



Coalfield Geology Council of New South Wales

Submission from the Coalfield Geology Council of NSW to the National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund consultation paper

Submission to discussion questions

18) General Discussion

The NIPLF consultation paper lays the framework for universities to be able to engage with industry. However, what it does not do is set a mechanism for industry to be able to effectively engage with universities.

Over the past year, the coal mining industry (particularly in the Hunter Valley NSW) has attempted to engage with universities to retain courses to produce quality geology graduates to work in the mining industry. Despite Geology and Geophysics being listed on the national skills shortages register, geology courses have been cancelled at the University of Newcastle, and we understand that this will also happen at many other NSW universities in the near future. These decisions will create skills shortages in the mining industry for years to come. The foreseeable outcome is that the mining industry will need to look overseas for suitable geology graduates.

The Coalfield Geology Council of NSW has attempted to engage with University of Newcastle to source students to undertake Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placements. The university has been unable to provide a mechanism for WIL for geology students, resulting in students being employed by the mining industry for vacation placements without any credit towards their degree.

The University of Newcastle recently announced plans to cease teaching a geology major as part of the of the Earth Science discipline. The Coalfield Geology Council of NSW engaged with the university highlighting that this decision would deprive a major local industry of qualified graduates. We were informed that the views of industry are not considered in decisions around courses, rather student demand is the preferred mechanism.

We implore the committee to consider the views of industry in this legislation, and to ensure that universities are working to support the workforce needs of their local industries.



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The Coalfield Geology Council of NSW

The Coalfield Geology Council of NSW is the representative body for geologists working in the coal industry. The Council was originally formed in 1961 as the Standing Committee on Coalfield Geology of New South Wales. Over the past 50 years the Council has been a driving force in defining the stratigraphy of NSW, writing standards and codes for exploration and estimating resources, and promoting the advancement of technology in geological exploration.

The aim of the Council is the advancement of Coalfield Geology of New South Wales by activities including among other things:

- Providing a forum for the sharing of information on the geology of the coalfields of NSW and techniques for the understanding of the contained coal resources and their exploration and extraction.
- The provision of effective industry/government consultation on all matters involving coalfield and mining geology.
- Promote liaison with other Australian coal geology groups with a view to the establishment and revision of codes, standards and guidelines for exploration and mining geology.
- Exchange of ideas on geoscience techniques and terms employed in coalfield geology with a view to standardisation.
- The appropriate distribution of the results of the Council's considerations and activities.

Further information

Further information about the issues addressed above can be seen via the links below:

[University decision to cut geology major will affect region's mining: union](#)

Contact

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