

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

24 September 2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project (SSD-9526)

We refer to the above-mentioned application and are pleased to submit this letter of support in relation to the same.

The Hunter Business Chamber (HBC) is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and was established in 1886. The Chamber independently represents around 2,000 member organisations to all levels of government and is the peak industry association in the Hunter, reflecting the interests of all business sectors.

The HBC has long held views concerning the significance and importance of the resources sector and particularly the coal industry to the economy of the Hunter Region. We have advocated for growth and investment in the sector where it can demonstrate it is consistent with planning and operational requirements set out in respective policy and regulation documents. This industry delivers significant economic benefit to many businesses across the region, many of whom are our members.

The HBC understands this current application, if approved, will deliver a project that will produce high quality coal with at least 75% capable of being used in the making of steel (coking coal). Focusing on coking coal as an output will aid in diversifying the region's economic output.

The HBC does not suggest the potential approval of this application should be 'as of right'. However, the Chamber does contend that where the project is in the context of community and industry expectation and the applicant demonstrates the ability for the project to satisfy planning requirements and minimise potential negative impacts it is reasonable that it be approved.

The Chamber notes and supports the sentiments expressed in the Environmental Impact Statement regarding the importance of economic returns of the project for its

workforce, suppliers, and local and regional communities. Of crucial importance is the acknowledgement that the Project will create 350 new jobs for the Hunter, and will generate an estimated \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion of royalties for the NSW State Government over the initial 26 years of the project.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application and look forward to the matter progressing through the consideration process.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, with the initials "BHL" written in red ink to the left of the signature.

Bob Hawes
Chief Executive Officer