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27 April 2020

## **BHP Industry Association Review 2019**

Dear Elsabe,

Since the publication of BHP's Industry Association Review in December 2019 we have appreciated the opportunity to engage closely with BHP representatives on the Review findings. BHP is an important and valued member of the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) and we look forward to continued ongoing positive dialogue and engagement.

### **Climate Change, Energy and Emissions**

As the Review acknowledges, NSWMC published a new climate change, energy and emissions policy statement while the Review was underway. This statement was developed and endorsed by our Executive Committee during a series of meetings throughout 2019.

The Executive Committee comprises 22 members elected from Full Member companies, including representation from BHP. According to the NSWMC Constitution the Executive Committee is responsible for all NSWMC policy issues. The NSWMC policy position on climate change, energy and emissions is therefore the result of the collective deliberations of all of the Member Company representatives on the Executive Committee, including BHP.

As the statement makes clear, the NSW Minerals Council acknowledges that sustained global action is required to reduce the risks of human-induced climate change.

The NSW Minerals Council also supports a measured transition to a low emissions global economy. This includes participation in global agreements such as the Paris Agreement, which would hold an increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.



This statement demonstrates the determination of the Executive Committee to clearly articulate a policy position on these important issues to guide NSWMC's ongoing advocacy on behalf of all of our member companies, and our advocacy has been consistent with it since its endorsement.

Our advocacy also includes strong ongoing support for the responsible exploration and extraction of key minerals and metals essential for a range of renewable energy sources. This is particularly important to our important member companies involved in the non-coal sector in NSW, including existing and potential new gold, copper, silver, nickel, lead, zinc, scandium and cobalt mining operations.

### **Other Areas of NSWMC Activity**

While climate change, energy and emissions policy is an important element of NSWMC's advocacy, it represents only a small proportion of our overall activity in support of our membership across the NSW mining sector. As a state-based organisation, NSWMC undertakes a large range of policy and advocacy initiatives in support of NSW-specific issues covering a broad regulatory framework relevant to the NSW mining sector.

These initiatives provide important benefits of high value to our local mining operations in NSW, including BHP's Mt Arthur Coal open cut thermal coal operation near Muswellbrook. Mt Arthur Coal is the largest open cut coal mining operation in NSW and its personnel are highly engaged in the activities of NSWMC.

#### Health and Safety

As the Review recognises, NSWMC is highly engaged on health and safety issues in NSW. We actively promote best practice across NSW mining operations, and support industry representation on the NSW Government's Mine Safety Advisory Committee. We also jointly own Coal Services, which provides services to prevent illness and injury in coal mining workplaces. In addition, we also promote the identification and celebration of best practice and innovation on health and safety through our annual awards program. Our OH&S Committee meets quarterly and includes representatives from BHP.

#### Environment and Community

As the Review acknowledges, NSWMC provides strong support to our member companies on a range of environmental issues to promote leading practice and improved outcomes. This includes engagement on rehabilitation of mine sites, biodiversity regulation, improving the industry approach to air quality, and communicating industry initiatives and achievements to the community, regulators, and government.



The Review also acknowledges our strong ongoing role in regional community engagement, including through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue. The Dialogue brings together the region's mining companies, community and business leaders in the Upper Hunter in a collaborative effort to address local community concerns and improve local industry practice on environmental matters, community engagement and other local issues.

The Dialogue has been in place for over nine years. BHP was a founding member of the Dialogue through Mt Arthur Coal. Mt Arthur Coal has been a consistently strong supporter of the Dialogue and the current Dialogue Chair is a BHP representative from Mt Arthur Coal.

In addition, we also actively promote the sharing of best practice and innovation in environmental management and community engagement through our industry awards held each year.

Our Environment and Community Committee meets quarterly and includes two representatives from BHP.

### Workforce

As the Review acknowledges, NSWMC is also active in supporting the development and diversity of the mining workforce in NSW. This involves our initiatives to encourage mining careers in NSW, in partnership with a range of schools in the Hunter region, our coordination of school mine tours, and the promotion of inclusion and the achievements of women in the NSW mining workforce through our annual Women in Mining awards and related networking events. BHP have been active participants in many of these initiatives in recent years.

### Industry coordination on COVID-19

Since the release of the Review, the current coronavirus pandemic has generated a range of serious challenges for governments, industries and communities around the world, including in NSW. In response, NSWMC has worked closely with member companies and other Australian resources sector associations to help coordinate the development and adoption of national health and safety protocols for the sector.

These protocols have received the support of the NSW Government and our industry has been recognised by local political leaders for its efforts to protect the workforce, their families and mining communities while continuing to make the important economic and social contribution that we are known for and that so many people rely upon.



This outcome has been achieved as a direct result of the ability of NSWMC and other resources sector associations to coordinate together and on behalf of our member companies. Our ability to act as a conduit for information on the pandemic, industry challenges and responses has helped to support the ongoing operation of the sector in NSW during this time of real crisis, while helping to protect the health of our miners.

### Ongoing engagement

These are just a small sample of the ongoing policy issues and activities NSWMC is engaged in on behalf of our member companies.

In addition to these examples, BHP representatives are involved in a range of Working Groups. For example, there are representatives on our Communications Working Group, Exploration and Tenures Committee, Rail Corridor Steering Group, and Planning Reform Working Group. We welcome this close collaboration with BHP as it helps improve the quality of our policy engagement and advocacy, and ensures our efforts accurately reflect the views of all of our members.

As you know, NSWMC comprises nearly 100 member companies, including 30 Full Member companies spanning a range of operations and commodities. Our policy positions and advocacy actions result from the collective deliberations of our member companies through our formal committees and working groups on a range of common industry issues and challenges.

It is therefore vitally important that BHP continues to engage with its fellow member companies across our broader membership to ensure NSWMC reflects the views of all of our member companies accurately and effectively.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Galilee".

**Stephen Galilee**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER