

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

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Submission to post mining land use inquiry

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The transition of the previously mined land in the Hunter Valley needs to be taken with a long term strategy in mind.

The Hunter Valley is strategically very important for the overall Australian economy because of its location and remaining natural resources. These are:

- An excellent supply of water from the Glenbawn Dam with a significant portion of it being available once it is no longer required by coal power stations
- A railway which goes straight through the region
- A highway which goes straight through the region
- Three significant country towns with excellent community facilities and workforce
- Newcastle port with capacity for importing and exporting both container and bulk materials
- First class university of international repute
- Extensive vocational education capacity through TAFE, Hunter Valley Training Company, Tocal College and a range of specialist private providers
- Well serviced with electrical infrastructure
- Adjacent to the largest and wealthiest population in Australia
- Adjacent to Australia's richest grain production lands – North West NSW

The transition must not be piecemeal.

The NSW Government must step up and acquire much of the formerly mined land and redevelop it for a range of long term purposes.

If this is done properly the government will make money from the transaction but will also have a first class region which will drive wealth for generations to come.

The alternative would be a mishmash of developments, land use conflicts and long term inefficiencies and inequities both for the community and industry.

Many options I know will be addressed in other submissions but as an agriculturist I suggest that food production must not be overlooked

There are industries such as intensive animal production such as piggeries which require buffer zones. In rural areas these have been excluded because of the potential impact on neighbours and nimbys. Opportunities exist to use this land to establish these industries

The Hunter is well placed to drive long term wealth for the NSW and Australian economy. The opportunity to maximise the long term benefits must not be lost.

Dr Cameron Archer AM

Former Principal

Tocal Agricultural College 25 June 2024