

17 July 2025

Business Hunter welcomes government support for post-mining land use

Business Hunter has welcomed the [NSW Government's response](#) to the Beneficial and Productive Post Mining Land Use report, saying the parliamentary inquiry has trained a welcome lens on the challenges and opportunities related to reuse of former mining sites.

The Government supported all 13 recommendations made by the Standing Committee on State Development – chaired by Hunter MLC Emily Suvaal – and has tasked the newly established Future Jobs and Investment Authority with leading many of the initiatives it has agreed to pursue.

Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said the committee's inquiry had highlighted the complexities involved in changing consent conditions and navigating planning pathways to allow alternative uses of former mining sites that will provide ongoing jobs and economic benefits for local communities.

"Perhaps of most immediate significance is that the NSW Government has agreed to the review three key pieces of legislation – the Mining Act, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and Protection of the Environment Operations Act – to ensure they facilitate opportunities for post-mining land use," Mr Hawes said.

"It has agreed to complete this review by June 2026. This provides a pathway forward to untangle some of the complex issues identified by the committee to ensure we can unlock opportunities for economically beneficial reuse of mining and related lands in future."

Mr Hawes said the Future Jobs and Investment Authority was well-placed to lead post-mining land use initiatives given its terms of reference and status as a statutory authority with capacity to coordinate across government agencies.

"The actions from this report will provide the new Future Jobs and Investment Authority with plenty of tasks and responsibilities," Mr Hawes said.

"Business Hunter and other stakeholders in our region will be keeping a watching brief to ensure the Authority continues to be resourced to get on with the job in timely fashion."

As well as supporting recommendations related to land use, the NSW Government also committed to the Future Jobs and Investment Authority undertaking a skills audit of the NSW mining workforce, to inform future needs regarding investment in reskilling, training, economic development and future site use.

"This is really important work to ensure our transition programs are aligned with both the existing skills base and future workforce needs," Mr Hawes said.

"We hope to see bipartisan support for the reforms and actions outlined in the report."

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