

To: IPC New South Wales

Re: Continued Operation of Maules Creek Mine

1 August 2025

To whom it may concern,

As a long-term resident of North West NSW and owner of a local business, I wish to express my strong support for the continued operation of the Maules Creek Mine, operated by Whitehaven Coal.

This mine plays a critical role in sustaining the economic health and resilience of our region. Through its operations, Whitehaven supports hundreds of local jobs and provides consistent procurement opportunities for local businesses like mine. This flow-on effect strengthens our entire supply chain, providing stability and growth potential not only for our business, but for many others across the community.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the mine outlines robust and responsible measures to manage and enhance the local environment. Based on my experience and observations, Whitehaven has continually demonstrated a genuine commitment to operating in a way that respects the land and minimises impact, while also supporting restoration and sustainability initiatives.

Just as importantly, Whitehaven is deeply embedded in our local communities—not just as an employer, but as a proactive and generous supporter of local initiatives. From economic development and education to health, the environment, and local community groups, their sponsorship and donation programs have delivered millions of dollars in direct value where it is needed most.

In FY24 alone, Whitehaven contributed over \$1.5 billion in taxes and royalties to NSW and Australia, reinforcing the national significance of operations like Maules Creek.

When regional Australia is strong, all of Australia benefits. Projects like Maules Creek help keep our communities viable, our youth employed, and our businesses running. Continued investment and stability in operations like these are essential if we are to build long-term economic and social resilience in the bush.

I urge you to consider the positive and far-reaching impacts that the ongoing operation of Maules Creek Mine delivers to our region and to the broader Australian economy.

Kind Regards

Justin Smith
JA Smith Solutions
Owner/Director
Mob. 0418 945 163