



New South Wales

## Joseph Tripodi

Minister for Finance Minister for Infrastructure Minister for Regulatory Reform  
Minister for Ports & Waterways

Mr Graeme Samuel  
Chairman  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

Our Ref: G08/02646

By Fax: 02 6243 1199

Dear Mr Samuel

### **PROGRESS ON LONG TERM SOLUTION FOR HUNTER VALLEY COAL CHAIN**

I am writing to update you on progress made by the NSW Government and coal producers on a long-term framework for the Hunter Valley coal industry.

Please find attached a copy of my letter to the coal industry of 11 December 2008 outlining a long-term framework for coal exports through the Port of Newcastle.

This framework will help secure the growth and continued success of the Hunter Coal Industry. Port Waratah Coal Services and all fourteen of the Hunter Valley coal export producers have written letters expressing their support for the framework as the basis for a long-term solution in the Hunter Valley.

Given this support from the coal industry for the framework proposed in my letter of 11 December I support the Application for Authorisation made by PWCS and NCIG currently before the ACCC. Authorising this application will allow time for Government and the coal industry to implement the agreed long-term framework.

Should you or your officers require further information please contact Ian McNamara on (02) 9228 5451.

Yours sincerely

**Joe Tripodi**  
**Minister for Ports and Waterways**

16 DEC 2008

Cc: The Hon. Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure & Transport  
The Hon. Chris Bowen, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Competition Policy