

Department of Planning & Environment
Attention : Director – Resources Assessments
GPO BOX 39,
Sydney 2000.

Dear Director,

RE – Bengalla Mine Development Consent Modification.

I refer to the Statement of Environmental Effects prepared by Hansen Bailey April, 2016 and confirm that the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce supports the application for the above modification.

The Bengalla Mining Company has a long record of environmentally responsible development and is a valued member of this Chamber. The Company is also a respected Muswellbrook business making substantial contributions to the local economy and community projects for over 20 years.

The Chamber has reviewed the SEE and agrees with the conclusions stated therein. It has been noted for some time that the level appearance of the Main Overburden Emplacement was not ideal. It has an engineered appearance rather than that of a natural landform. The proposed modification will rectify this and blend the Emplacement into the natural vista from critical viewing points.

It appears that the modification works can be carried out with minimal detrimental environmental impacts and the Chamber relies on the Departments scrutiny of the details in this regard. It is the Chamber's view that any short term minor increases in noise, dust and visual amenity are more than offset by the long term benefits. It is expected in years to come that the emplacement will be viewed as part of the natural landscape.

The final landform of this emplacement, and all rehabilitated mine land, is of vital importance to the business community especially in the tourism, hospitality and rural sectors. As our economy transitions over coming decades, it is becoming more important that rehabilitated land is put to good commercial use without detracting from the predominantly rural nature of our district. The Chamber is satisfied that the proposed modification will achieve this goal.

The Chamber looks forward to the Departments determination of Bengalla Mining Company's application and trusts that the conditions of consent will assist with the timely and economical completion of the project.

Yours sincerely,



Michael J. Kelly
PRESIDENT