

16 February 2026

Independent Planning Commission  
NSW Government

To Whom it May Concern,

### **Submission of support for the Moolarben Coal Complex OC3 Extension Project**

I write to express Pacific National's support for the proposed extension of the Moolarben Coal Complex (OC3) in the Moolarben Valley.

Pacific National is Australia's largest private rail freight company with a long history of providing haulage services in the Hunter Valley Coal Chain and to Yancoal. Expanding the Moolarben Coal Complex will beneficially impact the economies of NSW, the Midwestern Regional Council Area and the supporting rail freight supply chain.

#### **The economic contribution of freight rail in NSW**

Freight rail is fundamental to the value of Australia's coal exports, moving coal from regions to ports and international markets. In NSW, coal haulage comprised 90% of the freight task in 2023, and in 2024, the added economic value of freight rail to NSW was \$1.9 billion, contributing 6,697 jobs to the state, many of which are in regional NSW.

#### **The mine expansion benefits the communities of the Mid-Western Regional Council area**

In 2024, the direct economic contribution of Moolarben Coal Operations to the Mid-Western Regional Council area was \$187 million, providing stable employment that supports a range of local businesses. Approximately 60 Pacific National employees live in the region and will benefit from the long-term stability afforded by the expansion of the Moolarben Coal Complex.

#### **Expansion will support rail operations and jobs**

Pacific National hauls 18 million tonnes of high-quality thermal coal from Yancoal's Moolarben mine to Newcastle Port each year. This volume equates to approximately 1950 annual rail freight services, directly employing 120 highly skilled crew who are located out of our Mudgee, Greta and Newcastle depots. In total, Pacific National employs 680 staff in support of our NSW coal operations across eight depots.

Pacific National also spends over \$31 million per year maintaining locomotives and approximately \$27 million per year on wagon repairs, wheelset maintenance and fleet upgrades. These services underpin approximately 1000 jobs in NSW at employers such as UGL, Progress Rail, Varley Group, Downer Group, and Gemco Rail.

The stability of our coal contracts in NSW has also allowed Pacific National to purchase 50 new fuel efficient diesel electric locomotives that are being manufactured by UGL at their facility in Broadmeadow, supporting local manufacturing jobs in the region.

Approving the Moolarben Coal Complex (OC3) Extension Project will preserve rail haulage, maintenance and manufacturing services, providing for continued economic activity in the region and help to ensure that long term, high paying freight and manufacturing jobs remain in NSW.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. Pacific National believes that the Moolarben Coal Complex (OC3) Extension Project is vitally important to the ongoing economic stability of the Mid-Western Regional Council area and freight operations in the region.

Kind regards,



Chief Executive Officer  
Pacific National