

Appendix C: Chris Waller PAC Review Submission – September 2015

From: [REDACTED]
To: [pac.pac](#)
Subject: Drayton South Mining Proposal - Letter of Objection
Date: Tuesday, 1 September 2015 4:16:02 PM

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to lodge my strongest possible objection to the Drayton South Mining project.

I am currently Australia's leading thoroughbred racehorse trainer in addition to being a racehorse owner and breeder. I directly employ 80 staff as well as some 25 to 30 sub contract staff who are employed by me at my stable in Sydney. My business earns an average of [REDACTED] in prize money each year and this money is re invested annually back into thoroughbred ownership within our state through the purchase of yearlings and bloodstock with the majority of those bred in the New South Wales' Hunter Valley.

It will be my instruction to my clients and owners to reconsider their investment in the NSW Thoroughbred Racing Industry given my operation would be severely impacted by purchasing bloodstock raised on what I would consider contaminated properties. Given my standing in New South Wales and given this recommendation to my owners, it will leave me with little other alternative than to move the majority of my business to Victoria where I currently operate approximately 25% of my business from. I already have the infrastructure in place should the need arise.

The contamination from the Drayton South Mining Project would have a large impact on the Hunter Valley, in particular Darley and Coolmore which is where a high portion of the bloodstock I purchase is bred and raised. My clients heavily support both Coolmore and Darley with their mares who stand the most successful stallions in New South Wales and I would be without doubt that their influence on our breeding market in New South Wales would be heavily reduced if this project is to go ahead. Given they would most likely relocate their operations, it will only see more follow, and my business would be included. This issue is not only restricted to two farms but a broad industry and the approval will see irreversible damages that spread like cancer through an industry that this government so heavily relies on.

It has obviously already been proven on a number of occasions that thoroughbred breeding and an open cut coal mine cannot exist beside each other so to be repeatedly going down this path of approval to me seems absurd. I feature heavily in media publications, both tabloid and television, daily and I will be voicing my absolute disgust at the possible plan of approval of this mine and the incompetence behind this decision to support only a small minority of people.

This letter is issued as no threat, it is simply a case of what will be viable for me and my business and should this mine go ahead I will have no option but to take my business out

of this state and into a jurisdiction which is far more supportive of an industry that supports so many people.

This issue has now gone on far too long and it is time to provide certainty for our industry in New South Wales and refuse this application once and for all.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Waller