

## HUNTER RENEWAL SUMMIT PARTICIPANT WORKSHOPS

*The following consistent themes around the subject of 'Transition' were raised by participants during workshops held at the Hunter Renewal Summit in Singleton on 20th February 2019. A smaller follow-up meeting was held at the same venue a week later in which these were also expanded upon.*

### TRANSITION POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Establish a local transition authority.
- Publicly available repository of updated transition plans and information (as promised by DP&C).
- Legal requirement for transparent timelines for closure of power stations and mines.
- No new coal-fired power stations.
- No new coal exploration or production licences granted for the Hunter.
- Transparent & publicly available Hunter River water usage data & the return of mine & power station water licences to agriculture.
- Increase compliance penalties and hold mining companies to account.
- Government / business / community / workers / unions involvement in transitions discussions.
- Renewable energy vision should be statewide.
- Regional transition policy should be tied in with renewable energy targets legislation.
- Just transition workshops hosted by government across the Hunter.
- Commission viability studies to determine suitability of transition industries.
- Abolish commercial in confidence agreements
- Support for long-term bipartisan changes that will survive election cycles.
- Take advantage of existing infrastructure.
- Household cost reduction and retrofitting programs.
- Coal workers own shares in new businesses.
- Available and affordable land for new industry.
- Identify existing assets to build upon.
- Wine tourism as lead sector in regional development.
- Social impact studies
- Economic studies
- Transition academy
- Independent body
- Repurpose old power stations for renewable energy plants.
- Clear role for first nations peoples in transition infrastructure
- Inventory of existing programs across all sectors & what's working.
- Reward companies that have moved from mining to renewable services.
- Funding arrangements and business grants.
- Establish a way for businesses to commit to transition, e.g. a pledge.
- Benchmarks of business (ESG - environmental social governance)
- Vital role for local government.
- Meet Paris agreement.
- Transitional grants program.

- Draw up a Transition Charter or bill.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Support for lower income people in the valley to be part of transition planning that meets their needs.
- Coordinated campaign with campaign coordinator capacity to ensure continued momentum. Umbrella community transition. Organisation.
- Assist community living in proximity to mines and provide support for resolutions.
- Form community renewable energy groups.
- Training for community to understand renewable energy options.
- Hunter Transition Forum 2020.
- Confidential forum for miners to discuss concerns / options with transition authority.
- Education programs regarding transition.
- Community consultation at all phases of planning and review.
- Non-polarising, inclusive and honest conversation.
- United community voice to engage community perspective
- Enabling community to be heard along with well funded industry lobby groups.
- Use 'Renew Newcastle' model.

## **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT**

- Promote better relationships with community and wine tourism industry groups.
- Commercial alliances at community level.
- Establish local solar industry organisation.
- Industries should engage with one another on a comprehensive transition plan.
- Engage local Chamber of Commerce

## **GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT**

- Abolish closed council meetings.

## **FUNDING**

- Coal mine royalties to go to transition fund.
- Government and industry investment in major civil engineering projects.
- \$2 billion transition fund
- Tariffs on imports (big manufacturing items).

## **JOBS & RETRAINING**

- Produce and procure heavy industry equipment locally.
- Leverage existing skills and infrastructure in the Hunter.
- Support TAFE / government education providers to retrain.
- Industry / government funded career counselling and individual work plans without the red tape.

- Coal - renewables retraining programs.
- Renewables tourism.
- Training credits for people facing job loss.

## **DIVERSIFICATION**

- Government support for community led solar thermal energy to replace coal power.
- Incentives for industries to diversify.
- Renewable energy
- Pumped hydro
- Green hydrogen
- Hemp
- Wildlife tourism
- Community gardens
- Increase wine production (30%)
- Revitalise agriculture on the floodplains.
- Aquaponics in mine voids to feed city market.
- Increase tourism facilities & marketing.
- Value-added small-scale food industries.
- Reintroduce cellar door rebate
- Develop renewables supply chain for export
- Circular economy
- Aged care
- Fast train
- Support & build upon existing industries - wine, horse, dairy, horticulture, aquaculture.
- Manufacturing jobs in renewables sector & research facilities.
- Railway tourism post coal.
- Intra-trading of community owned renewable energy capacity (requires changing of law).
- Renewables-friendly transport infrastructure.
- Hydrogen export industry
- Set up diversification fund.
- Renewable energy tourism including arts opportunities.
- Establish diversification business awards - highlight champions & regional commitment.
- Emphasis on clean industries.

## **REHABILITATION**

- Increase rehab to 60% as an employment bridge to transition.
- Cost of filling voids needs to be independently assessed.
- Wind & solar on reclaimed land.
- Focus on land and water reclamation.
- No final voids.
- Rehab tourism.

- Consolidate research.
- Plant carbon sinks - timber & essential oils
- Synoptic plan for rehabilitation - 20 years on
- Should not just be revegetation but refitting mine sites for future industry
- Improved compliance and enforcement
- Mandatory standards
- 100% site restoration as condition for new approvals.
- Establish legal 'fighting fund' to force rehabilitation obligations.
- Use some suitable voids for waste dumps using existing rail infrastructure.
- Identify how specific voids / land can be used.

## **ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH**

- Climate change adaptation strategies.
- Limit mining to underground.
- Cover coal trains.
- Priorities environment and health over economic in environmental planning.
- Reform ease of public access to EPA complaints process.
- Wildlife corridors & reforestation.
- Stormwater harvest / underground storage.
- Use renewable energy to process mine water.
- Get environmental offset land back to productive land.
- Subsidies for projects with lowest environmental impacts.
- No new mine approvals

## **TRADITIONAL LANDOWNERS**

- First nations need self-determination over 3% of traditional (Crown) lands remaining in Hunter.
- Aboriginal enterprise & tourism.

## **Increasing awareness and momentum**

- Public speaking training for community members who want to be involved in transitions advocacy in the Hunter. Develop a program for delivering presentations to groups/orgs/councils/businesses/schools etc.
- Social media & letterbox drops
- Keep transition agenda in positive frame
- Distinguish mines transitions vs powerstation transitions
- Letters to editor
- Highlight and celebrate good examples e.g. AGL Liddell plan
- Storytelling
- Diversify our network
- Form local community transition groups - Hunter Valley is so big
- Lobby local councils
- Good feedback to community with results of Summit and other initiative

- Hunter Renewal presence online - website development / social media
- Approach (non-mining) industry associations to encourage investment / investigate potential.
- Mention horse industry & agriculture more.
- Take the lead - don't wait for government!
- Continue to tighten political donations and environmental enforcement laws.
- Engage community leaders in transition.
- Special industry briefings
- Petitions
- Transition roadshow.
- Engage at school level.
- Start a community newspaper
- Community webpage with roadmap