Country LGA's require diverse economies to be sustainable in the long term. I have experience of this with in particular West Wyalong in western NSW. This regional area is in part supported by the Cowal Gold Mine, which provides a sizeable injection of direct wages and wages to suppliers. West Wyalong would be another struggling and possibly dying country town, if not for the added support that this major industry injects into the local agricultural and tourist economy.

Likewise The Gunnedah and Narrabri district would also be far less prosperous and stable if not for the added industry and jobs that the mining industry brings to this region. As like any mainly agricultural economy there are up and down cycles dependent on the world prices of the products that are sold. By being able to diversify, the Gunnedah and Narrabri districts can add a stable large employer to their economic base.

I fully support a diversified and long term industry such as mining and in particular mining in country and regional areas such as the Vickery Extension Project

Warm regards

Dave Wood ( B. Eng ( Hons 1985 ) – Mining )

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