



19 October 2018

Keith Stoddard, Steve Mellor and Tim Trewin,
Mine Dust Victims Group
PO Box 2096
Wandal Qld 4700

Dear Gentlemen,

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH COAL MINE DUST LUNG DISEASE FUND

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October 2018.

Your advocacy on behalf of Mine Dust Victims is commendable. We are aware that our representative body, the Queensland Resources Council, has written to you on behalf of Queensland coal companies and support that response, but, we also wanted to respond directly.

Unfortunately, we do not support the levy you propose, nor the structure for administration proposed.

It is our belief that the recent changes to the Worker Compensation Scheme (Scheme) are a fair and effective way to ensure suitable compensation for those people whom your proposal seeks to support. These changes were a direct result of far reaching stakeholder engagement through the Parliamentary Select Committee *Inquiry into Coal Worker Pneumoconiosis* and the subsequent Stakeholder Reference Group.

The Scheme is intended to maintain a balance between:

- providing fair and appropriate support for injured workers or dependents and persons other than workers; and
- ensuring efficient use of contributions from employers.

Importantly the Scheme has a dedicated team assessing and managing pneumoconiosis claims. We are also supportive of the breadth of the scheme which covers any worker who may have sustained pneumoconiosis in employment, not just directly through mining, but by loading, transporting or otherwise dealing with coal.

Additionally, we encourage you to contact the Industry funded Australian Coal Association Research Program, with any specialist research proposals you might wish to see pursued.

The most fundamental objective at Jellinbah is to protect the Health & Safety of our people. We look forward to working with the entire Industry to fairly and responsibly deal with the unfortunate re-emergence of pneumoconiosis.

Yours faithfully,

G B Chalmers
Chief Executive Officer

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