

THE FIVE CHANNELS — FIELD GUIDE

Keep this. It works for the rest of the unit. The channels become the environmental column of your judging criteria — and the Verdict will lean on it hard.

AIR

What it is: What everyone breathes — clean or dusty, fresh or fumey.

Damage looks like: dust over homes, smoke, truck fumes, that gritty film on windowsills.

Protection looks like: sealed roads, covered loads, water sprays on dust, air monitoring the town can see.

WATER

What it is: Creeks, rivers, groundwater — the water in the land and under it.

Damage looks like: murky creeks, fish gone, water you would not swim in, dry bores.

Protection looks like: keeping mine water separate, testing published openly, buffer zones around creeks.

NOISE

What it is: The sound of a place — and the quiet.

Damage looks like: blasting, machinery at night, trucks at 5am, birds you stopped hearing.

Protection looks like: night-time limits, quieter machines, distance between mine and homes.

LAND & SOIL

What it is: The ground itself — its shape, health and usefulness.

Damage looks like: erosion, bare scars, soil nothing grows in, land no one can use after.

Protection looks like: rehabilitation — reshaping the land, saving topsoil, replanting as you go.

PLANTS & ANIMALS

What it is: Every living thing that was there first.

Damage looks like: lost habitat, fewer species, roadkill corridors, silence where there was life.

Protection looks like: protected zones, wildlife corridors, seed banks, replanting local species.

THE ASSESSOR'S RULES

1. Damage one channel and liveability feels it. 2. The future isn't fixed — it depends on how well the job is done. 3. No source, no evidence. 4. "Good" and "bad" are lazy words — assessors say *which channel*, *how much*, and *fixable or not*.

Quick self-test: the channel my suburb is strongest on: _____ · weakest on:

Channel watch: when you're out this week, catch one real example — something you see or hear — for any channel: _____

