



PCU048416

To whom it may concern,

I have been employed at Bengalla Mining Company for approximately 3 years as a Maintenance Electrician.

I grew up in Western Australia but travelled around the country for a couple of years ending up in Townsville Queensland. I attended a recruiting session in Townsville for Bengalla and ended up getting the Job.

I moved to the Hunter not knowing what to expect, but found myself falling in love with the hospitality, culture and vibrancy.

I believe that Bengalla is an asset to the valley not only for the jobs it has created but also for the money and sponsorship that it continually injects into the local community. I myself spend most of my income in the local community of Muswellbrook and help a number of local businesses stay successful.

Some of my spending's include:

- Monthly haircut at local hairdressers
- Weekly shop at Woolworths (approx \$250)
- Weekly shop at Aberdeen Butchers (approx. \$50)
- Dining out locally (approx \$100 per week)
- Monthly visit to local cellar door wineries (approx \$200)
- Weekly visit to local pub (approx \$50 drinks, \$50 gambling on horses which I believe helps the local horse industry)
- Monthly membership at local gym (\$50)
- Renting a local house for \$300 per week.
- I also spend around \$200 a week on other things in the local area like doctors appointments, electronics, treatments, fuel, car wash, furniture, clothes, and many more items.



Once every 2 months or so I travel to Newcastle or Sydney for a short break and usually spend on accommodation and luxuries.

I have recently purchased a second block of land here in Muswellbrook and plan to engage a local Builder (Les Gunn Homes) to build the house.

I guess the message I am trying to get across is that without Bengalla's continuation, my income will go elsewhere. I will most definitely move to another state like WA or QLD as it seems as though a lot of mine expansions are getting disapproved here at the moment and I want my job to be secure for myself and my family.

I am one of hundreds employed directly at Bengalla and we all share the same story. Without our combined incomes, the towns of Muswellbrook, Aberdeen, Scone, Singleton and in some ways Maitland will most definitely suffer. Other miners in the area will also start to feel the effect as some local business will start closing doors. Some miners at other mines may even look for jobs elsewhere in our country if the local townships start to not suit them and their family's needs.

I understand that there will be some opposition towards the continuation but I guess these people have to think about what bad has Bengalla ever done to them or the community. What community or township will be left if the mining industry leaves the hunter? Maybe they should have a think about some of the positives that a company like Bengalla has brought to them and think less of negatives.

It wont only be the Hunter that suffers if Bengalla's continuation is not approved. It will be NSW as a whole. It also will not only be miners that will lose their jobs if Bengalla's continuation does not get approved. It will be jobs across a range of companies.

If Bengalla's continuation is not approved, I guess the big question is 'Why'? What bad will come of it? I can think of none.

Yours sincerely

Kane Dennis (A passionate supporter of Bengalla's continuation of Mining)