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Copy-Edit

TRACKED CHANGES & CLEAN COPY (SAMPLE)

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Sola Fide



PREPARED FOR

Client: Priya Raman, PhD candidate, School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences, University of Newcastle (Callaghan, NSW)

Brief as received: A 7,000-word thesis chapter on the human experience of the Hunter Valley's coal transition needs a full copy-edit in Australian English. The work should fix grammar, clarity, flow and consistency while keeping the author's academic voice intact. Deliverables are tracked changes plus a clean final copy, a recurring-issues note, and brief structural comments on what reads well and what could be reordered or trimmed. There is to be no rewriting into a different style and no fact-checking of the underlying claims.

Date: 30/06/2026

Service and tier: Copy-Edit (tracked + clean) - Premium

This is a disclosed fictional sample produced for the BODDAN storefront to demonstrate deliverable quality. "Priya Raman" and the excerpt below are invented for illustration. No real thesis, person or dataset is involved. The Hunter region settings are real places used to make the sample concrete.

A short note on what a copy-edit is and is not, so the sample reads in context. A copy-edit corrects grammar, punctuation, spelling and consistency, and improves clarity and flow at sentence level, without changing the writer's argument, evidence or voice. It is not a structural rewrite, it is not ghostwriting, and it is not a fact-check. Where this sample touches structure, it does so only as the brief asks: brief, advisory comments the author is free to accept or ignore. Substantive claims (closure dates, job figures, what participants said) are left exactly as the author has them; flagging a claim for the author to verify is noted as a query, never silently changed.

The excerpt below is a single representative passage of roughly 500 words, chosen because it carries the full range of issues found across the chapter. The full Premium engagement applies the same treatment to all 7,000 words.

**BEFORE - AS RECEIVED**

This chapter explores the lived experiences of workers and their families in the Upper Hunter region as the region transitions away from coal-fired power generation, the closure of the Liddell power plant in 2023 was a significant moment for a lot of the participants in this study. A lot of the interviewees expressed feelings that were quite mixed, on the one hand they were worried about the future but on the other hand some of them felt that change was probably inevitable anyway. It could perhaps be argued that the way in which the transition has been managed by both government and industry has not really adequately taken into account the actual needs of local communities, and this is something that came up again and again and again in the data that was collected.

The respondents who I spoke to in Muswellbrook and Singleton tended to organize their narratives around a sense of loss, it is interesting to note that this was the case even amongst those workers who had successfully managed to find new employment elsewhere. In order to analyze these narratives I utilized a thematic analysis approach, this is a method that is very widely used in qualitative research and which allowed me to be able to identify recurring patterns across the entire dataset. The behavior of the labor market in the Hunter has been characterized by a really high degree of uncertainty, and the modeling that has been done by various different economists seems to suggest that the number of jobs that could potentially be lost may possibly be quite substantial in nature.

One participant, who I will refer to using the pseudonym "Dave", a 54 year old former operator at the power station, told me that he felt like the whole community was sort of being left behind, he said "no one asked us what we wanted". This sentiment was echoed by a number of the other interviewees as well, particularly the older workers who had spent the majority of their entire working lives in the industry. It is worth noting at this point that the center of gravity of the regional economy has been shifting, slowly but surely, away from coal and towards other sectors such as renewables, agriculture and tourism, however the pace of this change remains a contested and somewhat controversial issue.

The literature on just transitions, which is a concept that originated in the North American labor movement, tends to emphasise the importance of procedural justice, that is to say, the idea that affected communities should have a meaningful say in the decisions that affect them. In the context of the Hunter, it seems somewhat possible that this principle has not always been fully realised in practice, and a number of the workers that participated in the study articulated a strong feeling that decisions were being made about them, but without them, by people in Sydney and Canberra who did not really understand the realities of life in a coal town.

AFTER - PREPARED BY BODDAN

This chapter explores the lived experiences of workers and their families in the Upper Hunter as the region transitions away from coal-fired power generation. The closure of the Liddell power station in 2023 was a significant moment for many of the participants in this study. Participants expressed mixed feelings: they were worried about the future, yet some felt that change was probably inevitable. Arguably, the way both government and industry have managed the transition has not adequately accounted for the needs of local communities, and this concern recurred throughout the data.

The participants I spoke to in Muswellbrook and Singleton tended to organise their narratives around a sense of loss. Notably, this held true even among those who had found new employment. To analyse these narratives I used thematic analysis, a method widely applied in qualitative research that allowed me to identify recurring patterns across the dataset. The region's labour market has been marked by considerable uncertainty, and economic modelling suggests that the number of jobs lost may be substantial.

One participant, whom I refer to by the pseudonym "Dave", a 54-year-old former operator at the power station, told me he felt the community was being left behind: "No one asked us what we wanted." Other participants echoed this sentiment, particularly older workers who had spent most of their working lives in the industry. The regional economy's centre of gravity has been shifting, slowly but steadily, away from coal and towards renewables, agriculture and tourism, although the pace of that change remains contested.

The literature on just transitions, a concept that originated in the North American labour movement, emphasises procedural justice: the idea that affected communities should have a meaningful say in the decisions that affect them. In the Hunter, this principle appears not to have been fully realised in practice. A number of participants articulated a strong feeling that decisions were being made about them but without them, by people in Sydney and Canberra who did not understand life in a coal town.

CHANGELOG - REPRESENTATIVE EDITS

The full engagement records every change as a tracked edit in the Word file, so the author can accept or reject each one. The table below lists a representative sample from this excerpt. "Type" links most edits to a recurring pattern in the note that follows; a few are one-off grammar or punctuation fixes.

| # | Before | After | Reason | Type |
|---|--|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | ...power generation, the closure of the Liddell... | ...power generation. The closure of the Liddell... | Comma splice: two independent clauses joined by a comma, split into two sentences. | Comma splice |
| 2 | the Liddell power plant | the Liddell power station | Consistency: "power station" is used elsewhere in the chapter; standardised to one term (the chapter also mixes in "power plant"). | Terminology |
| 3 | A lot of the interviewees / The respondents | participants | Consistency: three terms (participants, interviewees, respondents) are used for the same group. Standardised to "participants". | Terminology |
| 4 | expressed feelings that were quite mixed, on the one hand... but on the other hand some of them felt | expressed mixed feelings: they were worried about the future, yet some felt | Wordiness and a comma splice removed; the on-the-one-hand / on-the-other scaffolding trimmed. | Wordiness |
| 5 | It could perhaps be argued that | Arguably, | Hedging stack reduced to a single qualifier; meaning preserved. | Hedging |



| # | Before | After | Reason | Type |
|----|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| 6 | the way in which the transition has been managed | the way the transition has been managed | "the way in which" reduced to "the way". | Wordiness |
| 7 | came up again and again and again in the data that was collected | recurred throughout the data | Removed the repeated "again", cut the empty "that was collected", chose a stronger verb. | Wordiness |
| 8 | tended to organize / I utilized / analyze / behavior / labor | organise / used / analyse / behaviour / labour | US to Australian spelling, and "utilized" reduced to plain "used". | Spelling (AU) |
| 9 | The respondents who I spoke to | The participants I spoke to | "who" to "whom" was an option, but the cleaner fix drops the relative pronoun; also folds into the terminology standardisation. | Grammar |
| 10 | allowed me to be able to identify | allowed me to identify | "to be able to" is redundant after "allowed". | Wordiness |
| 11 | various different economists seems to suggest | economic modelling suggests | "various different" is tautological; "seems to suggest" tightened to "suggests" and attribution sharpened to "economic modelling". | Wordiness |
| 12 | could potentially be lost may possibly be quite substantial in nature | lost may be substantial | Triple hedge ("could potentially", "may possibly", "quite") and the empty "in nature" removed; one honest qualifier kept. | Hedging |
| 13 | who I will refer to using the pseudonym "Dave", a 54 year old former operator | whom I refer to by the pseudonym "Dave", a 54-year-old former operator | Tense settled to present; "whom" correct after "to"; compound modifier hyphenated. | Grammar / punctuation |
| 14 | felt like the whole community was sort of being left behind, he said "no one asked us what we wanted" | felt the community was being left behind: "No one asked us what we wanted." | Comma splice fixed with a colon introducing the quote; filler "like... sort of" removed; quote capitalised and punctuated. | Comma splice / punctuation |
| 15 | the majority of their entire working lives | most of their working lives | "the majority of" reduced to "most of"; "entire" redundant. | Wordiness |
| 16 | the center of gravity... however the pace | The regional economy's centre of gravity... although the pace | US "center" to "centre"; comma-spliced "however" recast as a subordinate "although" clause. | Spelling / comma splice |

RECURRING-ISSUES NOTE

Six patterns account for most of the marks across the chapter. Fixing them at the source will lift the whole manuscript faster than editing sentence by sentence.

1. Comma splices. The most frequent structural error. Two complete sentences are repeatedly joined with a comma (see edits 1, 14, 16). The fix is one of: a full stop, a semicolon, a colon (when the second clause explains the first), or a joining word such as "and", "but" or "although". This pattern appears throughout, so it is worth a dedicated read-through with that single question in mind: could each half stand alone as a sentence? If yes, the comma is not enough.



2. Hedging stacks. The argument is often strong but the prose softens it with layered qualifiers ("could perhaps be argued", "may possibly be quite substantial in nature"). One qualifier states uncertainty honestly; three bury the point. Keep the single most accurate hedge and cut the rest. This is a voice-preserving change, the caution stays, the mush goes.

3. Inconsistent terminology. The same group is called participants, interviewees and respondents, sometimes within a paragraph; the same site is "power plant" and "power station". Pick one term for each concept and use it everywhere. A short style sheet (supplied with the full job) locks these in: participants, power station, the Upper Hunter / the Hunter for the region.

4. US spelling and diction. Recurring US forms in the excerpt: organize, analyze, behavior, labor, center, modeling. Australian English uses -ise, -our and -re here, and doubles the "l" in words such as "modelling" (and "labelled" where it occurs). A find-and-replace pass catches most, but "practice" (noun) versus "practise" (verb) and "licence" / "license" need a human eye.

5. Wordiness and redundancy. Empty scaffolding recurs: "the way in which", "in order to", "to be able to", "in nature", "various different", "the majority of", "a lot of", "it is interesting to note that". Each can usually be cut or shortened with no loss of meaning, which tightens the prose and lets the analysis carry the weight.

6. Filler in reported speech and self-reference. Around quotations and the author's own method, casual fillers creep in ("sort of", "like", "I will refer to using"). In an academic register these read as informal. Tightening them sharpens the methodological voice without altering what was said or done.

A note on what was deliberately left alone. The author's first-person voice ("I spoke to", "I refer to") is retained, because the brief asks to keep the academic voice intact and reflexive first person is appropriate in qualitative work. Argument, evidence and structure of reasoning are untouched. Three factual points (the 2023 closure date, the participant's stated age, and the claim that just transitions "originated in the North American labour movement") are left as written and flagged in the margin as author-verify queries, since fact-checking is outside this brief.

STRUCTURAL COMMENTS (ADVISORY)

These are brief, optional observations on the excerpt, offered as the brief invites. They are not part of the copy-edit and change nothing in the text; they are for the author to weigh.

What reads well. The opening move from the regional frame (the transition) to a specific anchor (the Liddell closure) to the human register (mixed feelings) is a strong funnel and worth keeping as the chapter's pattern. The "Dave" vignette lands because it arrives after the general claim it illustrates, concept first, then evidence, which is the right order for a reader meeting the material. The closing "about them but without them" formulation is memorable and earns its place as a section-ending line.

What could be reordered. The thematic-analysis method sentence ("To analyse these narratives I used thematic analysis...") currently sits in the second paragraph, between two findings. Method usually reads better either at the very start of the analysis chapter or in a brief methods section, so the findings run uninterrupted. Consider lifting it out so the loss narrative and the labour-market point sit together.

What could be trimmed. The labour-market and economic-modelling sentence introduces a quantitative claim ("jobs lost may be substantial") that the surrounding qualitative material does not develop. If the chapter is about lived experience, this sentence either wants a sentence of follow-through (whose modelling, and why it matters to participants) or could be trimmed to a half-line and cross-referenced to wherever the economic data is properly handled. As it stands it raises an expectation the passage does not meet.

One query for the author. The just-transitions paragraph would be stronger if the "procedural justice" definition were tied back to a participant's words in the same paragraph, rather than left as abstract theory



followed separately by the "Sydney and Canberra" quotation. The raw material to make that link is already here; it is a matter of ordering, not new writing.

Sample deliverable prepared by BODDAN. Disclosed fictional content for storefront demonstration only. Australian English throughout. The full Premium engagement delivers a tracked-changes Word file, a clean final copy, this recurring-issues note and a style sheet, and advisory structural comments across the complete manuscript.

PREPARED AND ISSUED BY

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Decorative mark for presentation, not a legal signature.

