

YARRAMAN PARK



17 June 2015

The Secretary
The Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Via email: matthew.sprott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms McNally,

Re: Objection to Drayton South Coal Project Application Number: SSD 6875

I am writing as a very concerned business owner regarding the Drayton South Coal Application by Anglo American.

My family own and run a thoroughbred stud Yarraman Park in Scone NSW and have been involved in the thoroughbred breeding industry for over 100 years when my father Major James Mitchell started our farm in 1968.

Primarily we stand stallions at stud including the current champion first season sire "I Am Invincible". Our business also includes boarding mares for clients, preparing horses for yearling sales and taking racehorses for short breaks from racing. Our farm employs up to 25 employees. Our employees are not only involved in horse care - we also employ gardening, maintenance, administration, agricultural, veterinary and mechanical staff.

We are considered a leader in our field and have been leading vendor at major sales on numerous occasions.

Our reasons for objecting to this proposal are as follows:

The horse industry is based in the Upper Hunter Valley due to the factors of soil, climate and water availability. There are extremely limited areas of Australia which are suitable for the purpose of breeding world class racehorses.

Although we may be seen as competitors of the studs most affected by the proposed Drayton South mine, Darley and Coolmore, our industry works in such a way that we are incredibly reliant on the other members of the thoroughbred industry.

Our clients who use our stallions and leave their mares to stay with us during the year are based locally in Australia and also from overseas including the UK, USA, Ireland, France, Italy and Germany.

Whilst those clients support our stallions they also make use of other studs in the region making our farm perfectly located to service those needs. Coolmore and Darley also attract fantastic clients and breeders who in turn use our stallions.

Due to the critical cluster which stretches from Jerrys Plains to the north of Scone, we have access to the best equipped and most highly specialised veterinary surgeons and specialists at the Scone Equine Centre. This availability is partly due to the support given to them by Darley and Coolmore.

We are also able to utilise specialist farriers (hoof care), horse dentists, feed merchants and chiropractors which would otherwise be unavailable to us.

The environmental impacts of having an open cut mine in such close proximity to these world renowned horse studs is beyond comprehension. The success of these studs are based on their client's perception and although we might benefit from increased revenue from clients leaving the Jerrys Plains based studs, the long term effects for our business would be devastating.

The dust and mining activity during the day (which would no doubt include sound from blasting) and the lights and activity at night would surely be enough to turn clients away.

The Upper Hunter Valley offers our clients the ability to combine work and pleasure as they are drawn to spend extended periods in the area because of the Scone Cup Carnival and Stallion Parade week. They also engage in the many tourism attractions available such as wineries, vineyards, gourmet food outlets and restaurants/cafes.

This application is in our view not in the public interest, the previous PAC(s) have already determined "the economic benefits of the project do not outweigh the risk of losing Coolmore and Darley and the potential demise of the equine industry in the area".

I respectfully ask that you register my objection to this proposal and seriously consider my objections when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South open cut coal Proposal.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur Mitchell
Managing Director
Yarraman Park Stud