HUNTER VALLEY WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION

Submission to NSW Government Independant Planning Commission
Dartbrook Coal Modification 7
(DA 231-7-2000 MOD 7)

April 8th 2019

The Hunter Valley Water User's Association (HVWUA) has been in existence for many years and associated with NSW Irrigators Council for much of that period while the Coal industry developed in the Hunter Valley.

The HVWUA's attitude during all of that period has been, and continues to be, that of a middle of the road approach where Mining and Irrigated Agriculture can co-exist provided sensible decisions are made in relation to land use and water resources and that the mining industry appreciates these are critical for irrigated agriculture.

A good example of how successful this approach can be was with the introduction of the Salt Trading Scheme that has successfully managed salt levels in the Hunter River.

The two over- riding considerations from our perspective are:-

1. Protection of Prime Agricultural land
2. Protection of Water Resources both surface and ground water

We therefore ask:-

1. What implication does this development have for the above resources
2. Who is responsible if there is an adverse impact for the above resources
3. What mechanisms are in place to fully compensate those adversely affected by this development.

Irrigated agriculture is still a very significant part of the economy of the Hunter Valley and will still be in existence long after mining has been exhausted provided sensible management of resources allows for that to happen.

Bruce Whitten

Chairman Hunter valley Water User's Association