



Mt Thorley & Warkworth continuation projects PAC Determinations

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The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and was established in 1886.

The Chamber represents over 1800 member businesses to all levels of government. It is the peak industry association in the Hunter that represents all sectors of business in the region.

The Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a brief submission to the Planning Assessment Commission Determinations for both SSD6464 and SSD6465.

We have reviewed the 22 recommendations as outlined in the State Significant Development Assessment documents and believe the conditions are reasonable.

The Chamber notes that the determination of the development applications is critical to the long-term viability of operations at the Mount Thorley Warkworth mine.

We note that the Department has stated it is satisfied that the project has been designed in a manner intended to achieve a reasonable balance between the extraction of a state significant coal resource whilst minimising potential impacts on nearby land users and the environment by undertaking appropriate mitigation measures and subject to conditions.

The Chamber agrees that the 230 Mt of resource within the proposals are of state significance. The ongoing and extensive benefits of the proposals include continuing employment of 1,300 persons, direct capital investment of \$715 million and \$567million in State royalties.

The Chamber understands that Mount Thorley Warkworth is committed to the long term sustainability and enhancement of Bulga village through the Social Impact Management Plan.

The Department has outlined that the proposals satisfy all relevant NSW Government policies including the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) non-discretionary standards for the protection of the health and amenity of Bulga village and surrounds. This is a vital component of the ongoing licence to operate and the Chamber respects the importance of the Social Impact Management Plan.

Further, we acknowledge that a Voluntary Planning Agreement with in-principal agreement has been reached with Singleton Council, once finalised this will be important in providing much needed infrastructure and ongoing benefits to the Singleton Local Government Area.

Finally the Chamber acknowledges that the Office of Environment and Heritage has certified the Biodiversity Offset Strategy under the Mining SEPP as adequately offsetting the impacts of the proposal.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief submission on these crucial continuation projects.

Contact

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