

Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund

Hunter Regional Expert Panel Meeting No.1 - Summary

Details

Location: Boronia Room, Singleton Diggers Alroy Park and MS Teams

Date/time: 15 December 2022
10:00am-11:30am

Chairperson: Bob Hawes

Panel members in attendance

1. **Chairperson:** Bob Hawes
2. James Barben
3. Joe James
4. Warrick Jordan
5. Brendan Moyle (via teams)
6. Fiona Plesman
7. Prof Roberta Ryan
8. John Turner
9. Elizabeth Watts
10. Robin Williams

Meeting Summary

1 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The Department of Regional NSW (the Department) welcomed all participants and noted the Deputy Premier has appointed Mr Bob Hawes to act as Chair for the meetings of the Hunter Regional Expert Panel.

The Chair, Bob Hawes, welcomed all participants and acknowledged the meeting was being held on Wonnarua country, which always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

All Expert Panel members introduced themselves and confirmed they have completed a Declaration of Interests. The Chair confirmed that a standard agenda item at the start of all meetings will be to enable Panel members to declare any relevant conflicts. No new conflicts were declared at the meeting.

2 Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund Overview

The Department provided an overview of the Fund and the enabling legislation, the Royalties for Rejuvenation Program and current strategic projects for the Hunter region.

The Expert Panel discussed the public consultation provisions in the Regulation. Specifically, that the Expert Panels may undertake public consultation for the purposes of advising the Deputy Premier about:

- the consequences and opportunities associated with moving away from coal mining, particularly in relation to the impact on employment and economic activity in the affected coal mining region
- alternative land uses of coal mining sites
- options to support the economic diversification of the affected coal mining region in alternative industries.

3 Overview of Expert Panel Governance

The Department provided a presentation on the Governance framework for the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund and noted a Probitry Advisor has been engaged to provide advice and assistance to all four Expert Panels.

4 Forward Meeting Schedule and Planning

The Expert Panel discussed potential forward agenda items and proposed the next meeting be held in February 2023.

5 Close

The Chair thanked the Expert Panel members and closed the meeting.