



Paul Toole
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Police

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL EXPERTISE SHAPES FUTURE OF ILLAWARRA

Community leaders and local representatives have been appointed as members on the Illawarra Regional Expert Panel, one of four panels established to provide input into the NSW Government's Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the panel members were appointed after a competitive, merit-based recruitment process.

"The panel, comprising of members with a diverse range of skills, expertise, backgrounds and experiences, will provide me with advice and recommendations on applications received through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund to ensure that decision-making is aligned with the needs of the local area," Mr Toole said.

"These panel members, who will serve over a three-year term, will have a say in how the Fund is invested towards projects and initiatives like strategic planning and workforce development programs, the development of enabling infrastructure and the establishment of new industries and job opportunities."

Parliamentary Secretary for Wollongong and the Illawarra, Peter Poulos said 28 positions have been appointed across the four main coal mining regions of the Hunter, Illawarra, North West and Central West.

"Every mining community is faced with its own unique needs and opportunities, and I'm confident that each Regional Expert Panel member will leverage their local knowledge and expertise to ensure our investments help drive economic diversification in those regions," Mr Poulos said.

"I congratulate the successful candidates and look forward to seeing them play a vital role in ensuring coal mining communities in NSW have a strong and vibrant future."

Illawarra Regional Expert Panel Chair Bianca Perry said the panel is made up of passionate individuals who are knowledgeable, experienced and well-connected.

"The local region knows what it needs, what its strengths are and what is important to the community," Ms Perry said.

"By following a rigorous process to form an expert panel, the Illawarra region can be confident that recommendations will be presented with the Illawarra region's best interests at the centre," Ms Perry said.

The NSW Government has committed at least \$25 million each year from mining royalties to support coal mining communities in NSW through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund.

For more information about the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund, visit nsw.gov.au/RoyaltiesRejuvenation.

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The Illawarra Regional Expert Panel members are:

- Ms Bianca Perry, Chairperson
- Mr Adam Zarth, panel member
- Mr Michael Reay, panel member
- The Hon. David Campbell, panel member
- Ms Kylie Flament, panel member
- Professor Alex Frino, panel member
- Mr Ben Fitzsimmons, panel member
- Mr Jim Allan, panel member