



7 February 2019

The Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Lodged via email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Commissioners,

**Re: United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project (SSD 7142) and associated modifications
(DA 305-7-2003 MOD 16 and DA 177-8-2004 MOD 3)- D539-18**

I write on behalf of the Mineworkers Trust in support of the above project. The United Wambo project will result in the continuance of the work of the Trust in donating many millions of dollars to the local community, to community regional support services, and to hundreds of children of mining families to undertake tertiary education.

The Mineworkers Trust was established in 1991 as an independent trust which is entitled to receive money from the United Collieries Joint Venture (between Glencore and the United Mineworkers Federation of Australia, as it was then constituted and now part of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union)

The Trust is entitled to receive an income (termed a royalty) of 50 cents per saleable tonne of coal produced from the United lease. It receives this income regardless of the sale price of the coal; in effect it is a cost of production and the Trust will receive this income so long as the mine is in operation.

The negotiations among the project proponents that have enabled the United Wambo Coal Mine to be proposed will result in an income stream to the Trust of 50 cents per saleable tonne over the life of the mine for that part of saleable coal produced by the United Wambo Coal Mine Project that relates to the United Collieries Joint Venture.

Between 2001 and 2010, when the United mine ceased production, the Mineworkers Trust received approximately \$8.2 million in royalties.

It has made over \$11 million of disbursements since 2001. Disbursements have continued beyond 2010 (when royalty income ceased) though at a much lower level.

The beneficiaries of the Mineworkers Trust

More than \$9 million of donations to non-profit worthy causes in the Hunter region and other mining regions have been made. These include:

- \$580,000 to the Westpac rescue helicopter service to support general medical rescue operations for the regional community, and to support mine rescue operations in particular.
- \$570,000 to fund mining occupational health and safety initiatives
- \$275,000 to Hunter Youth Sports Development – promoting healthy youth activities in the mining region.
- \$200,000 to the Hunter Medical Research Institute – supporting world-class medical research based in the Hunter region, in relation to prostate cancer.
- \$100,000 to MATES in Mining – a recently-developed program with broad industry support to improve the mental well-being of mineworkers and the families, seeking to reduce the incidence of suicide in particular.

There have been many millions of dollars donated to a large number of local sporting clubs, aged care facilities, community facilities and other medical research entities.

The Trust has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships since 2001. To the end of 2018, these have been made to 396 students from mining families to enable them to undertake tertiary education including in medicine, engineering, sports science, dentistry, law, the arts and many more. As the mining families from which these students come tend to have parents with trade qualifications and below, the scholarships have been instrumental in giving enhanced education and career opportunities to these students.

The continuing work of the Trust

The Mineworkers Trust plans to provide benefits to the communities of the Hunter region and other mining communities for many decades.

But to do this the Trust needs the further income from the United lease that will arise from the approval of the United Wambo Coal Mine Project.

The Trust will, as it has since 1991, carefully manage the funds provided by this project, seeking to produce an income stream that will last beyond the life of the mine and provide multiple benefits to the Hunter community for many decades.

Disbursements from the Trust would continue to be made according to its charitable objectives, which are to benefit mineworkers, their families and their communities.

The Trust is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission, and will continue to meet its regulatory requirements.

In the absence of the project being approved, the Trust will struggle to continue its work, and it is inevitable that the work will be undertaken at a much lower level, which has been the case since the United mine closed in 2011.

For these reasons the Trust urges the Independent Planning Commission to approve the United Wambo Coal Mine Project.

Yours sincerely,



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Trustee, Mineworkers Trust

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Trustees:

