

The Director
NSW Department of Industry, Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

20th November, 2023

Dear Director,

RE- Mt. Arthur Coal Mine - MAC MP 09_0062 MOD 2.

On behalf of our two hundred (200) members and the Muswellbrook business community, we support BHP's application to continue mining to 2030.

Since the announcement in 2022 of BHP's intention to apply for the extension of mining, Muswellbrook businesses have been encouraged by the provision of eight (8) years notice of such a dramatic change to our local economy.

The provision of forward notice gives Muswellbrook businesses, as well as other Hunter and NSW businesses, the opportunity to make critical, capital investment, workforce and operational decisions. The additional four (4) years from 2026 to 2030 also gives BHP the opportunity to continue the export of high-quality coal and put in place an orderly rehabilitation of the site and the investigation of alternative land uses with positive local economic benefits.

The Chambers support for the approval of the project is based on the information contained in the Social & Economic Assessment detailing economic benefits in NPV terms summarised as follows -

- \$483m in royalties to NSW.
- \$210m disposable income payments to Mt.Arthur Coal Mine workforce.
- \$16m incremental land taxes and local government rates.
- \$144m incremental company income tax payments to NSW.
- \$181m nett producer surplus payable to NSW shareholders.
- \$1,350m additional operating expenditures of which \$ 426m is attributable to NSW suppliers.

For NSW as a whole, the additional contribution to GSP is estimated \$1.1 billion plus flow-on effects of \$219m in NPV terms. The employment flow-on effects are estimated at 1,070 FTE workers per annum.

As well as these additional benefits, Muswellbrook businesses and the local economy have benefited for many years from VPA contributions to Muswellbrook Shire Council and ongoing contributions to local community organisations including the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

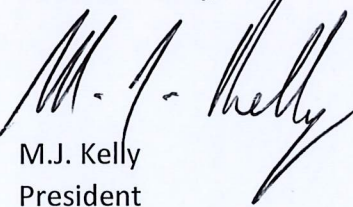
BHP has proven itself as a good corporate citizen by providing funds to the Chamber through their Local Buying Foundation. Over the last three years the LBF has contributed \$150,000 towards the employment and operating costs of the Chamber's Member Services Managers role. This role has allowed the Chamber to provide training, mentoring and networking programs for Muswellbrook business. These programs assist businesses in all sectors including, retail, hospitality, tourism, construction, manufacturing and agriculture. In addition, over the same period, BHP has contributed over \$100,000 in Chamber event sponsorships and COVID recovery programs. The continued support from BHP is critical to the Chambers capacity to support Muswellbrook businesses and grow the local economy.

BHP has demonstrated a commitment to local procurement and has worked closely with the Chamber to foster trading relationships. BHP also offers local small business to opportunity to deal with Mt. Arthur through their C-Res organisation. C-Res assists small to medium businesses to access supply and service opportunities at Mt. Arthur Coal with simplified trading arrangements and excellent payment terms.

The Chamber accepts in good faith, BHP's intention to continue mining in accordance with all regulatory requirements and leaves it to the relevant Government agencies to prescribe conditions of consent that protect to local environment and economy.

The continuation of mining at Mt. Arthur to 2030 gives the Muswellbrook economy and the State economy time to adjust, plan and invest. We commend the MOD 2. application to the Department and look forward to your favourable determination.

Yours sincerely,



M.J. Kelly
President