

Mr Gerard Gleeson
'Paringa'
27 Racecourse Road
Muswellbrook, NSW 2333

November 18, 2013

The Hon. Bradley Hazzard
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
c/- Elle Donnelly
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

Dear Mr Hazzard

I am writing in regard to the proposed modification to the Warkworth Coal Mine (Modification 6), and wish to voice my support for this project. I strongly encourage the swift approval of the project as described in the Environmental Assessment.

Coupled with the outcomes of the recent Land and Environment court judgment, the lengthy delays and stop/start nature of the NSW Planning process has placed the Warkworth Mine in a precarious position, such that this proposed modification is the only avenue available to secure the employment of approximately 1300 employees, myself included.

As outlined in the Environmental Assessment, the negligible environmental impact associated with this modification is far outweighed by the economic benefits and the security that will be derived from the project, allowing time to further assess the future of the mine whilst maintaining production and more importantly – employment levels, as close as possible to the current rate.

The industry currently faces unprecedented levels of scrutiny from key regulatory agencies and an ever increasingly informed community, supported by a generally anti-mining media sector. Despite these pressures, the Warkworth mine continues to deliver leading practice environmental management, testament to the commitment of the company to operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Numerous examples of leading practice management are outlined in the Environmental Assessment, and I ask the Minister to consider these leading practice measures when determining the outcome of the approval process in this instance.

In challenging economic times, the Planning authority should be doing all that it can to support the industry through robust assessment and prompt decision making. The recent changes to the Planning process are welcome and encouraging, and I urge the Minister to ensure the swift progression of the Warkworth proposed modification through that process, guaranteeing my employment and that of my 1300 colleagues.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Gerard Gleeson