

NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Governor Macquarie Tower, Level 31,
1 Farrer Place
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Minister,
RE MINING SEPP AMENDMENT

On behalf of 130 member businesses in Muswellbrook we urge you to consider a modification of clause 12AA of the State Environmental Planning Policy rather than its removal from the Act.

Our Chamber agrees with the attached submission lodged by the Hunter Business Chamber and the need to give certainty to the mining sector in the Hunter Valley. Our members have seen diverse industries co-exist and collaborate over many years and we are gravely concerned that minority interest groups are given undue consideration without the common good being properly acknowledged.

Muswellbrook and the Hunter region in general is dependent on the mining industry for employment, investment and economic growth. History shows that we can enjoy the economic benefits of world's best practice mining sector and its flow on effects to retail, manufacturing, services and agriculture. We can also use the proceeds of this economic windfall to invest in alternative energies and 'after mining' industries.

Our concern is that continuing uncertainty around planning laws will drive away investment in mining. If that should happen, there is no other industry sector that could deliver the same level of investment, employment and financial returns to the private or public sector.

We do not ask that environmental and other heads of consideration be pushed into the background. The ACT allows all aspects of a mining development to be considered. We do however suggest that if the value of the resource to the community, region and State are not properly recognised or ignored, then we run the risk of not being able to 'pay our way' in an increasingly hostile world economy.

We would welcome the opportunity to further comment and look forward to your favourable consideration of our submission.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Kelly
President
Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry.