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Our Ref: M6-6

27 November 2013

Mike Young
Manager Major Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Elle Donnelley

Dear Madam

**Subject: Warkworth Coal Mine – Exhibition of Modification
Application – DA300-9-2002 Mod 6.**

It is Council's understanding that Warkworth Mine proposes the development of a 350 metre extension into the Non Disturbance Area 1 (NDA1) for the West Pit and thereby continue mining in this area for an additional two years.

The proposal would enter into NDA1 which was the subject of the 2003 agreement between the Minister for Planning and Warkworth Mining and it is acknowledged this has been set aside. However, Singleton Council's current resolved position in relation to mining in the NDA is:

"Council opposes a mining expansion which would traverse through an area which under the 2003 consent was given a Ministerial guarantee to be a Non Open Cut Mining Area and was to be set aside as a conservation area "in perpetuity".

While Council opposes mining in the NDA the following comments are made in respect of the proposed modification:

- The subject area is continuous with existing mining operations;
- The existing natural visual barrier known as Saddleback Ridge is not proposed to be mined. The Environmental Assessment (EA) states that existing view points to the west "are largely screened by vegetation and intervening topography";
- Adverse noise and air quality impacts have been consistently raised by residents to the west of the operations;
- Should the modification be approved the Council requests that appropriate best practice conditions be imposed which improve noise,

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blasting and air quality impact outcomes for surrounding residents.

Preserving Saddleback Ridge is a significant issue of concern to the residents to the west of the Mine as it affords some level of amenity protection , particularly in relation to visual, noise and air quality impacts.

Please contact the undersigned should you require further clarification.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Ihlein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Ihlein

Director – Planning & Sustainable Environment

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