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## Online Submission

Mar 23 (21 days ago)

j To:

I know that my environmental concerns have already been fed through to this process via a submission from my local Council.

However, at the risk of being a bit "out there" I want to take this opportunity to applaud Actions 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 and encourage the NSW government to immediately support sustainable development and 'transitional' economic stimulus in Cessnock by prioritised planning for "old"-industry developed crown, rail and other under-managed lands around Cessnock as a network of opportunities perfect for integrated state enabled developments like :-

- 1 - a world's best bicycle-tour & mountain biking industry;
- 2 - a specialist Institute of Sustainable Development exporting education internationally, and helping relieve educational attainment gaps in the Hunter; and
- 3 - a social bond setup.

### 1. Bicycle Tourism:

Although Cessnock already has a successful wine industry tourism sector, other regions close to Sydney are catching up on our market share. The World Tourism Organisation suggests that "As with products, creating a unique identity has become more critical than ever for destinations and it has in many respects become the basis for survival and growth within a globally competitive marketplace." As a region in need of stimulus for unemployment due to 'transition from coal', it makes sense to look at the passing of coal and rise of sustainability as a destination identity opportunity.

A complex of cycleways, rail trails, fire trails and 'MTB' Courses networked to an eco-tourism complex development on either the HEZ or any of the old mine sites south of Cessnock, is crying out to be properly mapped and extended from the proposed Richmond Vale Rail Trail at Kurri Kurri (through the HEZ and Werakata NP) to connect a "Coal Trail" to the Vineyards with a variety of different routes. Mountain biking courses could be developed privately or publicly and interconnected at Mount View, Abernethy and all or any of the other coalfield villages through to the Watagans via Quorrobolong or the Ellalong Lagoon and eventually Wollombi to grow the Great North Walk into an economic renewal of the whole Cessnock LGA. As per the Timber trail in NZ, the development should feature the full range of cultural histories that are appropriate to the area and should be developed with social & cultural equity as an explicit target. It should also be designed to showcase and educate on sustainable development - not just in reference to remnant coal mining but also in power and water systems use as well as respect for ecology, health and culture.

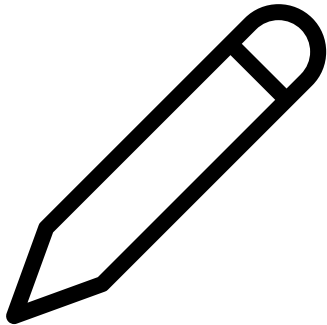
### 2. Export Education eg Institute for Sustainable Development:

The transition to service based industries in the area of Cessnock needs to manage with higher rates of lower education attainment and slower uptake of digital economy than in many other Hunter areas. With such close proximity to Sydney, the repurposed eco-complex suggested above, could also be an educational institution as well as a recreational/holiday destination. The HEZ (for example) is close enough to universities in both Sydney and Newcastle to be set up as a satellite campus from any of them or be run privately. For differentiation it should be established for an appropriate special

purpose (eg Institute of Sustainable Development, fits in with the mountain biking idea nicely) with on-campus accommodation and specifically marketed internationally for its location 'in the bush' but just 2hrs by car from Sydney airport. It would make sense to include among its offerings, courses aimed at the local market, bridging candidates from diploma to undergraduate study, and possibly English as a Second Language courses for foreign students.

3. Social Bond Setup.

In line with the federal government's proclivity for innovation, test the effectiveness of the states integrated planning processes by developing financial infrastructure to fund these opportunities. It will defray the cost privately and/or federally.



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