

29 July 2014

Director, Mining Projects  
Development Assessment Systems and Approvals  
Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Warkworth Continuation and Mount Thorley Continuation projects currently on public exhibition.

From a business perspective, I have worked my entire professional career for Rio Tinto both here in Australia and abroad, and I have never witnessed irresponsible environmental management at any time by the company or its representatives, in fact, I have only ever witnessed top level environmental stewardship. At one point I witnessed senior level management that were removed from their roles in the business for not meeting internal rehabilitation targets, which in my mind displays the accountability and seriousness the company places on ensuring that the effect of our business on the environment is kept to a minimum and our commitments to the environment and the community are met.

From a personal perspective, it is extremely important that these projects are approved as proposed as my family including my wife Julie and children aged 6, 4 and 1 depend solely on my income from my employment at the Mount Thorley Warkworth Mine. Julie and I have made a choice for our family for this to be the case as we believe that nothing in life is more important than ensuring our children are raised and parented by ourselves and not by others. Please allow us to continue to raise our children in the manner we have planned, their future depends on this. Also, Julie was born and raised in Singleton and she like many other locals know the importance of mines such as MTW to the local community through donations to local not for profit organisations and local businesses, not just those directly supplying the mining industry.

More broadly, the NSW and Australian economies depend heavily on the mining industry, never has this been more obvious than during the recent global economic crisis. During the recent months I have had the opportunity to visit other mine sites owned by other mining companies and I was surprised to find that all apart from one of six sites would not be operating beyond 2020. This is the stark reality facing the mining industry in NSW, that if mining operations such as MTW are not given

the approvals required to continue operations beyond 2020 as others wind down, the local economies of the Hunter Valley, the state economy of NSW, the economy of Australia and most importantly the families of 1300 Australians will suffer.

Yours Sincerely