

Southern Expansion Project Pac Hearing

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Good Morning Commissioners, Ladies and Gentleman.

My name is Ming Leung, I am the Site Manager of the Shoalhaven Starches plant at Bomaderry. I am here today to support the approval of the Southern expansion project as it will secure a low cost source of fuel for the plant and greatly contribute to the plant's viability.

The plant processes Flour from into a number of products including Gluten, Starch, Ethanol, Glucose and various stock feed products. The plant uses steam for heat in the drying, distillation and evaporation processes. A cost effective source of thermal energy is crucial to the Plant operation.

The Shoalhaven Starches plant employs 320 direct employees and many more indirectly thru our contractors. These contractors range from mechanical and electrical contractors, local and interstate transport companies, local service providers such as security, pest control, mowing, and cleaning companies to name but a few.

The Shoalhaven is a high unemployment area currently with an unemployment rate of nearly 9% it reached 11.5% in 2013. Manufacturing jobs like the ones at Shoalhaven Starches are at a premium. There has been a reduction in manufacturing jobs in the Shoalhaven from about 2500 a decade ago to about 1800 today. Over 300 of these 1800 jobs are at the Shoalhaven Starches plant.

The plant is a major exporter, exporting over 300 containers a week from Port Botany to mostly Asia and the USA. To remain competitive in these markets and to secure and grow the jobs that we have we need to secure low cost energy.

It is for the ongoing viability of the Shoalhaven Starches Plant along with the jobs and families that go with it that I am supporting the approval of the Southern Expansion Project.

Thank You