

Mt Arthur Coal

18 December 2012

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



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Dear Sir/ Madam

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED HEXHAM TRAIN SUPPORT FACILITY

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (HVEC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of BHP Billiton, makes the following submission regarding the proposed train support facility at Hexham, north-west of Newcastle (Project Application MP 07_0171).

HVEC owns and operates Mt Arthur Coal which is located 5 kilometres from the township of Muswellbrook in the NSW Hunter Valley. Mt Arthur Coal currently has approval to rail up to 27 million tonnes per annum of coal to the Port of Newcastle.

The safe and efficient operation of the Hunter Valley's rail network is critical to the Hunter Valley coal supply chain and the coal industry. The congestion on the Main Northern Rail line coupled with the reduced cargo assembly times at the coal terminal contributes to the inefficient utilisation of coal chain capacity and can impact the ability to meet throughput targets.

HVEC believes that the proposed Hexham Train Support Facility will greatly assist in improving the efficiency of the Hunter Valley's coal supply chain and as such HVEC supports the proposal.

If you require any further information please contact me on (02) 6544 5984.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Bailey', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sarah Bailey
Approvals Manager
Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd

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A member of the BHP Billiton Group