

28 July 2025

The Minister
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Sir.

## **MAULES CREEK COAL CONTINUATION PROJECT - SSD63428218**

I wish to submit a letter of support for the Whitehaven Coal Maules Creek Coal Continuation Project (SSD63428218).

Stewart Surveys is a local family run business, which has been in operation since 1985. We employ seven local staff who all reside in the Gunnedah LGA.

Our business has been assisting Whitehaven Coal since the company began with surveying, environmental, planning and administration services. We have witnessed their dedication to supporting local businesses, the local community and the environment.

Through our work with Whitehaven's biodiversity team we have seen the effort to protect and restore the offset sites for the Maules Creek Coal Mine. This extends beyond tree planting to the preservation of cultural heritage, extensive weed and pest animal programs and removal of past infrastructure from the landscape to restore the natural values so important for our region.

Whitehaven have supported countless community events, buildings and people. This ranges from small scale community grants to get local kids to regional and state significant sporting opportunities to the recent funding of \$2,000,000 to the Gunnedah Shire Council Koala Sanctuary which saw budget blowout due to escalating buildings cost.

Whitehaven Coal represent a large proportion of our work and through their support and ongoing work, has enabled us to grow our team. Without the ongoing work from Whitehaven our business would not be able to sustain the current level of employment. The company also provides direct employment for some of our staff's spouses. The significant contribution through direct and indirect employment by Whitehaven on the

Gunnedah Community is immense and failure to support their continued and growing ventures at Maules Creek coal mine would directly impact not only our small business but the entire Gunnedah business community and many families living in the region. We believe Whitehaven have adequate abatement measures in place to offset the environmental impacts of the mine and urge the state government to support SSD63428218.

I have made no political donations or gift presentations to disclose.

Yours faithfully

STEWART SURVEYS PTY LTD

Kathryn Stewart

Kathryn Stewart

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Director of Stewart Surveys Pty Ltd