

This Project Secures lots of well-paid work for a large amount of people, a lot my friends both located within the Singleton area as well as Newcastle. Myself I have a University degree, and confident I could find similar well-paying work in Sydney, but would that be of benefit to me or the state? I can afford to move to a nice area in Sydney, I'll buy my way in, but how does that help locals in Sydney? I don't want to have to chase work in the capital when there is good viable industry close to where I live. I know the same is true for the guys I manage who all would be push to compete for work in or nearby Sydney, with its higher density and large projects which would support higher wages and more consistent work as the local area of Singleton/Maitland does not have the economic activity, be it construction, manufacturing or heavy industry that there trades may be applicable to. Mining supports the Hunter Valley where we have all the infrastructure, expertise and close by hubs such as Singleton, Maitland and Newcastle nearby.

I will add that as an employee of the mine I see the positives of the mining process firsthand such as the efforts made to minimise our footprint as we rehabilitate areas mined, the training and life skills of new workers entering the industry and the community projects to benefit not for profits in the local area. I see a lot of positives of this industry that I think we all can see has a horizon coming. The need to not only maximize the current infrastructure this project does such as CHPP, Rail line, and dams already at the Wambo Mine in my eyes is a no brainer as the mine can be producing low cost coal within a very short timeframe.

I hope that my comments have added weight for project to approval, something I see as not only important for the Local Community but the Hunter region.

Regards,

Grant Wilkinson