

5th November 2020

Department of Planning and Environment
Via NSW Major Project Portal

Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project SSD-10269

Dear Sir/Madam,

WesTrac NSW would like to register their support for the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project SSD-10269. When approved this modification will enable the mine to continue operation by maximising the resource recovery, maintaining employment for the existing workforce and contributing additional revenue to the local, state and federal governments.

WesTrac are the Caterpillar dealer for NSW and the ACT, and we directly employ over 1300 people in NSW, of whom approximately 1150 are employed outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Our workforce includes professional, trades and support staff, working in the mining and construction industries. We also have a large apprenticeship training program, helping develop the tradespeople of the future. This extension will enable WesTrac to maintain our workforce, to provide onsite support, field service, workshops parts and administrative activities in the Gunnedah Basin, in addition to our main facility at Newcastle.

Whitehaven are an established WesTrac customer and we have extensive engagements with them at their underground operations in NSW. In addition to direct employment opportunities, WesTrac has continued to invest in high end technology to support Whitehaven and our other mining customers. In the last 12 months we have spent \$15m on capital equipment to expand our technical support capacity to our mining customers. The Narrabri Extension provides us with the certainty to make these investments and provide ongoing skilled employment opportunities in regional NSW.

WesTrac also support the ongoing role of high-quality thermal coals from NSW in meeting the demands of local and export markets for high quality coal, in the developed and developing economies across Asia.

The coal from the Narrabri underground coal mine is crucial in powering current power plants and is part of the solution towards the future of High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) power plants that will provide the necessary balance of affordable energy and low carbon emissions. This coal is essential for both local and international power generation. WesTrac supports the move towards a low carbon future, and high-quality coal from the Narrabri coal mine is a key step in the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Yours faithfully



Greg Graham
Chief Executive NSW/ACT
WesTrac Pty Ltd

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