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Rutherford, NSW, 2320

19 November 2013

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

RE Application No: DA 300-9-2002-i MOD 6

Dear Director,

I work as a computer technician at the Mount Thorley Warkworth mine operated by Coal & Allied in the Hunter Valley NSW. Over the past two years since arriving here there has been much anxiety regarding approvals to extend the operation. This is very stressful for my partner and I, people of Singleton and surrounding areas as they rely on this operation to provide financial and personal stability. Every day I come to work wondering if it will be my last, this is taking a personal toll on me, my relationship and my family life. I could pack up and leave, find a place and industry where problems like this don't exist but in the current global environment nowhere seems a safe place anymore.

I whole heartedly support Coal & Allied's proposed Warkworth modification application to gain access to an additional 350m of land owned by the mine to AVOID a significant reduction in production. A further reduction in production will also mean that more employment at the mine will drop, as will the financial contribution in the community, local businesses and surrounding areas.

As I'm sure you are aware the operation employs a significant number of full time employees and contractors to operate. The operation contributes a vast amount to the community in both direct financial and social-economic stimulus. We donate working hardware, hold community events, liaise with the community, local and federal government stake holders on matters concerning the operation and make every effort to be good neighbours by implementing technological and hardware modification solutions to equipment and modify our operational activities to ensure regulatory compliance.

In these uncertain times over the last few years, many people including those in the community not directly employed by the operation have been questioning the future of Mount Thorley Warkworth. They are concerned for their livelihood as am I, my family, friends and co-workers.

We need answers, we need certainty and we need your departments support. The modification and operational extension to a 30 year old mine which has served the local people and those of Australia during hard time's needs approval to continue to serve as it has always done. To provide power to homes, taxes, exports, growth, infrastructure, employment, stability and coal.

Please consider here what I have written, not only for me, but the thousands who rely on this operation. If we fail, the only future I see in the Hunter Valley is provided by the federal government in the way of a dole cheque while my material possessions are repossessed by the bank.

My future is in your hands.

Regards,



Michael Douglas