

**The Hon Milton Morris AO  
Chairman  
Tasman Mine Community  
Consultative Committee  
PO Box 559  
Maitland NSW 2320  
Phone: 02 49 320514**

7 August 2012

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW  
c/- Mr Paul Freeman  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001



**RE: Tasman Extension Project (SSD-4962) – Submission on the Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Mr Freeman,

I write in support of the development application for the proposed extension to the existing Tasman Underground Mine by Donaldson Coal (the Tasman Extension Project).

I have been involved in community consultation regarding the Tasman Extension Project through my role as the Chairman of the Tasman Underground Mine Community Consultative Committee (CCC). My involvement in the Tasman Underground Mine commenced with my appointment by the then Minister for Mineral Resources in 2002 as the Chairman of the Tasman Project Liaison Committee during the preparation of the original Environmental Impact Statement.

While working with management and staff of Donaldson Coal, I have constantly witnessed their outstanding approach and commitment to community consultation throughout the life of the Tasman Mine and in regard to the current proposal.

Regular updates on the Tasman Extension Project have been provided to the Tasman CCC since October 2008. A full briefing on the Project was provided to the Tasman CCC by Donaldson Coal at the meeting on 31 October 2011. The Tasman Underground Mine CCC consists of community representatives including local landholders and representatives from the Cessnock City Council and Lake Macquarie City Council.

Community information evenings have been held in February and June of this year allowing local residents to gain one-on-one information about the proposal from Donaldson Coal representatives and specialists. I was able to attend two of these information sessions. In

addition, several information leaflets have been distributed to local residents providing updates on the proposal.

Donaldson Coal has demonstrated that the company actively listens to community feedback regarding the current operations and the proposal.

Following consultation with residents of George Booth Drive Donaldson Coal has undertaken to implement a number of works to improve safety of the private driveways, including localised shoulder widening. This is in addition to the substantial road upgrades, including passing lanes, along George Booth Drive and John Renshaw Drive undertaken by Donaldson Coal prior to commencement of the Tasman Mine operations.

Donaldson Coal has continued to implement additional road upgrades throughout the operations including those identified by the Tasman CCC and lobbied the then Roads and Traffic Authority for continued improvements in road safety along George Booth Drive.

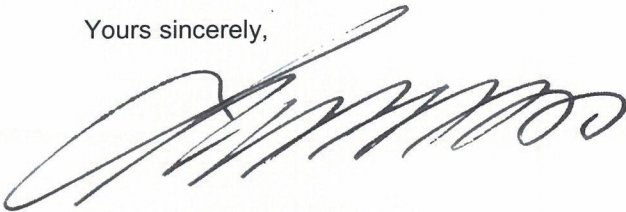
Further once the Hunter Expressway is opened the traffic on George Booth Drive, in particular trucks movements, will substantially decrease.

Donaldson Coal has a strong record in the employment of local residents at its operations, including offering local apprenticeship opportunities and training for people new to the mining industry.

The existing Tasman Underground Mine employs over 100 people and provides indirect employment opportunities within the local area. Approval for the continuation and extension of the Tasman Underground Mine will provide significant ongoing employment and creation of new employment opportunities in the local area, particularly with the recent closure of the nearby Hydro Aluminium plant at Kurri Kurri.

I support the application for the Tasman Extension Project on the basis that the proposal will provide ongoing local employment opportunities and Donaldson Coal has responded to local feedback and implemented measures to minimise potential impacts on the community and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Milton Morris', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.

HON MILTON MORRIS AO  
Chairman