

7. James

DR Double R EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

28/11/2016

Good Morning/afternoon, my name is James Thompson I am an employee at Double R Equipment Repairs.

Firstly I would like to put forward some facts on what Wilpinjong coal project provides the community through DoubleR and the importance of their next developments, not only as a contractor to Wilpinjong but as a resident of the Ulan/Cooks Gap area for the past 8 years.

At Double R Mudgee we have 63 full time employees with-in these 63 employees there is 61 children & 43 partners, in total there is 167 people that live, shop and call Mudgee and surrounding districts home. We are lucky to call this district home; the personal opportunity that this district offers is un-matched. What other country town can offer as much as we can, tourism, agriculture, horticulture and mining it all ties in together.

In 2015-2016 Double R invested 36K on training, paid 521K in superannuation & 2M in payroll tax withholding. This contributes to all levels from Federal, State and regional. We as well as Wilpinjong are continually sponsoring local sporting, fund raising and community events.

The success and growth of Double R hasn't been without its challenges, in 2013 our industry was hit by low coal prices and demand, this put a lot of pressure on business's not only in the region but in the whole sector. Mudgee saw an increase in contractors from out of town trying to get a foot hold in the district, Wilpinjong Coal stayed with local suppliers and showed the community loyalty. This is why im am speaking today, wilpinjong has been loyal to us and we will continue the loyalty. I personally would not be in the position that I am today with out this support over the past 10 years.

A business that is not moving forward is going backwards, I have first hand experience in seeing large business's in our industry fail to plan for the future, not only does this affect people directly employed with the company but has a "knock on effect" that hits right through the community from the coffee shops, health services and child care services that had grown to accommodate these families.

Since 2006 I have been involved with the wilpinjong coal mine, I was there when the first access road was established to the site and I'm proud to still be involved there today, Wilpinjong is a first class mine that actively show's that they care about their community, contractors, safety, environment and the importance of the rich cultural history of the area.

As per all business's we are continually looking to improve our day to day operations, wilpinjong coal has offered us training, support, ideas and even the odd audit on progress to keep a busy work force on track. This is not a requirement from Peabody, it just two company's working together sharing thoughts and ideas to make a safer more productive work place.

I understand that excessive growth in communities like our own can result in a strain on local services. However the challenges put forward by high demand on services are from my experience substantially better than when a town is in decline and services such as heath and child care struggle to stay open.

We at Double R are not solely dependent on Wilpinjong Coal but is a large sector of our work, if Wilpinjong coal was denied approval for this expansion it would have a big impact on ours and other business's and would need serious changes to be viable, We at Double R are proud to be a part of the culture at Wilpinjong Coal and believe that with the expansion will bring further opportunity for our families, the younger generation and business man & women therefor providing further growth for the region.

Thank you for your time,

James Thompson,

