

Allan & Trudie Larnach

8 Gas St

Singleton NSW 2330

27 November 2013

Dear Minister Hazard;

We support the modification to the Warkworth Mine and we more broadly support the mining industry in NSW. Six generations of our family have made their home in the Singleton Shire. We are currently raising a young family here with Trudie working as Project Approval Specialist for Coal & Allied at Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) and Allan is a primary school teacher in the Upper Hunter. As a family we have watched the development of the mining industry over many years and have acknowledged the benefits it has brought to our town and the region.

The Land & Environment Court decision to disapprove the Warkworth Extension Project after a lengthy merit assessment process has already had a significant impact on the workforce at MTW and the community. The uncertainty and unreliability of the planning system has created much unease in our community on top of the downturn in the market and higher value of the Australian Dollar. MTW employees fear for the future of their livelihood, and in turn local businesses are struggling to survive as people are spending less. We are aware of local people in real estate and retail being made redundant as Singleton experiences an economic downturn due to the uncertainty of the future of mining in the area. We also feel the impact of uncertainty in our local schools with families moving away as parents seek more secure employment. If 1300 people are made redundant, we can only imagine what the impacts will be like on our community. We will also be writing to Singleton Council to express our opinions.

We agree with vocal objectors that there are amenity impacts for the nearest neighbours of MTW. However, these impacts are assessed and conditioned in accordance with government policy, the objects of the EP&A Act and the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Before recommending a project be approved, the Department of Planning must be satisfied that these impacts can be adequately mitigated, managed, offset and/or compensated through implementation of a number of commitments made by a mining company and conditions recommended by the Department. Upon approval it is then the responsibility of the mining company to maintain its approval to mine and meet its development consent conditions and these companies recognise that maintaining their approval to mine is business critical.

We implore the State Government to acknowledge the significance of the coal mining industry for NSW and facilitate a Planning Approvals System that delivers timely and certain outcomes for all stakeholders. The actions of the Shooters Party in Parliament this week are also very concerning, the State Government needs to act now before mining investment in NSW walks away due to the high levels of sovereign risk.

The Warkworth modification is the litmus test for future mining investment in NSW, this modification should, in our opinion, be approved and a streamlined approvals pathway with transparent communication be facilitated for the next larger application for the future of MTW. We are not asking for special concessions for the industry, we are just asking for a timely and certain process.

Australia prospers on the back of a dump truck.

Kind Regards

Allan & Trudie Larnach