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December 5, 2008

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Port Waratah Coal Services Limited and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group
application for authorisation A91110-A91112.**

Interim Authorisation

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission. Bloomfield Collieries Pty Limited (Bloomfield) makes the following submission in support of the application for Interim Authorisation.

Background

Bloomfield is a family owned company that operates two open cut coal mines in the Hunter Valley region of NSW and employs approximately 450 people across various divisions. These mines include; the Bloomfield Mine (located near East Maitland) and the Rix's Creek mine (located near Singleton).

The coal produced is all exported and is a mixture of thermal and coking coal. Bloomfield exports through the Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) terminal in the Port of Newcastle.

For calendar year 2008, forecast sales for Bloomfield are constrained at 1,600,000T. In order to maintain its market in the long term, and secure any opportunities for growth, Bloomfield currently has a number of Exploration Licenses and is actively seeking new lease areas.

Bloomfield has and is, actively participating in the process described in Section 3 of the submission. Bloomfield is also one of 5 Producers making up the Producer Steering Committee which has been formed by Producers to both represent the Producers in negotiations as well as providing a "think tank" for issues affecting Producers.

Interim Authorisation

Bloomfield strongly supports the arrangements proposed in the Port Waratah Coal Services Limited & Ors - Authorisations - A91110 - A91112.

In particular, Bloomfield supports the arguments made in sections 4 and 5 of the submission and the urgent need for an interim measure from January 1, 2009. The content of these sections has been widely discussed throughout the industry and has broad support. In particular, the Producer Base Tonnages described in section 4.5, will address the inequitable impact that the current CBS has had on Bloomfield, whereby Bloomfield's CBS tonnage allocation has been reduced by over 20% since 2004.

Bloomfield has serious concerns about the fairness and stability of a coal export system, during the period immediately following the cessation of the CBS system, in the absence of PWCS Allocation Stage 1. If rejected, the uncertainty in the quantum and timing of port access for producers is likely to reduce Bloomfield's (and all Producer's) reliability of supply, thereby putting at risk long term contracts, and increasing the costs for doing business out of the Port of Newcastle for both customers and producers because of an increased ship queue.

In addition, Bloomfield is concerned that if Interim Authorisation is not awarded, the resulting uncertain environment will likely shift the focus of Producers and may undermine the progress currently made by Producers in their endeavours to develop an unconstrained Hunter Valley Coal Chain.

Bloomfield therefore supports the granting of an Interim Authorisation

The Substantive Application

Bloomfield may make a further submission in respect of the Substantive Application before the due date of 19 December.

Yours faithfully,
The Bloomfield Group



John E Richards
Director