

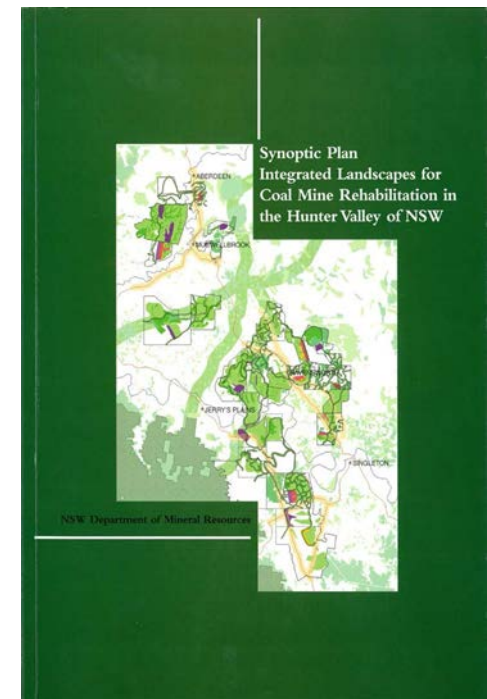
# Synoptic Plan Review Update



Stephen Wills, Director Hunter – Dept of Premier & Cabinet

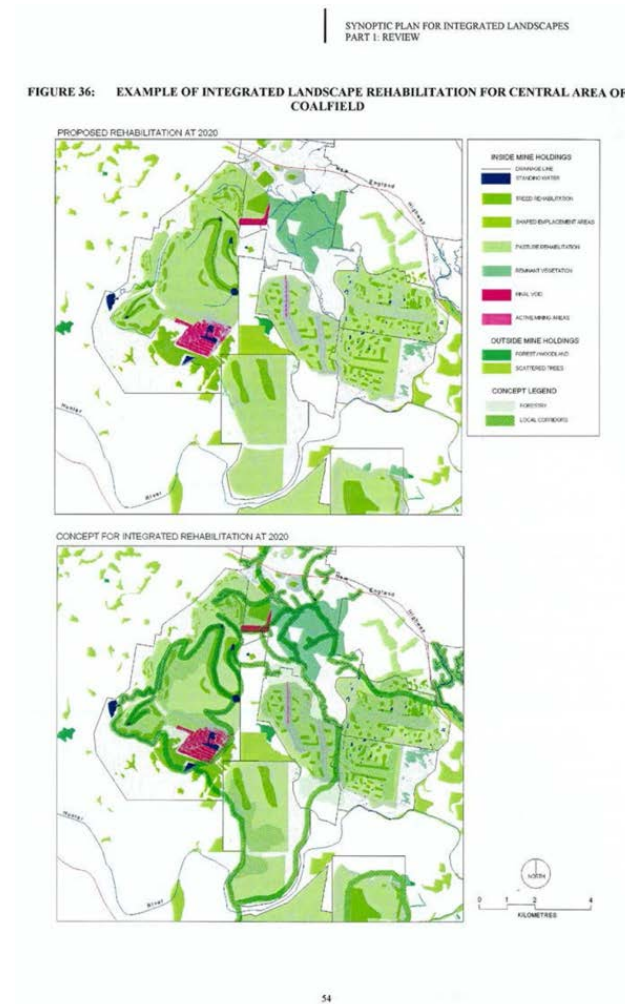
# Background

- The Synoptic Plan: Integrated Landscapes for Coal Mine Rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley of NSW was prepared in 1999 by the NSW Department of Mineral Resources in collaboration with state agencies, local government and academic contributors.
- The Plan provides the principles for an integrated approach to landscape management and post-mining rehabilitation for the Hunter coalfield.



# Purpose

- Focus of study was on land within mine holdings (area of mining leases).
- Study area comprised the coalfield of the Upper Hunter Valley extending from south west of Singleton to north of Muswellbrook.
- Developed at a time when the majority of mines were managed as single entities as opposed to “complexes” by large multi-nationals.
- Plan is not a statutory document.



# Synoptic Review Workshop

The Hunter Regional Plan 2036 (Action 11.4) commits Government to ***“review the Synoptic Plan: Integrated Landscapes for coal mine rehabilitation in the Hunter Valley (1999) in conjunction with the Upper Hunter Biodiversity Assessment to ensure best-practice rehabilitation and visual impact management for closed mines”***.

- The Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan Review Workshop was held on Friday 2 June 2017 at Singleton Diggers Club.
- The Workshop was attended by 73 representatives from community, industry and government, it was opened by the Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnson MP and facilitated by Wendy Tyrrell.



# Key outcomes across three workshop themes

## High Level Objectives

- Development of a replacement Synoptic Plan is not supported.
- Integrated and holistic approach across the landscape to include economic, environment, social perspectives.
- Develop shared vision/goals across government, industry and community.
- Create a living/dynamic and accessible information tool utilising technology.
- Alignment with regional and local Council planning processes and plans.
- Clear policy and best practice rehabilitation approaches to support balanced outcomes.

## Information Gap Analysis & Prioritisation

- Extensive existing information available across broad issues, areas, etc.
- Data needs to be accessible available and consolidated.
- New data required - projects underway and new projects required.
- Data to support future decision making and best practice.

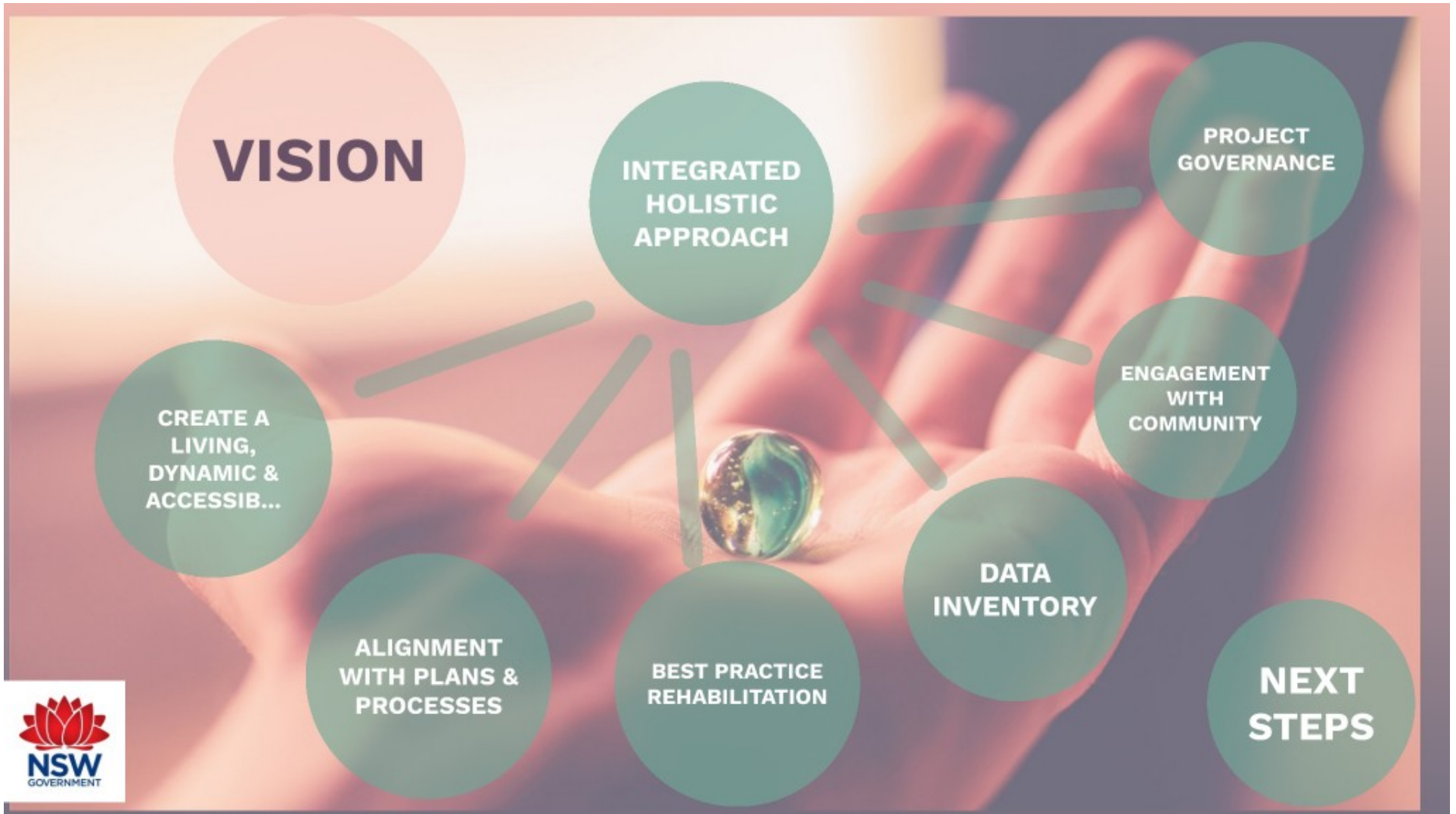
## Communication & Engagement

- Government to take a leadership role in facilitating strategic landscape outcomes in the Upper Hunter.
- Community engagement plan to foster genuine community involvement.
- Deliver information in accessible way such as communication portal.
- Project governance including periodic engagement with workshop attendees to ensure alignment with agreed objectives.

### Synoptic Plan Review Workshop - Outcomes and Alignment with Projects

Outcomes	Projects	Lead	Project Deliverables (the products)	Delivery timeframe
Integrated & holistic approach across the landscape to include economic, environment, social perspectives	Hunter Regional Plan 2036	DPE	Directions and policies for land use decisions, with a shared and agreed vision for the leading regional economy in Australia with thriving communities	2 years
	Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Action Plan	DPC		
	Upper Hunter Strategic Biodiversity Assessment	OEH		
	Council Land Use Strategies	Councils		
Develop shared vision/goals across government, industry & community	Hunter Regional Plan 2036	DPE	Synoptic Plan Review Shared vision/goals across government, industry & community	2 years
	Council's Community Strategic Plans (CSP's)	Councils		
Create a Living/dynamic and accessible information tool utilising technology	Mine Rehabilitation GIS Project	DRG	GIS mapping accessible through single webpage to provide up to date information to support the management, decisions and planning.	3 years
	Important Agricultural Land Mapping	DPI - Ag		
	Upper Hunter Strategic Biodiversity Assessment	OEH		
	Employment Land Development Monitor	DPE		
Alignment with regional and local Council planning processes and plans	Hunter Regional Plan 2036	DPE	Local plans updated to align with new directions and policies	2 years
	Local Environmental Plan reviews	Councils		
Best practice rehabilitation approaches to support balanced outcomes	Rehabilitation, mine closure and void projects – Buffer lands & Rehab lands	NSW Minerals Council	State Rehabilitation Policy  Rehab GIS Project	Mid 2018  Early 2018
	Mine Rehabilitation Reform Project	DRG		
	Mine Rehabilitation Policy	DPE		
	Mine Rehabilitation GIS Project	DRG		
Data Inventory – what exists, what is underway, what is needed	Inventory to be developed	DPC/DPE/ DRG	Single, accessible source of relevant economic, environment, land use and social information for the Upper Hunter	Mid 2018
	Rehabilitation GIS Portal	DRG		
Engagement with Community to foster ongoing communication and access to information	UHED Communications Strategy/Web Page	DPC	UHED Communication Strategy UHED Web Page SEED Mapping information	Oct 2017
		DPC		
		DRG		
Project governance including ongoing engagement with workshop attendees		DPC	Working Group/Task Group/ToR Workshop Summary forwarded to attendees Presentation to Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Annual Forum	Nov 17
				Nov 17





Stephen Wills, Director Hunter - Department of Premier & Cabinet  
Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Annual Forum - 22 November 2017  
Synoptic Plan Review - Update

# VISION



**Developed across Government,  
Industry and Community**



**To be developed today and  
should cover.....**



**BETTER ECONOMY  
BETTER ENVIRONMENT  
BETTER SOCIAL OUTCOMES**





**INTEGRATED HOLISTIC  
APPROACH  
ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE TO  
INCLUDE ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL  
PERSPECTIVES**

**Hunter  
Regional  
Plan 2036**

**Upper Hunter  
Economic  
Diversification**

**Council  
Land Use  
Strategies**

# Hunter Regional Plan 2036

**The Hunter Regional Plan 2036 is a 20-year blueprint for the future of the Hunter.**

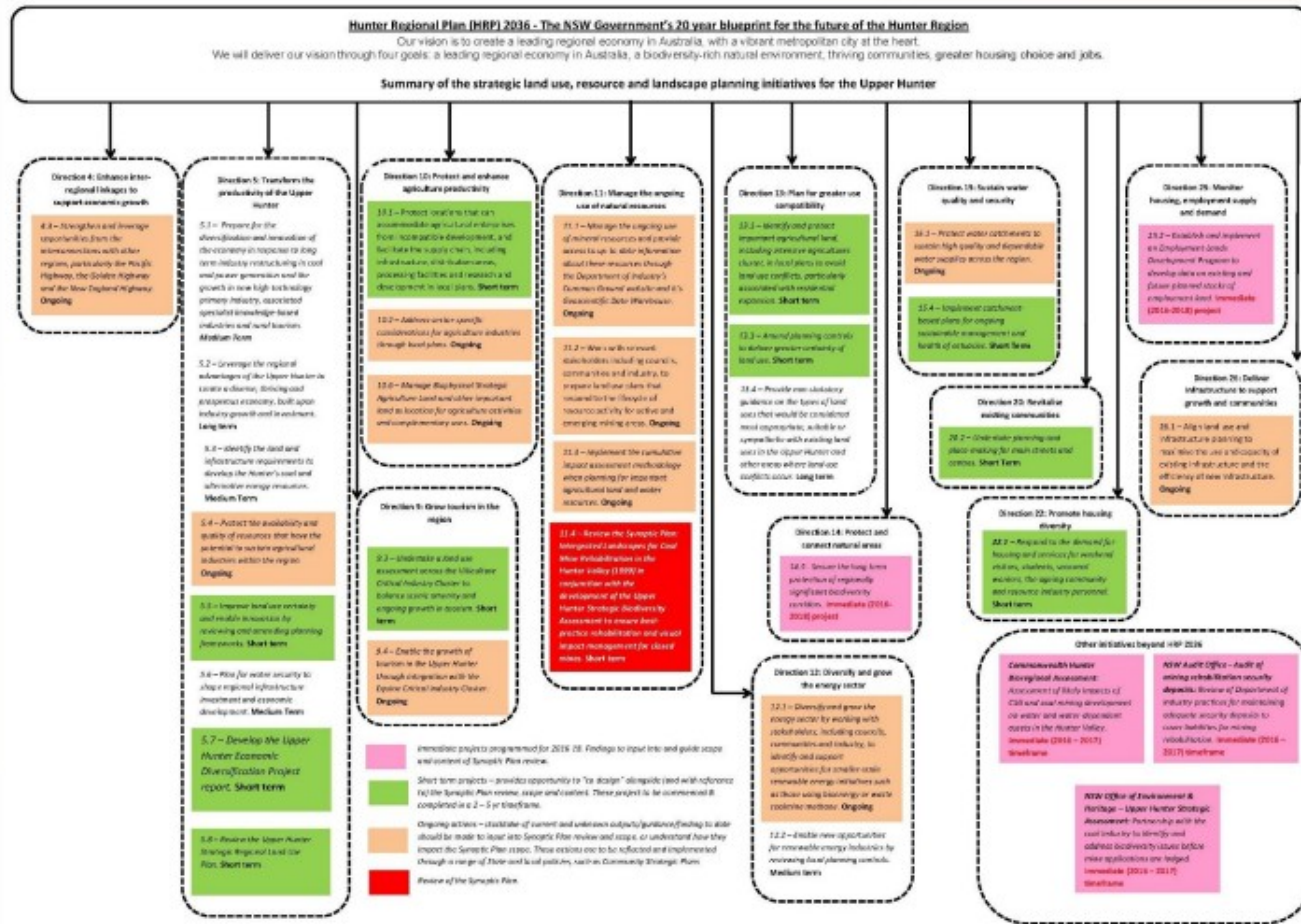
**The vision is to create a leading regional economy in Australia, with a vibrant metropolitan city at the heart.**

**Deliver this vision through four goals:**

- **a leading regional economy in Australia**
- **a biodiversity-rich natural environment**
- **thriving communities**
- **greater housing choice and jobs.**



# Strategic Land Use, Resource and Landscape Planning





# Upper Hunter Economic Diversification

**Following comprehensive industry and community consultation, including the Upper Hunter Industry Leaders/ Forums held in June 2016, the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Project - Action Plan was developed and endorsed by The Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro MP.**

## **Action Plan Overview:**

- **Collaboration across sectors and the community**
- **Services, tools and networks for success**
- **Making the most of many opportunities**
- **Developing new and expanded markets**
- **Encouraging new industry investment**



# Main areas of focus



**Energy**



**New Industry**



**Employment**



**Mining**



**Agribusiness**



# Energy

- **Industry engagement**
- **Energy Transition**
- **New opportunities**
- **New Jobs**



# New Industry

- **Emerging opportunities**
- **Land use and certainty**
- **New diverse businesses**
- **Industry support and enagement**
- **Coordination between state and local government**



# Employment

- **Networks**
- **Skills and training**
- **Web services eg smart and skilled**
- **Industry engagement**
- **Opportunity and transitions mapping**

# Mining

- Industry mainstay
- New market openings for coal exports
- Mining linked businesses research, development & extended markets
- Broader community benefit focus



# Agribusiness

- **New opportunities**
- **Land certainty**
- **LLS and DPI research and support services**
- **One on one business support for export readiness**
- **Supply chain priorities**
- **Government and industry coordination**





# Council Land Use Strategies



**CREATE A LIVING,  
DYNAMIC &  
ACCESSIBLE  
INFORMATION TOOL  
UTILISING TECHNOLOGY**

**Mine  
Rehab  
Portal**

**Important  
Agricultural  
Land Mapping**

**Upper Hunter  
Strategic  
Biodiversity  
Assessment**

**Employment  
Land  
Development  
Mapping**

**SEED  
Portal**

# Mine Rehab Portal

**State wide Rehab  
GIS database  
is being compiled  
of all rehabilitation  
and disturbance  
data of mines in  
NSW**

**A web based portal  
will allow the annual  
electronic  
submission of Rehab  
GIS data by  
titleholders**

# Important Agricultural Land Mapping

**Important Agricultural Land (IAL) is defined as: existing or potential future location of local or regionally important agricultural industries or resources.**

**The mapping is an information gathering program collating industry data to improve access for all stakeholders. In particular in the preparation of Agriculture Impact Statements (AIS).**

**It includes a combination of biophysical resources (soil, water) and socio-economic (infrastructure, proximity to processing facilities) requirements for regionally and locally important agricultural industries.**

# Next Steps

- **The cabinet-approved DPE Regional Plans include actions to identify, map and provide information to better understand and support for strategic planning of important agricultural lands**
- **DPI are leading a 3 year program to identify IAL in key locations across the state**



**Further questions or if you would like to be involved in the mapping please contact Helen Squires - [helen.squires@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:helen.squires@dpi.nsw.gov.au)**



# Upper Hunter Strategic Biodiversity Assessment

**Working with industry resulting in:**

- **environmental outcomes will be improved**
- **the assessment process will be streamlined**
- **there will be greater certainty for the community, industry and Government**
- **partnering with industry to improve biodiversity management and outcomes**

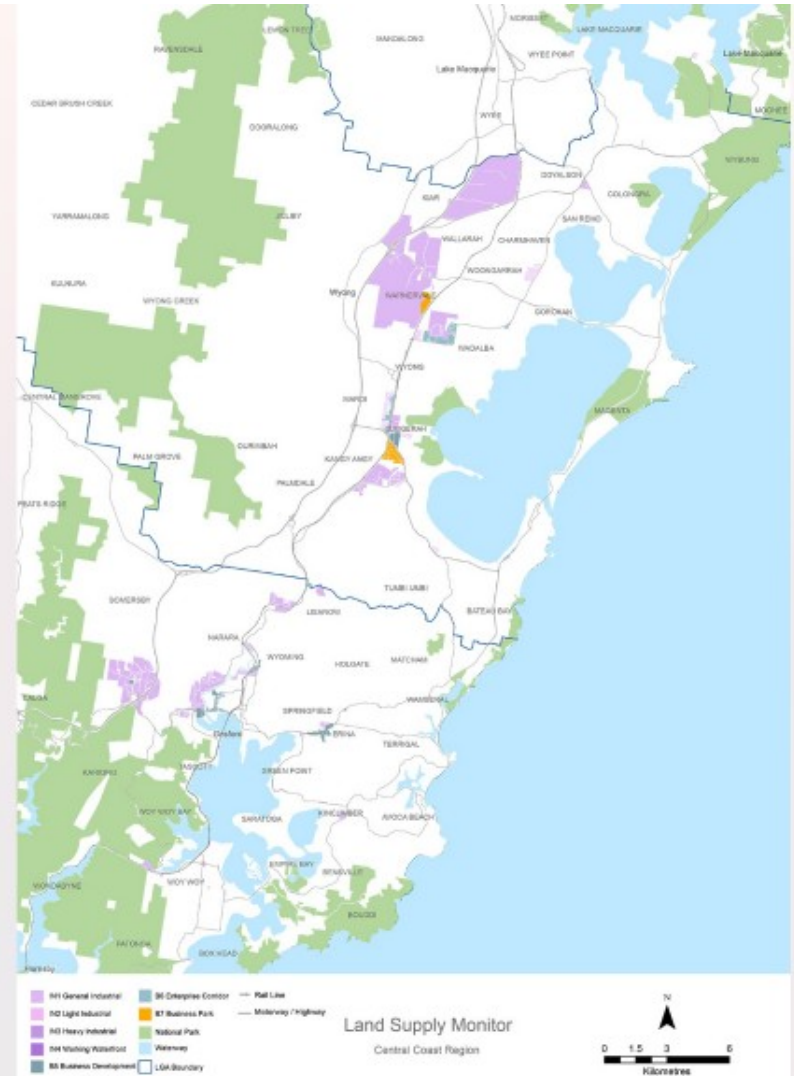


# Employment Land Development Mapping

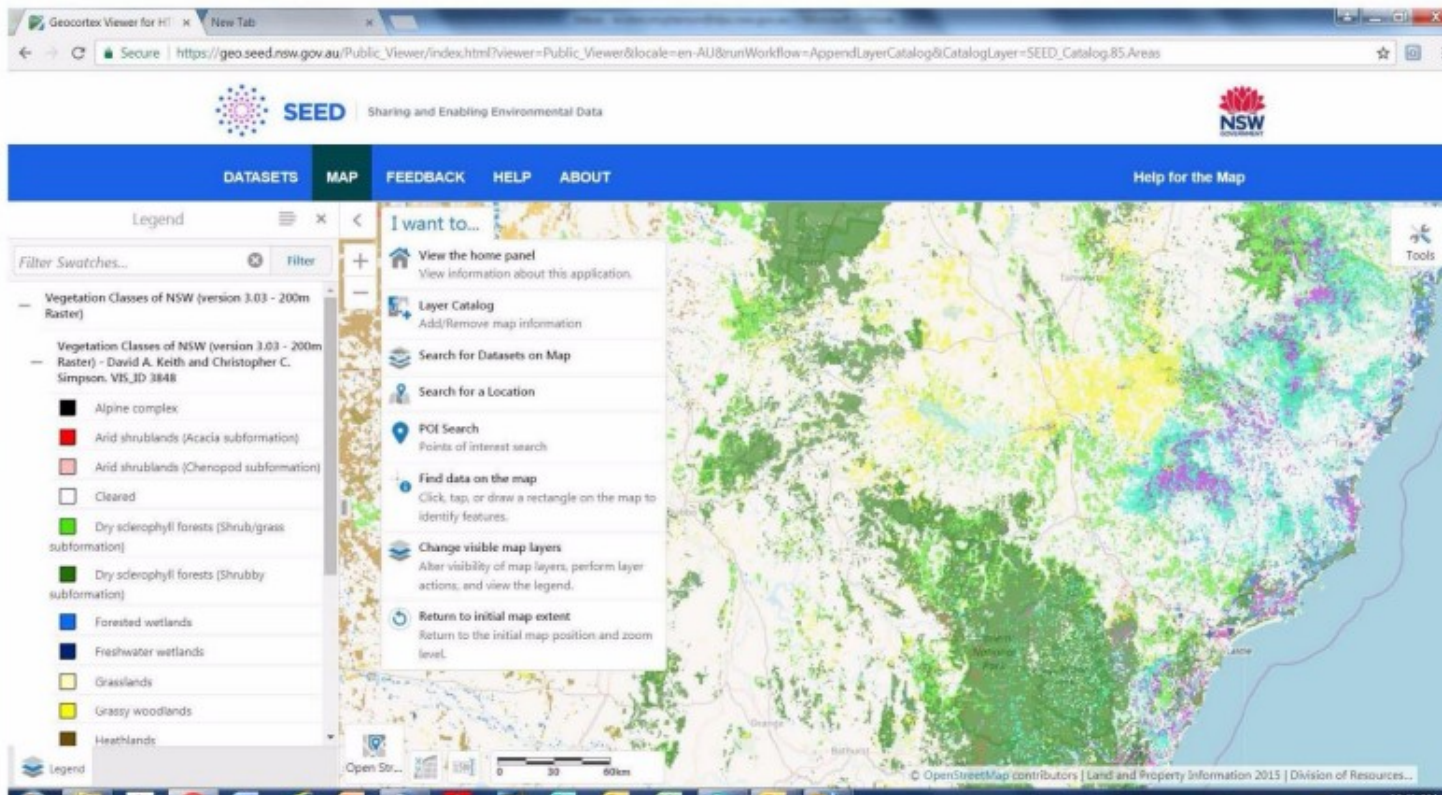
A website containing data about location of employment land and amount of land available.

The Hunter employment land monitor is awaiting approval to be released.

This image is from the DPE website based on information on the Central Coast, but an example of what we will soon have for the Hunter



# SEED Portal



**NSW SEED Website:  
Sharing and Enabling  
Environmental Data  
[www.seed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.seed.nsw.gov.au)**



# ALIGNMENT WITH PLANS & PROCESSES

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL COUNCIL PLANNING PROCESSES AND PLANS

Hunter  
Regional Plan  
2036



Council Local  
Environmental  
Plan Review





# **BEST PRACTICE REHABILITATION**

## **APPROACHES TO SUPPORT BALANCED OUTCOMES**

**Mine  
Rehabilitation  
Reform  
Project**

**Mine  
Rehabilitation  
Policy**

**Mine  
Rehabilitation  
GIS Project**

**Mine Closure  
& Void  
Projects**



# Mine Rehabilitation Reform Project

## Improved rehabilitation outcomes :

- Annual Rehabilitation Report and Program
- New Rehabilitation Assessment Protocol
- Rehabilitation Performance Dashboard

[www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au)



# Mine Rehabilitation Policy

## Clarifying Government expectations for mine rehabilitation



# Mine Rehabilitation GIS Project

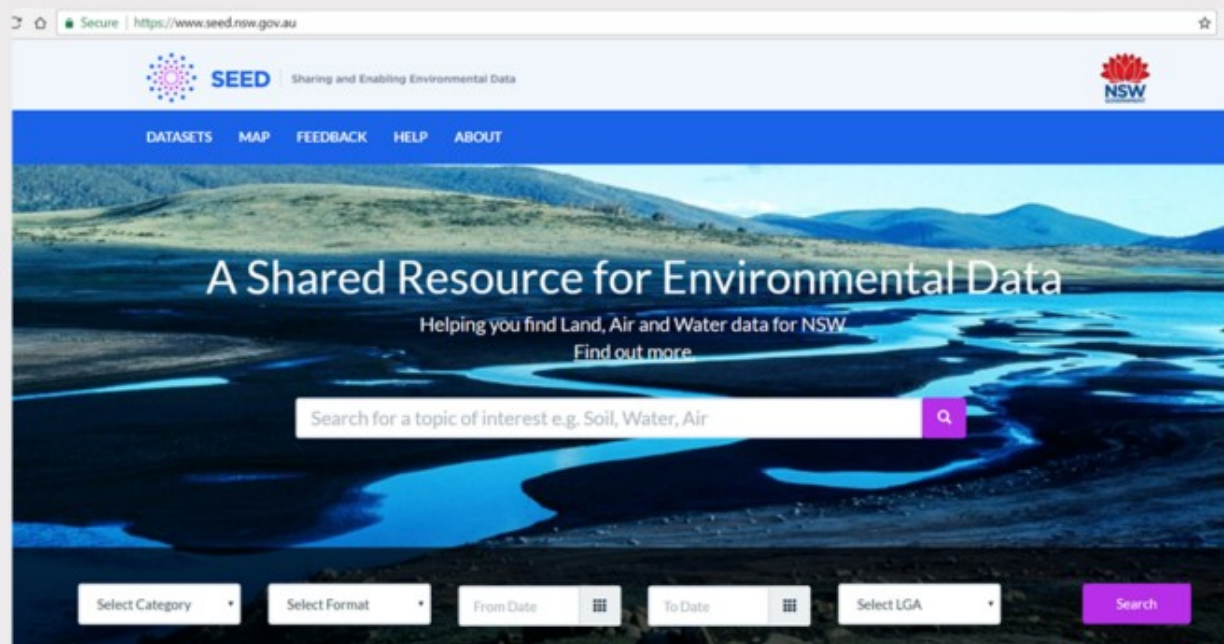
## The Rehabilitation GIS Project will:

- assist industry to prepare and submit geospatial rehabilitation data on a progressive basis in the Rehabilitation GIS Portal
- allow the Government to more thoroughly analyse rehabilitation progress, rehabilitation quality and rehabilitation compliance on mine site
- allow rehabilitation analysis at a state level, region level and locally at each mine site
- allow for public viewing of progressive rehabilitation outcomes on the NSW Government's SEED Portal

- **Over 90% of the 67 mines providing data**
- **Remaining mines are working on their submissions**
- **Industry extremely cooperative and positive feedback received**
- **Data is currently being verified by Project Team**

The data obtained by the Rehabilitation GIS Portal will be made publically available via the NSW Government's SEED (Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data) Website.

<https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/>





# Mine Closure & Void Projects

## Buffer Lands & Rehabilitation Lands

**The facilitation of economic diversification through the utilisation of:**

- mine buffer land and rehabilitated land
- mine closures and use of voids







## **DATA INVENTORY**

**WHAT EXISTS?  
WHAT IS UNDERWAY?  
WHAT IS NEEDED?**

**Single, accessible source of  
relevant information for the  
Upper Hunter:**

- **economic**
- **environment**
- **land use**
- **social informaton**



**ENGAGEMENT  
WITH COMMUNITY  
TO FOSTER ONGOING  
COMMUNICATION AND  
ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Communication  
Strategy**

**Web  
Page**

**SEED  
Mapping  
Information**

# Communication Strategy

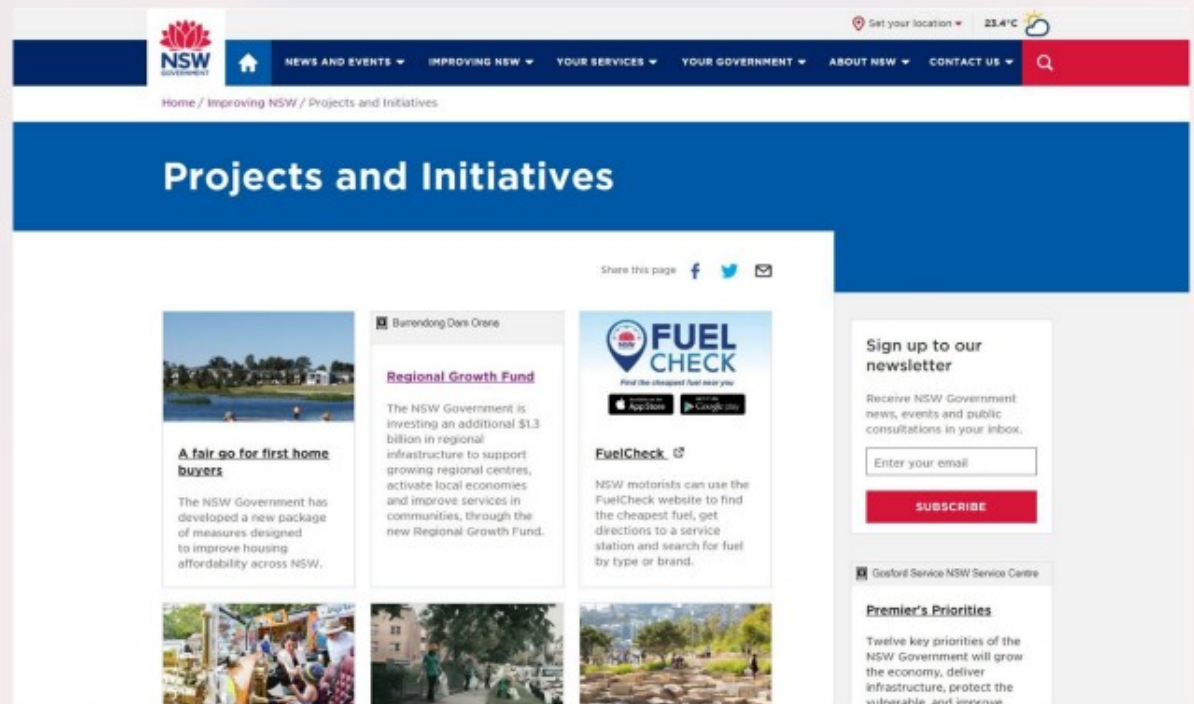
**Communication associated with the Synoptic Plan will align with the Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Action Plan's Communication Strategy**

- **Draft stakeholder engagement plan is under review**
- **Key components of plan will include a stand alone website for the region**
- **Optimising translation of our tools, services and networks**
- **Building collaborative networks and capacity for diversification outcomes**
- **Strategy to reduce barriers and accelerate outcomes**
- **Provide for regular updates and reporting of progress**

# Web Page

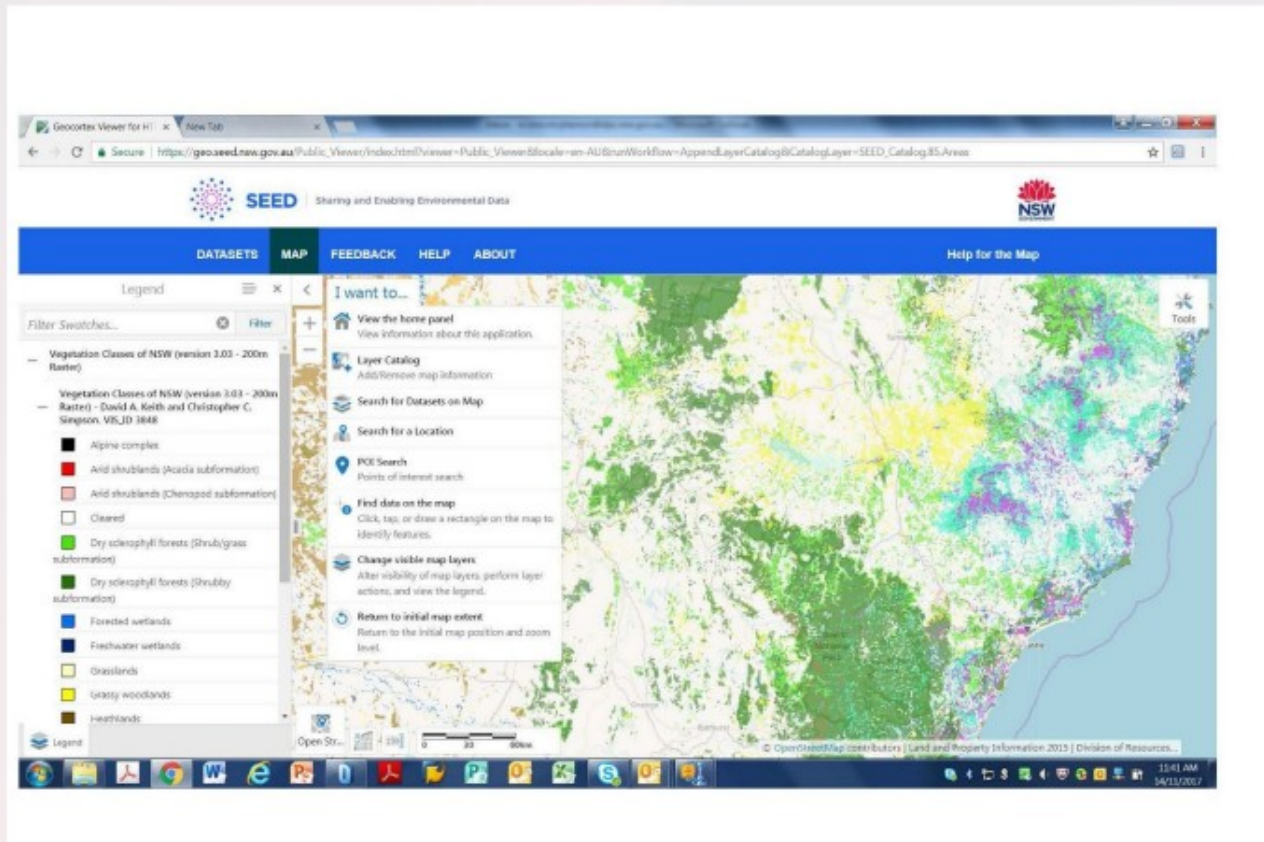
**.nsw.gov.au Web Page is currently under construction**

- Will link to stand alone UHED opportunities Website
- Services, networking and collaborative space





# SEED Mapping Information





**PROJECT  
GOVERNANCE  
INCLUDING ONGOING  
ENGAGEMENT WITH  
WORKSHOP ATTENDEES**

**Governance**

**Ongoing  
Engagement**

# Governance

## Existing Approach

- **Synoptic Plan Working Group**

## Alternative Approach

- **Establish overarching Upper Hunter Steering Group**
- **Oversight of program implementation: HRP, Economic Diversification, etc**
- **Composition: community, industry, Government (incl UHMD reps)**
- **Guide ongoing communication and engagement**

**Focus discussion at 2017 UHMD Annual Forum**

# Ongoing Engagement

**Approach to ongoing engagement and communication with workshop attendees:**

- **distribute information: website, newsletters, media, councils, community groups**
- **direct engagement: UHMD, councils, workshops**

**Future opportunities: focus discussion at 2017 UHMD Annual Forum**



## **NEXT STEPS**

- **Endorse alignment of objectives with programs at local Council and State level.**
- **Commence projects to achieve/deliver agreed objectives.**
- **Develop and communicate project governance structure, including timeframes and milestones.**
- **Data inventory – what exists, what is underway, what is needed.**
- **Ongoing stakeholder engagement and communication and reporting on progress.**
- **Identify future projects and opportunities to achieve/ deliver agreed objectives - ongoing**

