

Innovation

Collaboration

Networking

15/08/ 2016

To the Department of Planning and Environment

Re: Letter of Support for the Wallarah 2 Coal Project

HunterNet is widely recognised within Australian manufacturing and academia as the most successful industry 'cluster' of its type nationally. Incorporated in 1992, HunterNet is a network of small and medium-sized manufacturing, engineering and consulting companies located in the Hunter and Central Coast Regions of NSW. Formed as a non-trading, not for profit Co-Operative, it involves over 200 companies, active in national and international markets in defence, power generation, mineral processing, transportation and major resource projects. Through its membership, HunterNet represents over 60,000 employees. Given such a broad base of representation, HunterNet is committed to the principles of ecological sustainable development.

The Wyong Areas Coal Joint Venture is seeking development consent for the Wallarah 2 Coal project Northwest of Wyong NSW. The amended application was lodged in July 2016. The amendment was brought about by negotiations with the Local Aboriginal land Council unable to come to an agreeable outcome.

We wish to submit HunterNet's support for the project for the following reasons:

- The project will provide significant economic benefit to Wyong, (Central Coast), Newcastle the Hunter regions, NSW and Australia. Generating local employment throughout the region and beyond.
- This will stabilise the local economy and generate opportunities to local businesses. It is expected to enhance the growth prospects of the local and wider community.
- After reviewing the assessment paperwork and the mitigation strategies, HunterNet is confident that the Wallarah 2 Coal Project team has in place a process to deal with any issue that may arise. This is reinforced by a robust community consultation and communication process.
- HunterNet has a great deal of confidence and trust in the proponents. Wallarah 2 Coal Project team has shown through various engagements with HunterNet and the greater business community that they are committed to the communities in which they work. The opportunity they provide as a large employer for training and jobs for young people and security for families cannot be understated.

- The coal industry has historically made a significant contribution to the economic development of NSW and Australia. These benefits will flow into the community and will accommodate continued growth for now and into the future.

In closing, I would like to emphasise the need for Projects of this nature are of paramount importance to the surrounding communities. The economic benefits, the mitigations put in place have been scrutinized reviewed and reviewed again to ensure public, environmental and community needs have been taken into account. In this regard, HunterNet believes that the issues/views of objectors have been taken seriously by the proponent. As such, it is HunterNet's position that the project will indeed result in a net surplus of benefits to the Region

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Cade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tony Cade
Chief Executive Officer