate landscape that we see in the last 50 years.

Farming, tourism, manufacturing, decentralisation from the city will once again flourish if remediation is done sensitively and in consultation with locals.

4. Land restoration is a crucial industry in post mining transition and would involve many jobs. Now the NSW government is expanding and making TAFE affordable once again there should be many opportunities for young people. Post mining developments need meaningful public engagements to ensure local communities feel engaged in the process. They know best what they need.

5. Finally the return of some of the mine owned land to First Nations groups is essential. Access to country for First Nations people leading to self determination, and continuation of cultural practices is essential to their physical and mental health and the benefit of all of us. Returning portions of unmined buffer lands to First Nation groups will deliver real and continuing benefits to Aboriginal people.

As the climate volatility increases as does the rate of heating of the planet and the melting of the polar icecaps, the government must be READY for an accelerated departure from fossil fuels and must anticipate the needs of turning these scarred landscapes into liveable workable communities in consultation with the potential inhabitants of those communities.