

Lielah Stevenson
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RE: SSD-11826681 (*HVO North Open Cut Coal Continuation Project*)

My name is Lielah Stevenson. I wish to make a submission in support of this development application. I support this application for the continuation of mining at Hunter Valley Operations for the following reasons:

- My husband (*Geoffrey Stevenson*) is currently employed full time at HVO, and has been employed there since September of 2011. We are highly dependent on his income from this employment to support our family, pay our mortgages and to save up for our eventual retirement. If HVO is permitted to continue until 2045 (*HVO North*) and 2050 (*HVO South*), this will keep my husband employed until he reaches retirement age (*he is currently 41 years old*). He is very happy to work at HVO and does not want to leave neither his place of employment nor the mining industry.
- HVO will provide a future employment opportunity for both of our children (*currently five & eight years old*). Should they decide that they would like to gain employment in the mining industry, HVO's apprenticeship and graduate programs are an excellent option for many locals in the Singleton and Hunter Valley area.
- HVO employs several hundred people in the Singleton area, both directly and indirectly. I am a self-employed domestic cleaner of residential properties and some of my customers are employees of HVO. The presence of the mining industry and the nature of their workforces in the area creates a lot of work and income for myself.
- Lemington Road will be upgraded and an alternative route to cross the Hunter River will be constructed. The current crossing of Lemington Road across the Hunter Rive (*Moses Crossing*) has been closed many times over the past 12 months, due to flooding of the Hunter River.
- This is not a new mine, and it is not a mine expansion. It is the continuation of an existing mine which is over 70 years old.

I ask that the NSW Department of Planning and Environment take my submission into consideration and approve this project.

Lielah Stevenson

