

31 July 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Support for Whitehaven Coal – Maules Creek Mine Workforce Continuation Project

On behalf of Programmed Skilled Workforce - Gunnedah, I am writing to express our strongest support for the continuation of Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek Mine Project.

Whitehaven Coal is a major employer and economic driver in the Gunnedah region, with the Maules Creek Mine playing a pivotal role in generating sustainable local employment and advancing workforce development.

From FY22/23 to FY24/25, Maules Creek has contributed approximately \$68.2 million in wages through Programmed's Gunnedah operations. This has supported over 218 employees currently engaged at the site, most of whom are local residents, keeping families, skills, and income within our community.

Notably, 15% of the Programmed's Maules Creek workforce identifies as First Nations, and 31.75% are women. These figures reflect Whitehaven Coal's and Programmed's joint commitment to building a diverse and inclusive workforce in regional mining.

The Maules Creek Mine has also provided the foundation for Programmed Gunnedah to host over 300 trainees across the past 3.5 years. These opportunities have created valuable pathways into mining and related industries for school leavers, Indigenous Australians, new-to-industry workers, and mature-aged jobseekers. For many individuals and families, this experience has been life-changing.

Beyond direct employment, Maules Creek generates significant flow-on economic activity that benefits the broader region. Local businesses, including hospitality providers, accommodation venues, fuel stations, transport services, and retailers, rely on the economic momentum driven by this operation. The project also strengthens ties with the education and training sector, with many of our trainees maintaining connections with local high schools, TAFE campuses, and youth support organisations.

Securing the continuation of the Maules Creek Mine will help ensure ongoing employment, economic security for hundreds of local families, and the long-term viability of regional industries that rely on this project.

At a time when sustainable regional employment is more important than ever, we believe that the Maules Creek Mine Project is critical to the continued prosperity of Gunnedah and surrounding communities.

We fully support Whitehaven Coal's application and strongly urge consideration of the significant social and economic benefits this project delivers.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you require further information or supporting data.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dean Archbold

Executive General Manager – Programmed Energy and Resources

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