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NSW Government: Planning and Environment
320 Pitt St
Sydney, NSW, 2000

To whom it may concern,

SUBJECT: Wollongong Coal Limited's Russell Vale Colliery Expansion (09_0013)

I am writing in support of the Wollongong Coal Limited's (WCL) Russell Vale Colliery Expansion (09_0013) which is currently open for public submissions.

Ampcontrol is a leading Australian manufacturer of electrical and electronic equipment resources, infrastructure and energy sectors.

We have proudly supported the mining industry within the NSW Southern Coal Fields for over 25 years, with operations in Illawarra and Lithgow regions. Throughout this time, we have locally delivered and serviced market leading and competitive power distribution equipment, longwall and development electrical systems, monitoring and control systems and power cable statutory infrastructure.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly outline how WCL's Russell Vale Colliery Expansion project approval will have flow on benefits to suppliers like us to the NSW mining industry, and the economy more broadly:

- **Local employment growth opportunity.** The project owners will provide ongoing work to around 205 operational staff and a further 22 construction staff over 12-24 months to support initial construction phase.
- Further investment in mining within the Southern Coal Fields provides ongoing employment prospects to the myriad of suppliers directly involved in the mining sector, via manufacturing or other supply chain services. The Minerals Council of Australia highlighted in 2018 the industry directly employed 50,000 and indirectly a further 120,000 jobs supported the industry
- Within the Illawarra Business Chambers (ICB) submission to the Wollongong City Council's Draft Economic Development Strategy 2019-2029, ICB acknowledges the importance of the mining and steel making sectors within the Illawarra region. The submission makes special note "Bluescope remains operational in the region due to its proximity to port and supply of high quality metallurgical coal"

Across the board we are seeing the Australian mining industry continually improve the sectors social license to operate. WCL has taken a thoughtful approach in considering and where possible removing potential negative impacts on stakeholders within the region and environmental issues which is in line with the renewed focus on corporate social responsibility across the Australian business community. This corporate social responsibility is shown within WCL's revised proposal through;

- **Low-impact mining method.** The revised project proposal outlines use of a non-cave 'first workings' low-impact, environmentally sustainable mining method, within the Wonga East coal domain. This method differs greatly to other underground mining techniques such as longwall mining which can ultimately yield higher production levels because of the more efficient mining technique. By adopting this approach, the project owners have publicly stated they will extract 3.7Mt metallurgical coal over 5 years, significantly less of the available coal relative to the initial proposal. In doing so the remaining support pillars will result in negligible impact to the surrounding environmental or cause subsidence issues. Specifically negligible impact on the Cataract Reservoir water catchment. Further WCL has

committed to only utilising 'first working' mining methods in any future expansion, such as within the Wonga West coal domain.

- **Reduced impact on local and greater Wollongong residence.** The revised project reduces normal surfaces operations (inclusive of trucking operations) to daylight hours, except Sundays and Public Holidays. Reduced operation hours coupled with upgrade and reconfiguration of surface infrastructure will minimise impact on proximal residence and residence between mine and port facilities.

We confirm our support for the development of the Russell Vale Colliery Expansion as it represents significant opportunity for growing the regional economy. By adopting a low-impact mining technique and committing to minimising disturbance on the local community, we feel the project owners are making decisions which are in the best interests of the environment, the community and industry.

If you would like to discuss this submission in further detail, please contact Jennifer Ryan Executive Assistant, Jennifer.ryan@ampcontrolgroup.com, to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RH' or 'Rod Henderson', written in a cursive style.

Rod Henderson
Managing Director & CEO