

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

**Name:** Ms Christina M Smith

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Productive post mining land (PLMU) use has great potential to benefit local communities in a number of ways along with added benefits state wide. Ensuring that traditional coal mining areas are rewarded for the amount of difficulties they have been exposed to over the many years that mines have operated. I believe strongly that the benefits of PLMU reforms should be reinvested in community and environmental projects not given to mine operators who have already received huge amounts from mining. The area need to be to rehabilitated in a sensitive and thoughtful manner. The landscape scale impact of mining in the Hunter area particularly call for a thorough restoration plan. The plan needs to be developed and implemented by an independent, statutorily empowered and well resourced public authority. It is essential that developments in this area are enhanced by public engagement and has lasting benefits for the community. The Government needs to be upfront with the community as to the pace and nature of the changes that are coming. In addition closure of large mines offers a a unique opportunity to return portions of unmixed buffer lands to First Nations Groups.

Christina Smith