

Rio Tinto Coal Australia Pty Limited
GPO Box 391
Brisbane Queensland 4001
Australia
T +61 (0) 7 3625 3000
F +61 (0) 7 3625 3001

14 December 2013

Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

via email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission regarding planning approval for QR National train support facility at Hexham

Rio Tinto Coal Australia (RTCA) is the manager of Coal & Allied Industries Limited (C&A), a major coal producer in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. Coal & Allied has interests in the three mines at Hunter Valley Operations, Mount Thorley Warkworth and Bengalla which together produce approximately 30 million tonnes of coal per annum.

RTCA strongly supports the granting of planning approval for the proposed QR National train support facility at Hexham.

Although not presently a long-term customer of QR National in New South Wales, as a significant producer and participant in the Hunter Valley coal chain, RTCA is working with other producers and infrastructure providers to continually improve the efficiency of the port and rail network.

Based on advice from the rail network operator, the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Coordinator (HVCCC), RTCA believes that the proposed facility will bring significant benefits to the coal chain and to all coal producers by reducing the rail congestion associated with current refuelling, provisioning and maintenance activities on Kooragang Island in the Port of Newcastle. In alleviating terminal related congestion, upstream impacts and delays will be minimized, resulting in lessening in queues of coal vessels off shore and lessening in demurrage costs for producers.

RTCA supports the proposed location of the project as the site has had a long association with coal and rail transportation.

RTCA believes that the benefits provided by the project are urgently needed and thus submits that the project should be approved in a timely manner to minimise disruption to rail transport and provide benefits to the entire Hunter Valley Coal Chain. RTCA seeks the Department's support and assistance in facilitating the proposed investment as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,



Timothy Renwick
General Manager – Infrastructure
Rio Tinto Coal Australia