Thursday, 10 January 2013

**Letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald**

Rod Campbell’s claim that the economic analysis prepared for the applicant of the Maules Creek mine was simply “accepted without scrutiny” by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is untrue (“Facts and fiction from the mining proponents”, *SMH* – 10/1/13).

We did not blindly accept this report, which was presented as part of the mine’s application.

However, both the department and independent experts at the Planning Assessment Commission agreed that, on balance, the project is in the broad public interest and should proceed subject to strict conditions.

This conclusion was reached after carefully considering not only economic factors but all other relevant issues such as noise, biodiversity, water and air quality impacts.

Yours sincerely,

**CHRIS WILSON**

*Acting Deputy Director-General*

*NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure*