

Singleton, NSW, 25/11/2013

Dear Minister,

I work for Coal & Allied Warkworth, and I strongly support the modification application to access the additional 350 m of land owned by the mine. That will be vital for our production expectations, and more importantly for the community and its economy.

I am the only income of my family; I have a 1 year old baby, my wife and my parents (overseas) to support. If I lose my job at this stage I shall move, sell my place and start from scratch. We all hope the court to be consequent and sensible approving this extension. If it doesn't happen it would be devastating for local jobs and thousands of families.

Being an expat Mechanical Engineer, coming from another mining Country in South America, this is no new to me. I have been in the mining sector for 13 years and really know deeply the challenges of operating an open pit, having said that I must say that Rio is not only responsible with its full time employees & contractors, but also with the environment.

We can't make the same mistakes other nations have made, blaming the mines and demonising them while ignoring the huge contribution to the National Economy, and ultimately the competitiveness of the country. I left my home country because of the lack of Jobs; the pressure of the Green parties, sometimes insensibly, ended up forcing many mining companies to move their investments to other countries. Nowadays, the community and local businesses regret the silly decisions of the past. They lost the chance to manage Mining and Agro, killing one sector under radical thesis instead of getting them co-exist. In a Democracy, we need to reconcile stances in favour of the majority of the people.

I didn't cost the Australian government a Cent, I was born and bred overseas, educated overseas, and came to the country when I was a professional Engineer at 32 years old. I came convinced to build a better and stronger Australia, raise my kids, have a new life but now really rethinking my future and my family stay here as there is a lot of uncertainty.

I cited to my colleagues the example of Brazil, with the largest and Cleanest Rainforest in the World, Amazonas, but with one of the largest unemployment rates as well; the result is a terrible cocktail of misery, poverty, insecurity, and finally poor lifestyle. It's up to the Government to make the wisest decisions to maintain that balance of Mining versus Agro/Environment, but never, never underestimate the devastating effects of job losses and its repercussions.

I don't blame the short-sighted anti-mining radical views, because they probably haven't seen a country with high unemployment, rooted economy and all its implications. I wish they knew how it looks like, I bet if they would have lived in an economy destroyed, with an unemployment rate over 10%, they probably would have thought twice to knock back this initiatives.

Please accept this submission in support to the Warkworth modification.

Regards,



JORGE DE LA HOZ ; 3 Hepburn close, Rutherford NSW 2320. Australia