

To the IPC

I am a worker at Tahmoor Coal, and have been for the last 13 years.

I grew up in Thirlmere, I studied primary school teaching in Wollongong and taught at most of the primary schools in the Wollondilly shire. I have seen the community thrive on the support and employment provided by the mine from my childhood. In my involvement in Community organisations over the 35 years I have lived here, from the State Emergency Service, the Picton Theatre Group, Scouts NSW, local sporting teams, St Stephens Anglican Church Thirlmere, I have seen the benefits provided by the mine. Support for equipment, sponsorship of events, donations to causes, we have benefitted from the support in many ways.

13 years ago, my wife and I had our first child, with my wife taking maternity leave to look after our son, I made the decision to leave my teaching position and take up a role working underground at Tahmoor. This was an amazing experience, literally working at the coal face.

This change to my employment allowed me and my growing family to move back to the Wollondilly area, we have been able to purchase our home and re-establish the links we had from our childhood. We have started coaching local sporting teams and re-started the local Cub Scout Pack that had closed down due to lack of adult leaders.

I have progressed my career within Tahmoor to now be one of the Managers at the mine. My role has allowed me to witness and be involved in the many positive contributions the mine makes to local organisations, the community and to the employees who work there.

I look forward to many more years in the Wollondilly, watching my children finish their schooling at Tahmoor Public School and Wollondilly Anglican College, play in their local football and netball teams, watch them continue their journey through the Scouting movement of which they are still involved, and I too am still a leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bargo Cub Scouts and Scout sections.

I support the Mine's plan to extend its life. I enjoy my work, I enjoy where we live, I see the benefits the mine has made over my 35 years in the Wollondilly and will continue to make.

Your Faithfully

Phil Jones

