

Level 3, 251 Wharf Road
Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: (02) 4908 7380
Fax: (02) 4929 75450

Innovation

Collaboration

Networking

21st July 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for the Warkworth and Mt Thorley Continuation Project

HunterNet is widely recognised within Australian manufacturing and academia as the most successful industry 'cluster' of its type nationally. Incorporated in 1992, HunterNet is a network of small and medium-sized manufacturing, engineering and consulting companies located in the Hunter and Central Coast Regions of NSW. Formed as a non-trading, not for profit Co-Operative, it involves over 200 companies, active in national and international markets in defence, power generation, mineral processing, transportation and major resource projects. Through its membership, HunterNet represents over 50,000 employees. Given such a broad base of representation, HunterNet is committed to the principles of ecological sustainable development.

Coal & Allied is seeking planning approval for the continuation of operations at Warkworth Mine and Mt Thorley Operation for a further 21 years. Environmental Impact Statements have been prepared for each and are currently on public exhibition for a six week period.

We wish to submit HunterNet's support for the project for the following reasons:

- The project will provide significant economic benefit to Singleton, Newcastle the Hunter region, NSW and Australia. Generating local employment throughout the region and beyond.
- With a further 21 years, this will stabilise the local economy and generate opportunities to local businesses. It is expected to enhance the growth prospects of the local and wider community.
- After reviewing the assessment paperwork and the mitigation strategies, HunterNet is confident that the Mt Thorley Warkworth Project has in place a process to deal with any issue that may arise. This is reinforced by a robust community consultation and communication process.
- HunterNet has a great deal of confidence and trust in Coal & Allied. Coal and Allied has shown through various projects their commitment to the communities in which they work. The opportunity they provide as a large employer for training and jobs for young people and security for families cannot be overstated.

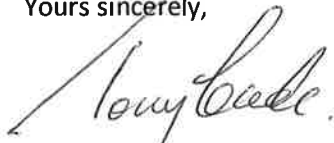
August 4, 2014

Page 2

- The coal industry has historically made a significant contribution to the economic development of NSW and Australia. These benefits will flow into the community and will accommodate continued growth for now and into the future.

In closing, I would like to emphasise the need for some balance to be introduced in to the current debate focused on this Project. In this regard, HunterNet believes that the issues/views of objectors have been taken seriously by the proponent. As such, it is HunterNet's position that the project will indeed result in a net surplus of benefits to the Region

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tony Cade", written over a light grey horizontal line.

Tony Cade
Chief Executive Officer