

Circular economy What's in it for mining?

Mining and Mineral Industry of the Future 2015
Stockholm 26, 27th Jan 2015
Closing Remarks by James Greyson
mining@blindspot.org.uk





Mining has been a 'linear economy' activity:

- Replacing materials used and discarded by society
- Extracting fossil fuels that accumulate as greenhouse gases
- Spoiling unspoilt ecosystems
- CSR improvements but no systemic change

Will the future of mining be linear or circular?





Mining in a circular economy:

- What about mining materials that are carefully preserved within tomorrow's resource cycles?
- What about mining new materials essential to tomorrow's renewable energy economy?
- What about mining that makes net-improvements to ecosystems?

Mining can choose a circular future!





Circular economy: what's in it for mining?

- A vision for mining that embraces the whole society
- Offer a high-value product, not a throw-away product
- Show society how to actually do #circulareconomy
- Ensure continuing 'social licence to operate'
- Minimise land conflicts, operating costs and delays
- Maximise profits from both existing mines and new circular resource opportunities





How?

- How we've tried it over 40+ years hasn't worked
- Meaningful change means changing the economics
- Every product has a waste-risk, ie a risk of becoming wastes in ecosystems
- Circular economy is achievable by 'insuring' waste-risk, with premiums spent cutting waste-risk
- No taxes, no prescriptive regulation
- Let's do it!

