

5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

I support the Wallarah 2 Coal Project for reasons that include the following:

- The Wallarah 2 Coal Project will create numerous direct and indirect job opportunities for people in the Central Coast, Lake Macquarie and Hunter, during both construction and operations, in a region where there has been declining employment in the mining sector, and higher than average unemployment across the board.
- In addition to providing direct employment, the Wallarah 2 Coal Project will stimulate the local economy across a number of sectors. The expansion of industry will provide a greater need for service industries, transport, manufacturing and suppliers that will also provide for the existing population's needs. Direct and indirect regional business turnover could reach \$593 million per annum.
- Local mining would contribute greatly to the economy of the Hunter, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast regions, particularly following the demise of other local industries. Without industry, such as coal mining the local businesses will have no one to support and the community will become unsustainable.
- The project will produce net benefits at both the local and state level to the value of \$485 million over a period of nearly 30 years, leading to greater funding and ultimately better services and facilities for the region and state.
- The clearly defined positive economic and social benefits to the region significantly outweigh any environmental impacts. Furthermore, the amendments to the project have further reduced the negative environmental and cultural impacts, leading to a low risk and sustainable proposal.
- The NSW economy relies on continued growth of industry and government needs to ensure that NSW remains an attractive place for investment. Projects such as the Wallarah 2 Coal Project that are scientifically, economically and socially robust, need to be supported by government and not adversely influenced by a vocal minority with a certain agenda.