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LEADING BUSINESS

Hunter Business Chamber

Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4

Submission November 2013

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Submission

The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and is now over 127 years old. The Chamber represents approximately 1300 member businesses to all levels of government.

The Hunter Region has long held the reputation as the powerhouse of the NSW economy and ranks highly as one of the most valued, diverse and resilient regions in Australia. The Hunter has significant untapped capacity to grow in a sustainable manner and provides a highly desirable lifestyle and strong employment opportunities.

The Hunter Business Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Major Project Assessment process for Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4 (PWCS T4).

The Chamber is supportive of the construction and operation of a coal export terminal at Kooragang Island (including rail infrastructure and coal receipt, stockyard, conveyor system, wharves, berths and other facilities).

The Port of Newcastle is renowned as the world's largest coal export port. It is vital that the capacity of the port is expanded appropriately as part of a comprehensive long-term coal export plan.

The Hunter Region has enjoyed a period of growth in a prosperous economic environment for a considerable period of time. The export capacity of the port is the driving force behind this prosperity.

The Hunter Business Chamber was involved in the community consultation process for T4 conducted during the course of 2011 and further lodged a supportive submission with the Department of Planning in February 2012.

The Chamber notes all aspects of the consultation and the subsequent Environmental Assessment (EA) lodged with the Department of Planning. The proponent's commitment to socially and environmentally responsible development is acknowledged with due attention to matters such as ecology, air quality and noise reduction. The Chamber also notes PWCS's responsive consultation process and its willingness to act on feedback regarding matters such as traffic solutions.

The Chamber endorses the sentiments expressed in the EA regarding the potential importance of the economic contributions for the project and the region.

Of particular importance is the acknowledgement of potential employment opportunities as a result of the construction and operation of T4. This will bring significant flow on effects throughout the supply chain with positive and strong impacts on the regional economy.

The emphasis on ensuring that local communities and businesses benefit from the project is particularly welcome by the Chamber. It is vital that major contractors support a range of local businesses both during construction and operation.

In relation to infrastructure issues in the area, it is important that this is addressed in a collaborative manner between industry and all levels of government as the cumulative demand on roads and rail infrastructure continue to increase.

The Chamber is pleased to provide its overall support to progressing the delivery of the Terminal 4 project as an important contributor to the growth and sustainability of our region with subsequent positive influence on the state economy.

Contact

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