

Who pays in year two?

The commission was to assess an innovation hub in Añelo, at the heart of Vaca Muerta. The evidence moved the question: before where, how big or which building, we need to know who is obliged to pay for running it once the opening-day lights go off.

The recommendation

Do not yet carry out any of the interventions assessed. First obtain, in this order, three documents that are missing today: **documented demand**, **the file of the municipal fund announced in 2025** and **the reconciliation of the Article 7 royalty**. With them, the decision on the instrument becomes one that can be made; without them, any recommendation would be a bet with public money. (§0, §9)

WHAT THE REPORT CAN STATE

- 1 The money exists; the obligation does not.** The extraordinary royalty under Article 7 of Provincial Law 2615/2008 reaches municipalities as unrestricted revenue, there is precedent for its use in current expenditure, and the provincial corporate social responsibility trust fund finances current transfers. No act among the instruments examined names a payer with a budget line, periodicity and beneficiary to sustain an operator in Añelo. This corrects the project's starting premise —“no mechanism funds operation”—, which was false. (§8)
- 2 The fragility has already shown.** In 2026 a reduction in private contributions affected the activity of the local technical training service; its effective restart had not been confirmed as of 8 September. (§4)
- 3 No alternative wins, and none is ruled out.** Four alternatives —programming in existing spaces, a network of nodes, a phased centre and continuity without intervention— were compared against nine criteria fixed before looking at results, over a common 2027–2031 horizon. The criterion that would rank them, demand and additional local benefit, is empty for the three interventions, and the 2028 payer is not identified for any of them, continuity included. (§5)
- 4 Doing nothing also has a cost.** Continuity has a declared recurring cost and has already suffered a cut in contributions. The short-term tranche of the 2015 plan came out with about 17% of its financing identified at publication: identified, not executed. (§3.1, §4, §5)
- 5 Environment and social license come before design.** For each alternative there are pressures, risks and conditions for moving forward; affected parties are identified before fixing location and scale, not after. (§7)
- 6 No site is chosen without the deciding data.** The hydraulic study of the barda (escarpment) was not recovered. The report delivers six location criteria, three search areas and the exact question that file would have to answer. (§6)

THE THESIS

What is missing in Añelo is a **funded-operation regime**: operator and service, recurring budget, source and earmarking of the resource, continuity in the face of shortfalls, governance and control. An ordinance and an operating agreement can give it form more precisely than a new legal entity or another trust. The thesis is refutable: if the municipal file already contains that obligation, it should be executed or corrected, not duplicated. (§0, §8)

In one line: a building is inaugurated once; a service is paid for every month. What decides whether an innovation hub survives the oil-price cycle is a payer with a budget line, a term and someone accountable.

THREE DOCUMENTS, AND WHAT EACH ONE DECIDES

Document	Who holds it	What it decides
1 • Documented demand: enrolments, graduates and waiting lists; technical service needs of operator companies and suppliers; testing and monitoring now handled outside the territory	Local institute, provincial education agency, chambers and operator companies	Whether there is a real improvement to justify compared with carrying on as now
2 • File of the municipal fund announced on 1 March 2025	Municipal Council (Concejo Deliberante) and municipal executive of Añelo	Whether the instrument must be created, amended or executed. Its announced purpose is infrastructure: if kept, it does not solve operation
3 • Reconciliation of the Article 7 royalty	Municipal treasury and provincial Ministry of Economy	Whether a usable recurring base for operation exists: it can confirm, reduce or rule it out

None of the three settles on its own the operator, scale, location or hydraulic and environmental conditions. Chapter 9 lists each open question with the name of whoever can answer it. (§9)

WHAT REMAINS OPEN

- **Demand.** It is the deciding condition: without identifiable users there is no demonstrable improvement.
- **The 2028 payer**, for all four alternatives, continuity included.
- **Land and services:** the barda hydraulic study, feasibility with remaining capacity, and ownership of the plots.
- **The operator:** no act examined designates one.
- The starting hypothesis —Añelo as a field node of a provincial system— **remains open**: it neither falls nor holds with this corpus, and it is declared as such, without reformulating it so that it survives. (§5)

WHY IT CAN BE ARGUED PIECE BY PIECE

Every statement in the report declares what kind of statement it is —documented, inferred, assumed or unknown— and every data point traces to a row in a registry of **610 rows**, of which **426** meet both conditions a data point requires: verified source and passage checked. Unknowns are kept as unknowns; they are not filled with plausible values. (§10)

12

rows of cross-audit in final edition 1: whoever writes does not audit

10 / 10

randomly drawn rows that matched their source in the human sampling

426

verified and checked rows that support the report's data

Scope, verbatim: this is cross-review between two AI systems plus human sampling. It is not peer review, not an external audit, not field validation and not a legal opinion. The audits are archived, including those with unfavourable results.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

It is a living document: when what is missing today turns up, the chapters those data touch are updated, with date and reason, and the rest stands. It can be loaded together with its registry into an AI system and asked which source supports each sentence. The full report —87 pages, eleven chapters and the Conclusion— is available in Spanish and English at sebastianliscia.com.