

Director, Mining Projects  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT – MT OWEN CONTINUED OPERATIONS PROJECT  
Application:SSD5850

6/2/15  
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Mt Owen has been a part of the local mining community for at least 20 years. It was my introduction to mining and the Hunter Valley when I took my first job in the industry and moved into the community. Like all local mines, they employ 100's of locals and an unknown number of flow-on industries are supported directly and indirectly.

The damage to the local Singleton and Muswellbrook townships over the past 2 years with closures, redundancies and uncertainty has been, and continues to be, large and obvious. Job losses lead to business downturn which leads to further jobs losses and more business closures. Our town is a shadow of its former self, with many people forced to leave to seek employment elsewhere. Businesses become unviable and doors close.

My company now employs approximately 40 locals, however has lost 20 due to the mining slowdown. Those remaining are on lower wages due to less hours, and this company – as well as all others – is struggling with the continued slowdown.

The closure of yet another large mine would be another nail in the coffin to a community already struggling, and would produce a noticeable effect to not just my business, but the community as a whole.

Mining companies and the community need consistent, fair and long term rules, to make long term decisions – for both economic and social reasons. The current short-term-process uncertainty leads to stress, lack of innovation due to an unknown future environment, missed opportunities, or worse – bad investments and bankruptcies.

I totally support the continued operation of the Mt Owen complex.