

24th February 2023

Department of Planning and Environment

Via NSW Major Project Portal

HVO South Open Cut Continuation Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

WesTrac NSW would like to register their support for the HVO South Open Cut Continuation Project. When approved this continuation 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. HVO South is supported through our Tomago and Mt Thorley facilities, where we provide onsite support, field service, workshops, parts and administrative activities, all contributing to the local and greater Hunter community.

HVO are an established WesTrac customer and we have extensive engagements with them through their operation. In addition to direct employment opportunities, WesTrac has continued to invest in high end technology to support HVO and our other customers. In the last 12 months we have spent over \$15m on capital equipment to expand our technical support capacity to our customers. The continuation of HVO South Open Cut provides us with the certainty to make these investments and provide ongoing skilled employment opportunities in regional NSW. WesTrac are actively working with our customers to reduce their onsite emissions through the latest products and technologies.

HVO is an important contributor to the Hunter and NSW economy, producing high quality thermal and semi soft coking coal for use in international and domestic markets. This project will continue to provide ongoing employment for the existing 1500 employees which will become increasingly important as the local Hunter Valley economy diversifies beyond coal.

Yours



Jody Scott

General Manager – Mining

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2322	Canberra	(02) 6290 4500	Moree	(02) 6752 4500	Wagga Wagga	(02) 6923 7700
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