



Draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

NSW Minerals Council Submission – February 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 (the Plan). The NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) supports the preparation of the metropolitan plan for the development of Greater Newcastle, an area of vital economic significance.

NSWMC is the peak body representing the state's \$24.7 billion minerals industry and has approximately 100 members, including the operators of the coal export supply chain infrastructure at the Port of Newcastle.

The mining industry makes a significant economic contribution to the Newcastle region and the state more broadly. NSWMC's 2015-16 expenditure survey of member companies found that the mining industry directly spent \$10.8 billion across the State on wages and salaries, supplier businesses and government payments. Newcastle Local Government Area received the greatest share of that expenditure totalling \$1.5 billion, with close to 800 businesses within the Local Government Area benefiting from this expenditure.

NSWMC holds concerns about the proposal in the Plan for the Port of Newcastle to investigate the potential to relocate coal export facilities and bulk fuel storages at the Carrington Precinct.

The export facilities at the Carrington Precinct play a vital role in the broader coal chain and enable NSW coal to be exported to markets around the world. The Carrington terminal, owned and operated by Port Waratah Coal Services (Port Waratah) contributes up to 25 million tonnes per annum of export terminal capacity and is expected to remain an integral part of the Hunter Valley export supply chain. With strong demand for NSW coal from our major trading partners, it is essential to maintain this capacity in the network.

Relocation of the export facilities at Carrington would be inconsistent with already existing plans and approvals such as Port Waratah's valid Development Consent and the Port of Newcastle's plans as described in the Port Development Plan 2015-2020.

Additionally, the land on which the terminal is located is part of the Port of Newcastle's landholdings under its 98-year lease with the NSW Government and is set aside for port purposes pursuant to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Three Ports) 2013.

The references in the draft Plan regarding an alternative land use in the Carrington Precinct are also inconsistent with other State Government Plans such as the Hunter Regional Plan 2036, which states:

Direction 2 "Enhance connections to the Asia Pacific through global gateways ... The Port of Newcastle will continue to play an important role in the regional economy



through the international export of goods (including coal and grains) from the Hunter and regional NSW. It is the largest coal exporting port in the world.”

The NSW Draft Freight and Ports Plan also recognises the importance of the export coal trade to the State, referencing it as the largest volume freight commodity in regional New South Wales, and indicating an expectation that it will provide approximately 79 percent of the total growth in freight volumes over the next 40 years.

Port Waratah, who owns and operates the Carrington coal terminal, employs approximately 90 people at the terminal with 330 people employed business wide. Port Waratah recognises that the Carrington terminal is located in close proximity to residential areas and are committed to operating the terminal without impact on its community neighbours or the environment. This has been demonstrated through operational excellence, community engagement and continuously investing in new technologies to ensure the terminal meets the evolving expectations of the community and regulators. Over the past five years, Port Waratah has invested approximately \$87 million in capital projects at the Carrington terminal and this has placed Port Waratah in the best position to reliably service customers without adverse disruptions to the community and coal chain.

The Draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 should be amended to acknowledge the pivotal role the Carrington coal terminal has to export trade and industry.

NSWMC looks forward to continuing to engage with the Department of Planning and Environment on this matter. Should you require further information, please contact David Frith, Director Policy, on (02) 9274 1400.

NSW Minerals Council