



## Andrew Gee MP

Federal Member for Calare

Our Ref: GN17/11.337

Mr Brett Moore  
Project Manager  
Castlereagh Coal

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr Moore,

### Castlereagh Coal

I write to express my support for Castlereagh Coal's Southern Extension Project near Cullen Bullen, west of Sydney.

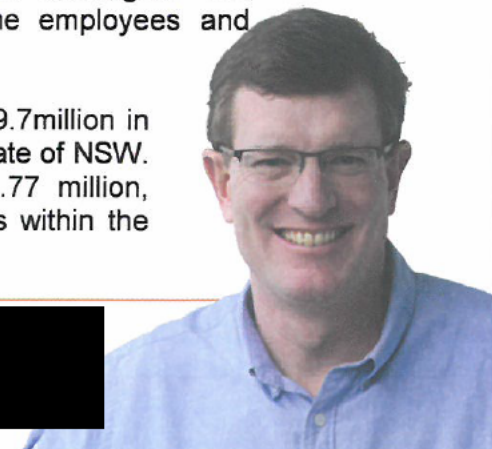
Castlereagh Coal has owned and maintained the non-operational Invincible Colliery near Cullen Bullen since 2015, and is seeking to extend the mine by 50 hectares, to provide thermal coal to local power stations, as well as specialty nut coal to the Shoalhaven Starches Plant in Bomaderry.

Previous expansion applications have been refused on the basis of their environmental impacts, and proposed proximity of the mining to areas of ecological value. Castlereagh Coals' Southern Extension Project, unlike proposals, operates in accordance with Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to extend the open-cut mine into the approved Southern Extension Area.

Castlereagh Coal engaged in extensive community consultation and engagement throughout the planning and development process, which continues to this day. They have provided briefings to local government agencies, issued project newsletters to the local community and held extensive discussions with 78 surrounding land holders. During their Public Exhibition process, the project received 550 letters in support of the expansion, the majority of these being from the local community.

The benefits that the mine is set to provide to the local community are extensive, and will stimulate economic activity in Cullen Bullen, Portland, Lithgow and the regional communities of the Calare electorate. The effects of closures of a number of large employers within the electorate, such as Electrolux in Orange, have created employment shortages. The Southern Extension Project promises the employment of 35 full-time employees and expects to increase the population of the local area by up to 16 people.

The estimated net benefit of the Southern Extension Project will be \$79.7million in net present value terms, consisting \$55 million in direct benefits to the state of NSW. The net benefit to the Lithgow-Mudgee area is projected to be \$8.77 million, consisting of \$4.85 million to employees and \$4.15 million to suppliers within the local area.



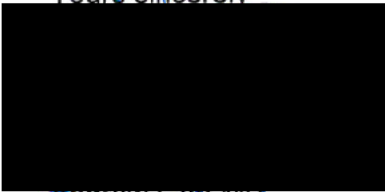
Castlereagh Coal has also expressed their commitment to the local community, by making roles available to employees from the local area and making previous mining experience non-compulsory. They have also promised to investigate apprenticeship opportunities in mining, maintenance and processing role. Further, Castlereagh Coal has stated that it will support local businesses by identifying local suppliers and service providers relevant to their operations where possible.

The design of the Southern Extension Project has ensured that potential environmental impacts are minimised. This has been achieved by proposing a substantially smaller disturbance area in comparison to the previously proposed expansion projects, avoiding areas of threatened ecological communities and diverse ecological habitats to the north east of the existing site and minimising the risk of impacting significant landscape features such as pagoda formations.

By locating mining operations as far as possible from private residences and the Cullen Bullen township, Castlereagh Coal is ensuring lower predicted noises from blasting, better air quality and improved visual amenity for the residents.

There are many positive impacts connected to the Southern Extension Project for the people of Cullen Bullen, Lithgow and in the entire region. It is for this reason that I provide my support to Castlereagh Coal in pursuing this expansion.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Gee MP

**Federal Member for Calare**

29 November 2017