

Dear NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Proposal: Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification 3 Application

I **object** to the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification 3 Application.

I am very concerned that if approved, the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine rail loop will be allowed to remain in place until 2026, resulting in Bengalla Mine curtailing its operations causing myself and other colleagues to lose our jobs.

I am not against the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine operation; however, I believe that both Bengalla Mine and Mount Pleasant Coal Mine should be able to reach their full potential and both continue operations without negative impact on the future production at Bengalla Mine. Despite MACH Energy committing to undertaking engineering studies for an alternate rail location, I feel that the commitment is too vague, giving Mount Pleasant the opportunity to leave the rail loop in place potentially indefinitely.

I was born and raised in Scone and I have always been interested in mining and was privileged to visit the Drayton Mine frequently while growing up as my parents had worked there for [REDACTED] years. With Drayton Mine closing, the impact on local families and the local community was detrimental, and the idea that this application may cause Bengalla Mine to face a similar fate would be damaging for my family and the greater local community.

Having worked in the mining industry for over seven years at various mining operations [REDACTED], I have found that Bengalla Mine is well respected and supported by the local community.

I moved back to Muswellbrook in [REDACTED] to join the Bengalla Mine workforce and I have been employed at Bengalla for over [REDACTED] as a member of the [REDACTED]. I intend to remain with Bengalla Mine for many years to come.

The previous mining operation I worked for was unexpectedly placed into Care and Maintenance [REDACTED], leaving me with no income, no home and [REDACTED]. Being made redundant at that time was extremely stressful and left our family and friends in shock and uncertainty with what was to lie ahead for us. The following seven months, we struggled as we had no income and little assistance from anyone [REDACTED]. Shortly after, I was given the opportunity to join the Bengalla Mine workforce and this was a blessing that has now enabled my wife and I to purchase a home in Muswellbrook and start raising our family. This has all been possible due to Bengalla Mine having an approval allowing operations to continue to 2039. This instilled confidence in our decision as purchasing a home is a long-term commitment. However, the Modification that Mount Pleasant Coal Mine are proposing, will likely result in losing my job and eventually seeking work elsewhere again. With a mortgage and young family to support, I need Bengalla Mine to continue operations through to 2039 as planned with no interruption or uncertainty of our future.

[REDACTED]. On all occasions, Bengalla have been supportive in allowing me time to spend with my family whenever I needed so.

[REDACTED], my wife has returned to casual work at a local business and is enjoying this thoroughly. She is astounded at how highly regarded Bengalla Mine is within the community and how many local businesses they support. Unfortunately, if the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification 3 was to be approved, my wife would also face uncertainty in her position and the business would be impacted greatly.

Bengalla Mine contributes an enormous amount of support to the local community, participating in various local events, fundraisers, educational opportunities, donations, emergency aid and other events including the Bengalla Mine Open Day, which allows all members of the community to visit the Bengalla Mine. If this Modification were to be approved, the support that Bengalla Mine offer the local community will fade, impacting everyone within the local community.

If the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification is approved, I fear that the rail loop will not be removed in time for Bengalla Mine to continue our approved mining operations resulting in Bengalla Mine prematurely closing down. Closure will be detrimental to the entire Bengalla Mine workforce, our families, the Muswellbrook community, local groups, schools, and businesses.

Please accept my letter **objecting** to the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine Modification 3 application.