

Ms Emily Suvaal MLC  
Chair, State Development Committee  
NSW Legislative Council  
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Dear Ms Suvaal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide corrections and further information regarding Mr David Gainsford's attendance and evidence provided at the 5 August 2024 hearing of the Inquiry into Beneficial and productive post-mining land use.

Please find attached a copy of answers to the questions Mr Gainsford took on notice during the hearing.

Mr Gainsford and his team also reviewed the hearing transcript and can confirm there are not corrections to his responses provided.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Doyle  
A/Director, Parliamentary and Government Services

Encl: Attachment A - Responses to Questions taken on Notice, David Gainsford

## Response to Questions on Notice – Beneficial and Productive Post-Mining Land Use

Responses to Questions taken on Notice on 5 August 2024, by Mr David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary, Development Assessment and Sustainability at the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Asked by	Transcript Pg	Question	Answer
Chair	Pg 6	<p>Has the department undertaken to identify and map the infrastructure mentioned in action 1.1 - so existing infrastructure, like hardstand areas, workshops, stores, treatment plants and rail loops?</p>	<p>The Hunter Regional Plan 2041 includes potential land use opportunities.</p> <p>Preliminary mapping has been undertaken for 19 sites in Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs mine sites to inform the regional plan.</p> <p>The first action in the Hunter Regional Plan (Action 1.1) is to investigate expedited planning options to change planning controls to enable new employment on parts of the site where infrastructure like sheds, roads, and hardstand areas are concentrated. Planning controls were flagged as an initial barrier, but other issues may limit the ability to redevelop sites.</p> <p>This mine reuse project has been scoped with councils, agencies, and the Royalties for Rejuvenation Expert Panel for the Hunter. The project will consider issues for five mines closing or approaching closure in the Hunter to identify specific barriers. This project would seek to rezone priority mine sites to enable a broader range of land uses.</p>
Chair	Pg 6	<p>Pt 1 - In terms of the place strategy, then, for post-mining and power station sites, which is also mentioned in the Hunter Regional Plan, it talks about the Department of Regional NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment, as leading that work. How many place strategies have been done or identified? And where is that work up to?</p> <p>Pt 2 - If you could also take on notice with regards to the place strategies, the involvement of local councils in those areas, that would be great.</p>	<p>In relation to post mining and power station sites, a place strategy was commenced by the relevant proponents, AGL, for the Liddell and Bayswater Power Station sites.</p> <p>The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has been working with AGL who was leading the place strategy; however, the project was put on hold by the proponent. The proponent is now seeking to expedite planning control changes to facilitate short term outcomes on the site utilising existing infrastructure to support a low carbon energy hub. The proponent, AGL, is leading this work.</p> <p>The place strategies are not yet at a point where councils are formally involved, however Muswellbrook Council is a member of the UDP and are aware of the current status of the place strategy.</p>

Chair	Pg 6	<p>In terms now for the Government submission, you mention the number of case studies that were included in there that Ms Boyd spoke to. I'm interested in case study 3, which is the Black Rock Motor Park.</p> <p>You mention just under, "Strategic planning provides an opportunity to identify and prioritise existing mine sites for post-mining land uses." What strategic planning has been done regarding existing mine boundaries and assets?</p>	<p>The Hunter Regional Plan 2041 signals that we need to change the way we think about mine sites in NSW. Rather than return mines to their former state, opportunities to re-purpose parts of those sites to create new jobs should be considered.</p> <p>The Hunter Regional Plan 2041 includes potential land use opportunities for 19 sites in Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs.</p> <p>Preliminary mapping was undertaken for these mine sites to inform the regional plan. The regional plan highlights the need for local strategic planning or place strategy planning to identify and evaluate how sites should be developed and whether the land is well-suited for re-use.</p> <p>The NSW Government plans to establish Future Jobs and Investment Authorities in coal-reliant regions. These authorities will comprise local representatives who will advise on regional priorities, guide investment opportunities, and coordinate efforts across all levels of government, industry, and communities to ensure effective investment and job creation.</p> <p>Timing for further planning of opportunity sites will be prioritised in line with other government priorities and will now be linked with Future Jobs and Investment program.</p>
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