

INQUIRY INTO BENEFICIAL AND PRODUCTIVE POST- MINING LAND USE

Name: Cr Martin Scurrah

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I am writing to present the following recommendations for productive post-mining land use in NSW:

The PMLU reforms must ensure that environmental standards are maintained or enhanced by PMLU reforms, and mine leaseholders must remain liable for rehabilitation failure in the long-term.

Cost savings for leaseholders resulting from PMLU reforms should only be reinvested in community and environment projects and not shared with mine operators.

There should be an integrated landscape restoration plan for the Hunter Valley, and a dedicated public authority to implement it.

Land restoration will become an important industry in the post-mining transition and, among other measures, require reform of existing training institutions, like TAFE, and the establishment of new collaborative research institutions, such as an independent Centre of Excellence.

Post-mining developments must be driven by meaningful public engagement and deliver lasting benefits for local communities. There will need to be mechanisms for participation by local communities in key decisions and for community ownership and profit sharing.

The NSW Government should facilitate the return of some mine-owned lands to First Nations people. This should be done in collaboration with First Nations peoples.

I trust that these recommendations will be taken into account as the NSW Government designs and implements measures for post-mining land use rehabilitation and management.