

Submission in Support of the Maxwell Project

Coal is Australia's and NSW's most valuable export.

Our national, state and local economies rely heavily on coal mining which provides multiple benefits for all Australians.

The Maxwell Project will generate up to \$1.25 billion in net economic benefit for NSW and generate millions of dollars in net economic benefit for the local community.

This underground mining project will generate more than \$500 million in export income for the state. Agricultural activities will continue on the land above this underground mine.

Coking coal from coal mines in the Upper Hunter Coalfield, such as the Maxwell Project, has ideal qualities for steel production and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur and phosphorus, than coal from countries in Asia.

It is vital that high quality metallurgical (coking) coal is produced locally to supply the steelworks of the world and Australian industries. Australian coal production minimises seaborne transport costs to Asian markets and ensures that high quality coke is produced. This assists Australia to maintain its competitive advantage compared with overseas producers.

Australia and NSW need to focus on the positive aspects of coal mining and its many benefits so as not be distracted by ideologically driven anti-mining activists. Everyone should be proud of what coal mining is doing for NSW and Australia.

The fulltime employment of 350 employees at the Maxwell Project is at stake. 250 people will be employed during construction work.

Approximately \$55 million in wages paid to local employees will be injected into the Hunter economy each year.

The federal government's ABS tables of multiplier effects show that more than three times as many indirect jobs are created for every person directly employed in a coal mine.

Its approval will maintain support for more than 300 NSW businesses which will provide supplies and services to the mine.

The mine owner is making a multi-million dollar capital investment in the future of the Maxwell Project.

The Maxwell Project will deliver millions of dollars in rates, royalties and taxes to local, state and federal governments.

The report submitted by the Maxwell Project demonstrates its comprehensive coverage of all environmental issues. The benefits from the continuation of this coal mine are immense.

For all of these reasons I fully support the Maxwell Project.