

PAC PUBLIC MEETING**Thursday 7 December 2017**

My name is Dan Boyd, I was born and bred in Muswellbrook, I am the grandson of an underground coal miner and I have lived and worked in this area all my life and I've seen the benefits that underground coal mining brings, with its limited surface impacts.

My submission is not just about the immediate benefits in terms of jobs and income for me and my workmates on site at Wambo, but the businesses who support the families who form the communities that rely heavily on mining for their jobs and income. Mining is the lifeblood of my town, just like it's the life blood of this town.

This South Bates Underground Extension is required not only for the ongoing employment of current Wambo employees, but for any future employees like our apprentices, so it's the sons and daughters of our local communities that need our support going forward.

I have worked in underground mining for over 20 years and 11 of those have been with Wambo Coal, so when my wife was made redundant with the mining downturn and was then unable to gain reemployment for some time and even then at a significantly reduced contractor rate, my employment at Wambo has helped keep my family and by extension, my local community above water.

I fully support the South Bates Underground Extension (Modification 17) for the ongoing prosperity of this region and I ask you to do the same.