

Supporting Submission for the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project

Our national, state and local economy relies heavily on coal mining so coal mining benefits all Australians.

Coal is one of Australia's and NSW's most important and valuable exports.

Coking coal from coal mines in the southern coalfield, such as Dendrobium Colliery, has ideal qualities for steel production and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur, than coal from other countries.

The project will support 500 full-time employees at Dendrobium Colliery. An additional 200 people will be employed during the development and construction phase.

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

This project will generate a \$2.8 billion net economic benefit to NSW, of which \$1.1 billion will benefit the local Illawarra region.

I quote a statement¹ from former federal treasurer Mr Peter Costello who put the mining sector's poor public image down to the sector's pragmatic approach: "Miners tend to be practical people. They focus on getting things done and getting output. Their opponents are rhetorical people. They focus on stopping things getting done."

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. We should all be proud of what coal mining is doing for NSW and Australia.

It is vital that high quality metallurgical coal is produced locally to supply the BlueScope steelworks and other Australian industries. Local coal production minimises transport costs and ensures high quality coke is produced. This assists Australia to maintain its competitive advantage compared with overseas producers.

The report submitted by Dendrobium demonstrates its comprehensive coverage of all environmental issues. The Project has committed to zero longwall mining beneath the stored water of the Avon and Cordeaux Dams, so there is no risk to our drinking water supply. The benefits from the continuation of this coal mine are immense.

For all of these reasons I fully support the Dendrobium Extension Project.

¹ Quote is taken from an article in the Australian newspaper Tuesday, September 13, 2016, written by Latika Bourke