



MINING & ENERGY UNION

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Energy and Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
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To whom it may concern

Metropolitan Coal Mine Modification 4 (MP 08_0149-Mod-4) **Submission from the Mining and Energy Union**

The Mining and Energy Union South Western District (MEU) is proud to represent coal mineworkers in the NSW southern coalfields including at Helensburgh's Metropolitan Mine. The Metropolitan Mine has a long history as Australia's oldest continually operating coal mine; and today deploys cutting-edge mining technology to produce world-class steel-making coal for local and global markets.

The MEU supports the longwall modification proposed by Peabody (MP08_0149-Mod-4) as a sensible response to discovered geological challenges which would otherwise prevent the continued operation of the mine through to its existing approved mine life.

The proposed extension of Longwall 317 and addition of Longwall 318 would allow for continued mine operation until 2031 as opposed to premature cessation of operation in 2029. It would allow for the recovery of high-quality coal that would otherwise be sterilised, supporting local steelmaking at Port Kembla, generating economic activity including royalties for NSW and maintaining good local jobs for an additional two years.

This modification would see mining continue within the existing approved footprint, while prioritising safe operation of the mine and minimising environmental impacts.

Coal mining has co-existed with our unique environment and been an important provider of secure, well-paid jobs in the Illawarra region for generations. With the industry now under pressure on a number of fronts, the opportunity to provide an additional two years of certainty to 400 local families and the many downstream businesses reliant on the activity generated by the Metropolitan Mine should not be dismissed.

Early closure of the mine in 2029 as foreshadowed if the modification does not proceed would hurt local families and businesses and negatively impact the Illawarra's industrial ecosystem including Port Kembla Steelworks and Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

The modification should be treated consistently with the existing Project Approval (08_0149) conditions under which the mine operates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Timbs".

Bob Timbs
District President