

Sir / Madam,

The continuation of Hunter Valley Operations mine is important to my family which includes three children, two who are at school and the youngest is 1 months of age.

My salaried employment from Hunter Valley Operations facilitates me to provide a good standard of living and education for my children which I hope to be able to maintain following graduation from The University of Newcastle in 2009.

While there is an ongoing focus on environmental impacts there does need to be the right balance struck between economic, social and environmental impacts, which I believe the submission from Hunter Valley Operations JV clearly articulates. Hunter Valley Operations contributes tens of millions each year through royalty payments to the State Government; provides a significant regional contribution through jobs and expenditures on good & supplies; and make direct community contributions to many local bodies including local children sports clubs.

Recently, Hunter Valley Operations provided children's toys and Christmas hampers to Singleton, Muswellbrook and Dubbo community outreach programs. Hunter Valley Operations continuing local charity and community support through our Workplace Giving, sponsorship and community grants program is a credit to our operation.

The energy needs of developing Asia are enormous, the improvement of which comes from cost competitive and reliable base load electricity. Secondly, infrastructure development, requiring steel and cement is contingent upon the supply of raw materials, thermal and semi soft coal being a primary input. As a Mechanical Engineer, I am fortunate to have a technical understanding of manufacturing, construction and maintenance of infrastructure throughout its life cycle. Modern cities would not function without steel, cement, aluminium, glass and of course synchronous power. Coal, gas, nuclear and hydroelectric power plants are capable of supplying synchronous power which modern devices require (air-conditioners, fridges, lighting circuits etc.).

Glencore who manages Hunter Valley Operations sets very high standards for safety and environmental management, for example, real time monitoring of noise and dust which trigger immediate alarms should conditions be approached. The arguments around health impacts can be quite emotive and it is important that the facts be established particularly through NSW Health and other expert bodies. It is my understanding that air quality in the Hunter Valley is in fact better than Western Sydney. Mineworkers at Hunter Valley Operations are monitored for exposure through Coal Services, exceedances are exceptionally rare and well managed, in which I play a part.

Greenhouse emissions are a global issue with Nations participating through Kyoto and Paris agreement commitments. These should not be targeted at individual mines, whereby our high quality coal can be blended at international import terminals for which Glencore or YanCoal has no control.

I believe the Hunter Valley Operations Environmental Impact Statement is very robust and like other recent mining developments is an iteration on best practice. Hunter Valley Operations continued operations would utilise existing infrastructure in place to process and load product coal onto rail infrastructure. This in my opinion is an efficient use of installed infrastructure and maintains employment of over 1500 employees and specialist contracts that support all facets of coal production and processing.

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