

Matthew Sprott - Submission Details for Katherine McInnes of Bengalla Mining Company (support)

From: "Katherine McInnes" <katherine.mcdermott@riotinto.com>
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Date: 9/23/2013 9:56 AM
Subject: Submission Details for Katherine McInnes of Bengalla Mining Company (support)



Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Katherine McInnes
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Content:

I am writing this submission in support of the Bengalla Mine Continuation Project which is currently on public exhibition. Bengalla Mine, operated by Rio Tinto, is by far the best operation I have worked at. This mine is the seventh operation I have worked and certainly sets its self apart from other coal mining operations.

The operation has a genuine commitment to community relations which is evident through the operational set up, supervisor performance objectives right through to community donations. Bengalla donates through the Coal and Allied community fund, but also independently donates hundreds of thousands of dollars to noteworthy causes in and around the Muswellbrook shire. The operation offers numerous scholarships to school children in the community, donates towards gym equipment at the PCYC, donates towards the shire show and the list goes on. The one thing that strikes me as different is Bengalla's commitment to community relations through the setup of the mining operation. Supervisors that run the crews are held accountable to ensure the operation is set up in an appropriate manner i.e. lighting plants are not directed at near neighbours or into the community, dust is contained etc. Bengalla will regularly park up equipment due to high winds where neighbouring operations continue with production at full steam. Unlike other mining operations that see community and environmental restrictions as a tick and flick exercise, Bengalla Mine truly partners with the community.

With the above being said, the operation is moving away from the local community of Muswellbrook, therefore the dust and sound impacts should decrease.

Bengalla employs approx. 400 people directly and approximately 100 full time contractors. These employees reside within the local communities and take an immense amount of pride in living and working in the upper hunter. Bengalla recruits from the local community being the upper hunter. Unlike other coal mines in the area, Bengalla is incredibly stringent on where they source their people and won't allow miners to travel up from Newcastle, Maitland etc. this creates job opportunities and flow on economic growth in its neighbouring communities. Bengalla partners with contracting companies that adopt the same recruitment strategies; what's more, they recruit a significant number of inexperienced operators, even when the market is saturated with skilled workers, to develop opportunities within the community. Through the proposed continuation project of an additional 21 years, Bengalla has committed to support four new apprentices each year, that's an opportunity for 84 local apprentices over the 21 years.

From a personal perspective, Bengalla is a great place to work. The operation's stable workforce demonstrate an enormous amount of pride in the site's success and the local community, which I believe can work effectively hand in hand.

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Submission: Online Submission from Katherine McInnes of Bengalla Mining Company (support)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=76569

Submission for Job: #5170 Bengalla Continuation Project
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=5170

Site: #2653 Bengalla Coal Mine; Bengalla Road, Muswellbrook
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2653

Katherine McInnes

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