

Innovation

Collaboration

Networking

14/07/ 2017

To the Department of Planning and Environment

Re: Letter of Support MACH Energy Mine Optimisation Modification

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 70,000 employees. Given such a broad base of representation, HunterNet is committed to the principles of ecological sustainable development.

We respect the views of all and we advocate for what we see as in the best interest of the community and region. We understand that the proponents of this project have invested time, money and goodwill to ensure they have received the best advice possible to make sure the project meets all of the stringent requirements that are layout in the process. We also understand that the proponents take very seriously the objections to the project and that they are endeavoring to make certain every possible scenario that is presented is mitigated with the facts that they have before them. The dealings we have had with the project thus far, has shown a commitment to the region that goes beyond what is required. It is through these actions that we have formulated our view on this project.

With this in mind we understand that Mach Energy has taken into account the concerns from stakeholders and re-designed the eastern emplacement facing towards Muswellbrook. Primarily, this re-design better aligns with underlying topography and facilitates a more natural looking final landform.

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

- The project will provide significant economic benefit to not only this region, Newcastle the Hunter, NSW and Australia will also benefit. Generating local employment throughout the region and beyond.
- This will give security to the economy and generate opportunities for businesses. It is expected to enhance and give stability to the growth prospects of the local and wider community.
- Up to 330 jobs, money staying in the area, opportunities for the youth of the region. In the form of apprenticeships, not just in the mining sector, but in the supporting businesses in the area. From Hairdressers, Butchers, Bakers, Mechanical, Electrical and other trade based functions. It's an enormous flow on and one the region can be justly proud of.

- We have confidence in the management processes that will be put in place. Management that will improve their decision making process using a scientific approach and most importantly applying common sense.
- HunterNet has a great deal of confidence and trust in the proponents. The Mach Energy Project team has shown through various engagements with HunterNet and the greater business community that they are committed 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 understated.
- We stay close to these projects because we understand the benefits they bring to the whole community. We understand the flow on that significant projects bring to the majority. We also understand that these projects will not always appease everyone, compromise is a great leveller.
- 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.

The current approval expires in 2020 and a minor time extension to 2026 is required to allow continuity of operations and employment. Operations beyond 2026 would be subject to a separate approval process.

This project has had approvals for a number of years and it's without doubt an enormous shot in the arm for the local community. We thoroughly endorse, support the project and team at Mach Energy.

Yours sincerely,



Wayne H Diemar

HunterNet
Acting CEO