



20th November 2013

To:
Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems and
Approvals
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

From:
Polyseal Building & Remedial Services Pty
Ltd
75 Hutchinson Street,
St. Peters
NSW 2044

RE: Application No: DA 300-9-2002-i MOD 6 – Mount Thorley Warkworth

Dear Director,

I support Coal & Allied's Warkworth Modification application to gain access to an additional 350m of land owned by the mine, to avoid a significant drop in production and employment.

I am a shareholder and director of Polyseal Building & Remedial Services Pty Ltd a company involved in minor construction and maintenance works in the Greater Sydney and Hunter Regions. Much of our work in the Hunter Region in the last two years has been on behalf of Coal & Allied and in particular the Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) mine site.

As a small business we generally employ 10-12 tradesmen, labourers and supervisory staff on an around the Mount Thorley Warkworth facility and we make a conscious effort to trade with local suppliers in the region thus making a contribution to the wellbeing of the local economy.

In January 2013 we signed a three year Contract with MTW to undertake noise mitigation works ahead of the proposed expansion plan. A contract involving the implementation of required mitigation works to properties surrounding MTW. On the strength of this Contract we secured premises on the Mount Thorley industrial estate, employed a regional manager and secured plant vehicles and equipment to fulfil our Contractual obligation with Coal and Allied. Shortly thereafter we were advised that the expansion plan had been rejected and all works would now cease.

To date, despite a downturn in workload due to the above reason, and the general downturn in infrastructure expenditure by the miners owing to low coal prices and the high dollar, we have maintained our workforce and resources in the region. As a small business we are unable to sustain losses indefinitely, however, and so in the absence of a stream of work relating to the MTW expansion, we will, in the near future, need to consider whether it is feasible for us to continue our presence in the area. It is likely that we will be forced to close down our local operation with the loss of up to ten jobs. We are a typical example of a small business that is reliant on MTW for a stream of revenue and without this revenue we are unable to provide employment opportunities for local working families.

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Taking a broader view of the current situation, it has been disturbing to note how quickly activity arising out of the mining boom has dissipated in the Hunter Region. The mine site car parks where contractors and staff jostled for a parking space just 6 months ago are now virtually empty and traffic on the New England Highway has significantly reduced. The remaining expansion plans that are proposed such as the MTW expansion are critical to the financial well being of the region in the face of the general mining downturn.

Mount Thorley Warkworth alone provides work for over 1,300 full time employees in the Hunter Valley. Countless other people, both in the Hunter and other parts of the Country, rely on trade with this mine to sustain their livelihoods. We are a typical small business that will be hard hit should this minor modification to the MTW mining lease not be approved.

It has been disturbing to see over the last few months numerous business associates and friends at MTW suffer retrenchment after many years service with Coal & Allied due to the uncertainty of the future of this mine site. It also brings into question whether there is a future for mining in NSW if the planning and approvals process can, after four years of negotiation, turn a decision on it's head. Surely, large mining companies will not risk the loss of large amounts of money, expended in exploration and planning, in NSW if there is greater certainty for the outcome of proposed projects elsewhere.

Please accept this submission in support of the Warkworth Modification.

Yours Faithfully,
For Polyseal Building & Remedial Services Pty Ltd

Brendan Walsh
Director

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