

**MENDOZA  
GOBIERNO**



**Ministerio de Economía,  
Infraestructura y Energía**  
Subsecretaría de Energía y Minería



**2018**

**MENDOZA A NEW OPORTUNITY FOR MINING IN  
ARGENTINA (?)**



# MENDOZA HIGHLIGHTS

---

- **Mendoza** is the 4 biggest province of Argentina 149,000 km<sup>2</sup> , with a population of 1,800,000 98% of alfabetism, and 30% of university graduates.
- **Mendoza** is recognize for the quality of its wine, but is also the 3rd oil producer of the country with the second biggest refinery of Argentina.
- **Mendoza** has a diversified economy, with the biggest industrial and service cluster of the west of Argentina.
- **Mendoza** is the Province with the smallest proportion of public employment, has fiscal superhabit and is investing more than 10% of its Public Budget in infrastructure.
- **Mendoza** is one of the best destinies for investments in Argentina.
- In the more than 500 km of Andes that **Mendoza** shares with Chile, Chile produce and exports more than US\$10,000 Millions of mining products.



## A FACT

According the Fraser Institute, Mendoza is the **second worst** destiny for mining investment.

- Geological Potential
- Infraestructure
- Human Resources
- Service Base

- Legal Frame
- Social opposition in some sectors
- Absence of policy for the sector

Despite off

**NO** mining in Mendoza.



## A VALID QUESTION

---

Why are we here?....



## A PIECE OF RECENT HISTORY

- By 2000, Mendoza had the biggest mining service cluster of Argentina based on its industry, the international connections, and human resources. *Part of this base is stil there, providing services to thre rest of the región.*
- 2004/2005, anti Mining movements started in Chubut spreading quickly to Mendoza obtaining in 2006 the approval of *Law 7722 (CN , H2SO4)*
- In 2011 was started the construction of Potasio Rio Colorado Project (Malargüe) with an initial investment of USS 6,000 MM. In 2013 after investing USS 2,000 MM the projects was stopped because a combination of *Nation, Province and Investor strategy mistakes and a change in market conditions.*
- In 2014 some projects fail in getting the enviromental permits mainly by the *lack of a consistent mining policy and political speculation.*
- Potasio Rio Colorado has been redesigned under the optics of the National and Provincial Minig Policy and, with a optimized project is *waiting for its market oportunity*. Projects with failed enviromental process are *being redirected*.



# HOW TO RESOLVE THIS SITUATION?

- The strategy of the Government was to attend first the reason for social opposition using **objective information, open debate and transparency** in the process. **“Espacio de Dialogo”**;
- More than 70 conferences in 3 different universities, **1000+ people participating**;
- Visits to different sites with pro and anti mining opinion;
- The result was the **“Policy for Development Sustainable Mining in Mendoza”** presented in 2017;
- **Strong support** from the economics/productive sectors;
- Program to **develop Mining in Malargüe**;

**Show results in one place, expand the concept to the rest of the Province.**







# MOVE FROM HERE

- Prohibition of using CN, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>
- Political meddling

**Uncertain**  
Legal and  
Political Frame

- Corruption
- Limits to water acces
- Bureaucracy

- Polution
- Corruption
- Lack of Control
- Abuse of local comunities
- No positive outcomes in the long term.

**Threat**  
Social Perception

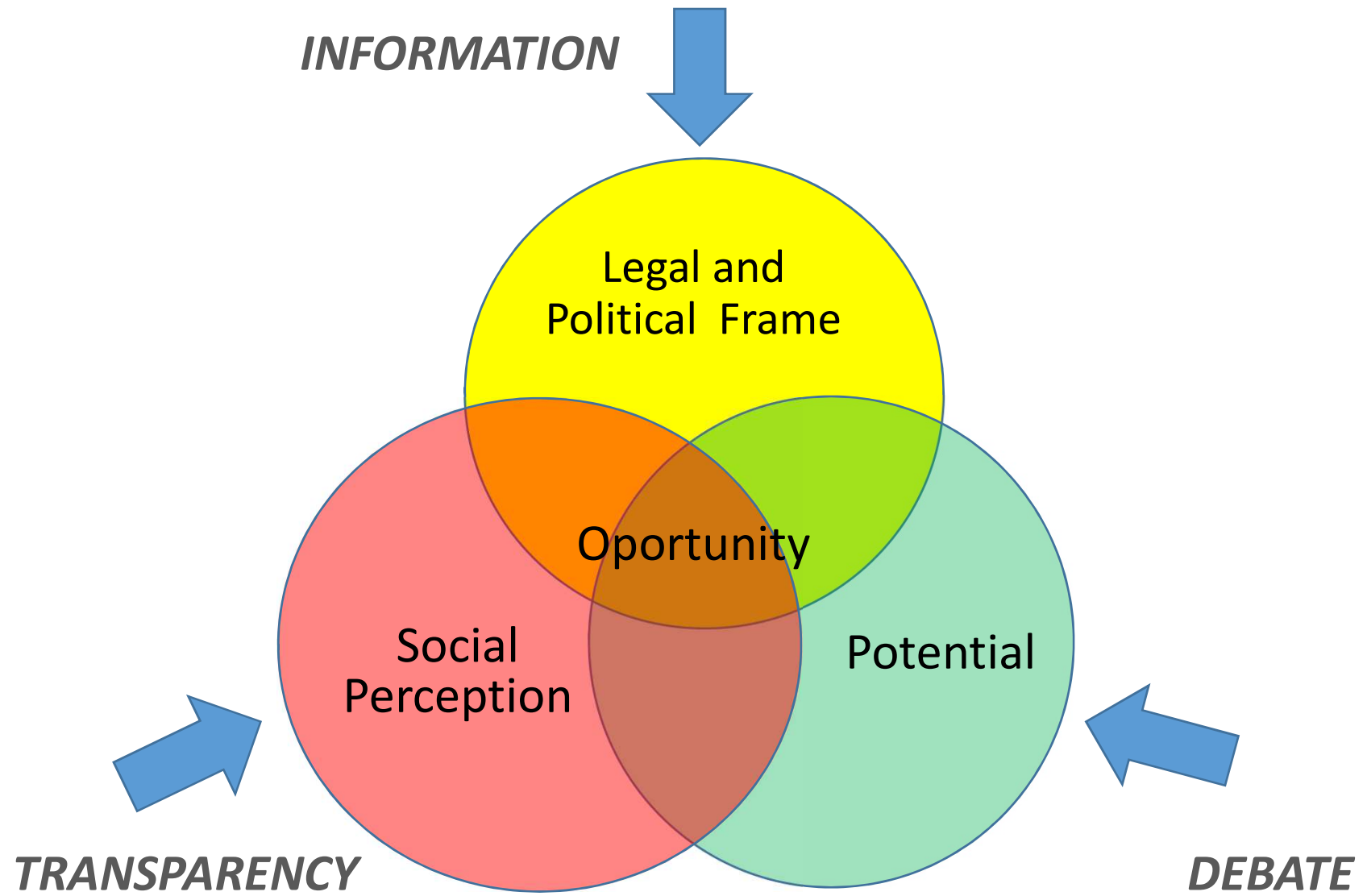
**Unknown**  
Geological  
Potential

- Untapped resources
- CU
- Potash
- Uranium
- Gold
- Etc.





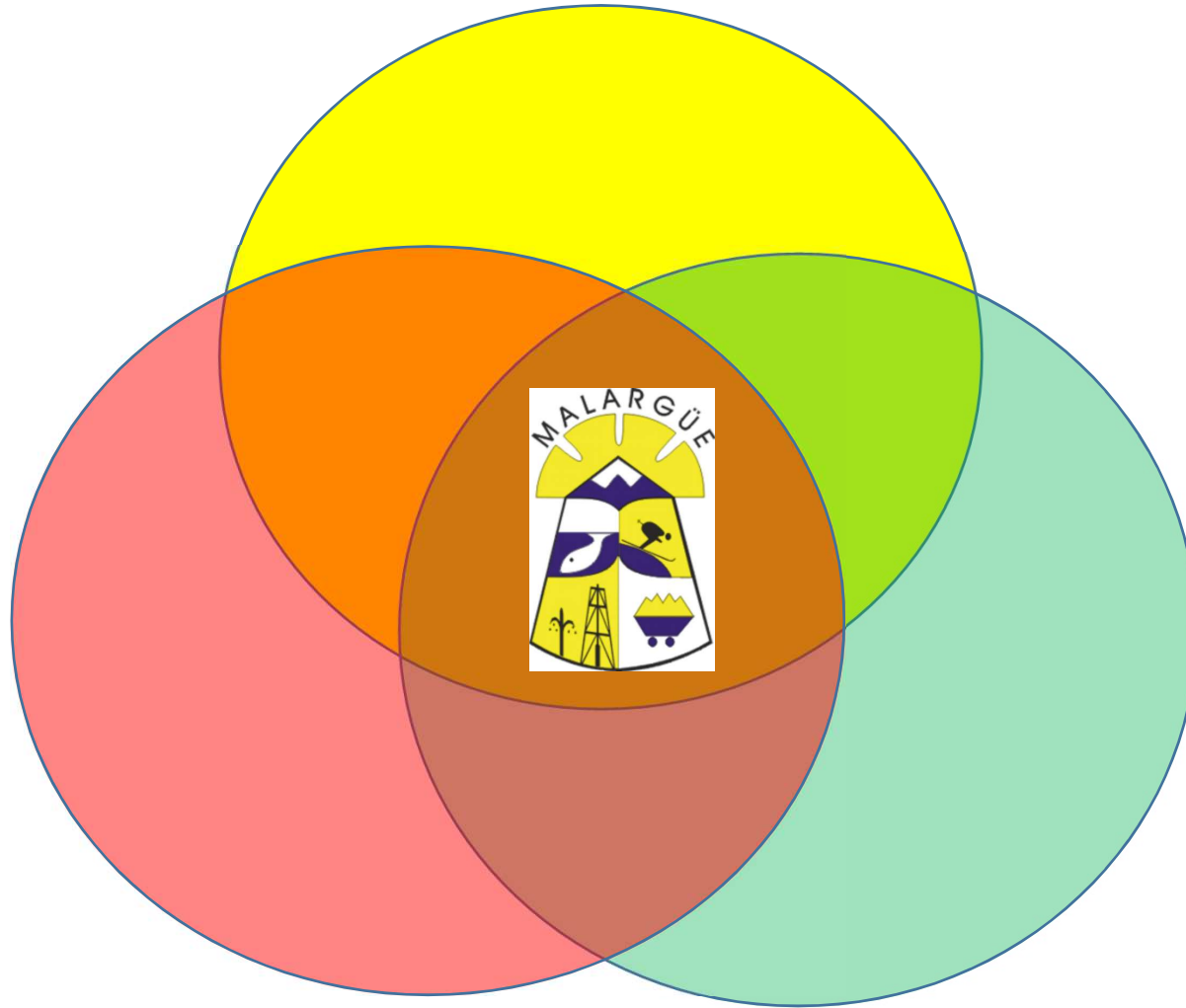
TO HERE





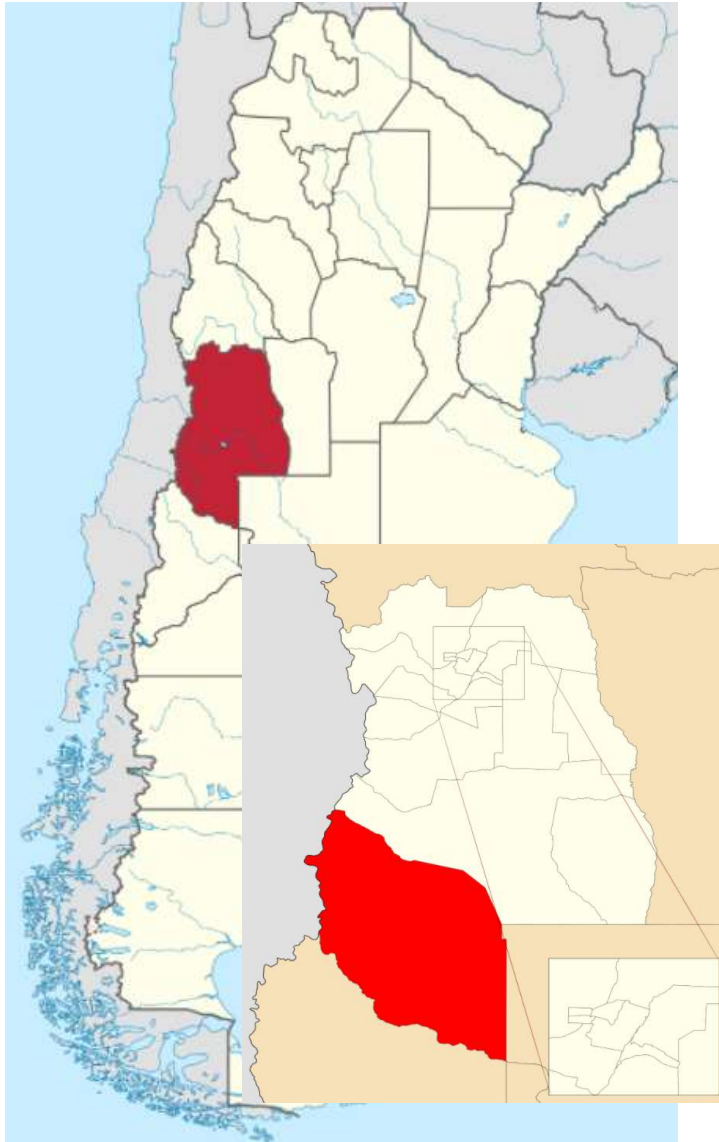
## WAHT WE FOUND?

We found a positive combination of these factors in Malargüe





# MALARGÜE



- Malargüe is the biggest territory of Mendoza with more than 41,000 km<sup>2</sup> (bigger than Switzerland).
- Malargüe is the **main oil producer** of the Province (3rd in the Country) and already working with non conventional oil (30% of “Vaca Muerta”)
- Malargüe has **historically supported the mining activity** and has not any other economical activity that could feel threatened by mining industry.
- Malargüe together with the National and Provincial Government are working to develop its own **Territorial Planning** including Oil, Energy and Mining as the main axes of development.

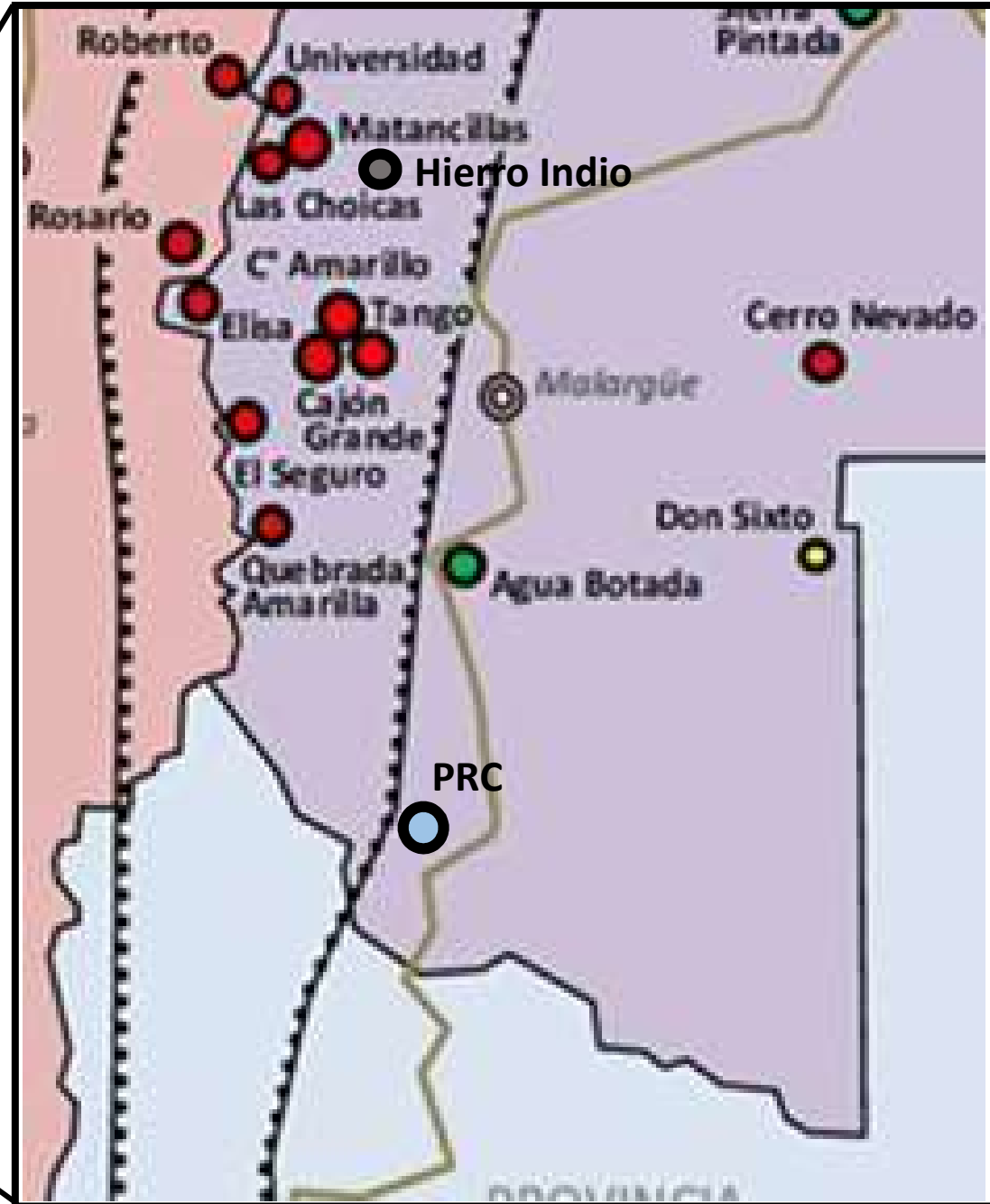
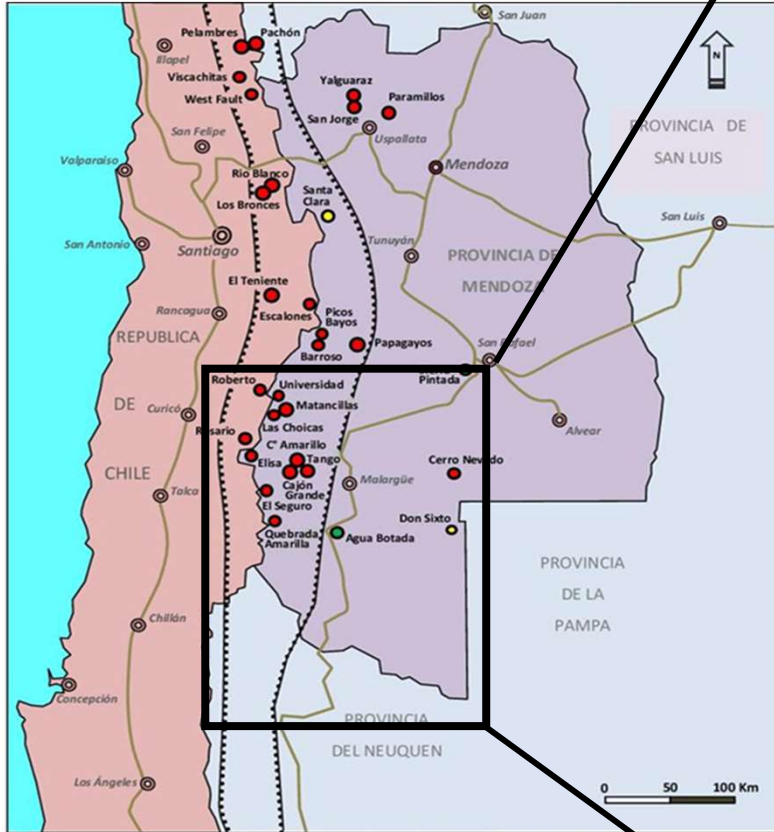


## WHAT WE CAN DO?

- **Malargüe** use to be a mining district until the '70 when mining was outperformed by Oil.
- **Malargüe** has a direct connection with Chile through **Pehuenche Pass**.
- **Malargüe** shares with Chile the "Miocene Copper Belt" which contains the richest and biggest copper deposits of the region most of them **compatible with the limitations of the Law 7722**.
- Most of these deposits are located **out from the "periglacial"** regions (below 3200 m high), reducing risk for environmental assessment.
- The region has also important deposits of Iron, Gold, Uranium, Zinc, some of this potential is for now limited by the legal frame which **not allow the use of CN, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>**.
- There are **several projects that can be developed** because they combine the characteristics of having geological potential, are located in a mining friendly region, can be developed according to the limitations of the law.



# MALARGÜE





# SOME POTENTIAL TARGETS IN MALARGÜE



- **Hierro Indio.** *Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>*; in production until 1972, high quality known reserves;
- **P. Rio Colorado;** *Potash*, under construction, world class reserves;
- **El Perdido .** *Cu* and *Au* Porphyry; Intermediate Exploration;
- **Co Amarillo.** *Cu* Porphyry; Intermediate Exploration;
- **Tango.** *Cu* Porphyry; Intermediate Exploration;
- **El Seguro.** *Cu* and *Au* Porphyry; Binacional; Intermediate Exploration;
- **Qda Amarilla.** *Cu* Porphyry; Binational; Initial Exploration;
- **Las Choicas.** *Cu* Mantle deposit; Advanced Exploration;(needs CN, can be processed in Chile);
- **Elisa.** *Cu* Mantle deposit, Grassroot Exploration; (needs CN, can be processed in Chile);





# CONCLUSIONS

---

## **There is an opportunity for mining in Mendoza.**

- The activity re-starts in the Malargüe región because its unique combination of geological potential, social acceptance and government support.
- National, Provincial and regional Government are working to provide an adequate environment for business.
- There are several projects in different degree of development that need investment to fully develop.
- There are some projects already approved that are waiting for proper market conditions to restart operations.
- The oil industry is very strong providing a base of services, man power and infrastructure.

**Looking forward to see you there**



THANKS FOR YOUR ATENTION

**MENDOZA**  
**GOBIERNO**



**Ministerio de Economía,  
Infraestructura y Energía**  
Subsecretaría de Energía y Minería

Emilio Guiñazú Fader

Under Secretary of Energy and Mining

[ejguinazu@mendoza.gov.ar](mailto:ejguinazu@mendoza.gov.ar)

+54 261 4492867