

## Matthew Sprott

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 February 2015 9:48 AM  
**To:** Matthew Sprott  
**Subject:** Submission Details for :

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### Content:

The Mt Owen Mine has been an integral component of the Hunter Valley Coal Industry since 1996. As a brownfield development it has well established infrastructure. This not only provides significant cost advantages over greenfield projects, but it provides the additional benefit of a reduced impact on the community and the environment as this infrastructure does not have to be constructed.

To date the operation has world class standards in its delivery of safety, environmental record, community engagement, university research, rehabilitation, flora, fauna management.

Whilst I understand Coal Fired Electricity Generation may not be the optimal solution, the sad fact of the matter is that, until there is a viable cost effective environmentally friendly alternative, coal mining is essential at least for the medium term until a renewable solution is developed.

I am an employee of Thiess Pty Ltd. Thiess constructed the mine and have been the operators from inception in 1996. Thiess is an iconic Australian company, established by Thiess Brothers in 1934 in Queensland. Thiess commenced its involvement in the Hunter Valley coal mining industry in 1944 at the Muswellbrook Coal Mine. Thiess built its reputation during the Snowy Mountains Scheme in the 1950s, and now employs over 12,000 people over 24 mine sites in 6 countries.

Thiess is very proud of its history and involvement at Mt Owen and if successful beyond 2017 I am sure this level of commitment would continue. In partnership with the mine's owners, Glencore Coal Australia Pty Ltd, Thiess take their environmental commitments seriously. In 2005 Mt Owen received the Hunter Valley-Central Rivers Coal Industry Environmental Award for innovative practices to help conserve and enhance the biodiversity in the Upper Hunter Valley. This was followed on with recognition by the International Society of Ecosystem Restoration for being in the top 30 of all restoration sites across Australia in 2009. We are also committed to studying the Spotted Tail Quoll populations in the mine site rehabilitated areas to improve our approach to creating additional sheltered sites and foraging areas.

The Mt Owen Glencore Thiess partnership is also very active in the community with the recent Breast and Prostate Cancer awareness campaigns and fundraising activities. The 2014 campaign was Autism Awareness. All of these activities had significant employee involvement.

I am unable to a dollar figure on the total direct and indirect economic contribution of the Mt Owen Mine. I do know, that Mt Owen employs around 500 people directly including contractors. Most of the employees live locally and return to their families daily. In other words, Mt Owen is not a mine site that provides accommodation for its employees that only return to their families at the end of their roster.

I wholeheartedly support the Mt Owen Complex Continued Operations Project.

Submission: Online Submission from  
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Submission for Job: #5850 Mount Owen Continued Operations Project  
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Site: #1182 Mount Owen Mining Complex  
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