

Courtney Geraghty  
15 Chivers Circuit,  
Muswellbrook, NSW, 2333  
October 10, 2013

Bengalla Continuation Project – SSD 5170

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Bengalla Continuation Project (SSD-5170). I am an employee at Bengalla Mine and the approval of this project will improve my job security and that of some 400 other Bengalla employees as well as the employees of local businesses who provide services to the site. Bengalla is an important part of the local economy and in my time as an employee, I have witnessed firsthand the company's commitment to environment and community.

Bengalla aims to reduce the impact of mining operations on the environment. The site recycles greater than 70% of water used in processing coal and recycles greater than 85% on non-mineral waste. Bengalla is committed to the rehabilitation of land and employees organize bird watching days for the local community and participate in tree planting and clean up days.

I feel that Bengalla significantly contributes to the local community. Bengalla supports projects in the community through the Coal & Allied Community Development Fund and the Aboriginal Development Consultative Community. Many Bengalla employees contribute to the community by coaching junior sporting teams, donating time to run classes at the PCYC and participating in workshops and presentations for high school students about careers in the mining industry.

The contribution to the community that I am most passionate about is the scholarship program. The company provides a number of scholarships to students wishing to undertake university studies. After finishing high school, I received a similar scholarship sponsored by Bengalla's managing company, Rio Tinto. The scholarship I received provided the funds that allowed me to attend university and vocational experience in my chosen profession. The Bengalla scholarships are a valuable resource to young people in the community.

As a company, I feel Bengalla works with integrity to reduce the impact of mining on the environment. I see Bengalla as an integral part of the Muswellbrook community and I strongly support the Bengalla Continuation Project.

Sincerely,

Courtney Geraghty