

# BUSINESS HUNTER

9 December 2024

Via NSW Planning Portal

To Whom It May Concern,

## **LETTER OF SUPPORT: HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS NORTH + DA 450-10-2003 MODIFICATION 8**

Business Hunter appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the proposed modification of the Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) North consent to extend operations until 31 December 2026.

Our organisation advocates for a balanced and pragmatic approach to the transformation that lays before us in the Hunter region. We seek to ensure communities, industries, and governments can navigate the complex shift toward net zero with confidence and stability. This modification reflects an essential step in maintaining economic and community certainty while providing time for the careful progression of long-term strategies.

As the peak business group for Australia's largest regional economy, Business Hunter has more than 4,400 member and affiliate businesses and industries spanning all sectors and sizes, from start-ups through to some of the Australia's most prolific organisations.

We recognise that the proposed extension will sustain employment for approximately 1,500 workers directly employed at HVO North, as well as the workforces of the 780 businesses supplying goods and services to its operations. This includes local contractors, trades, transport operators, and various small and medium enterprises that are integral to the region's economic fabric. These supply chain connections amplify the importance of continuity for the broader community.

We recognise, importantly, the continuation of operations within existing environmental and operational frameworks ensures that the time extension remains consistent with approved and manageable impacts.

We encourage the NSW Government to support this proposal as a responsible measure that underpins energy and economic stability.

Should you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Bob Hawes  
CEO, Business Hunter