

Submission in support of the extension of Metropolitan Colliery

Our national, state and local economies rely heavily on coal mining which provides multiple benefits for all Australians.

The modification will generate a net economic benefit for NSW and for the Illawarra local community.

Coal is NSW's most valuable export and is Australia's second most valuable export.

Coking coal from coal mines in the Southern Coalfield has ideal qualities for steel production and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur and phosphorus, than coal from countries in Asia. Australian coal contains less than 0.5 percent of sulphur, whereas Indonesia that has more than 2 percent sulphur content in its coal.

The coal mined by Metropolitan Colliery is high quality metallurgical (coking) coal, with about 10 percent of its product of thermal coal quality. Coking coal is essential to make steel with current technology.

It is vital that high quality metallurgical (coking) coal is produced locally to supply the Bluescope steel works and overseas industries. Local coal production minimises transport costs and ensures that high quality coke is produced. This assists Australia to maintain its competitive advantage compared with overseas producers.

The federal government's ABS tables of multiplier effects show that more than three times as many indirect jobs are created for every person directly employed in a coal mine.

Australia and NSW need to focus on the positive aspects of coal mining and its many benefits so as not be distracted by ideologically driven anti-mining activists. Everyone should be proud of what coal mining is doing for NSW and Australia.

The report submitted demonstrates its comprehensive coverage of all environmental issues. The benefits from the continuation of this coal mine are immense.

Coal is literally building our future. Without it, we couldn't make steel to build our homes, bridges, schools and hospitals.

For all these reasons I fully support the proposal.