



NEWGATE

27 February 2023

The Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2000

By Email: joe.fittell@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Secretary

HVO OPEN CUT COAL CONTINUATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT –NORTH AND SOUTH

The Newgate Group (Newgate) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) Open Cut Coal Continuation Project Environmental Impact Statement for both North and South.

Newgate strongly supports the submissions made by both Coolmore Australia and the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association.

We understand the HVO North and South Open Cut Coal Continuation Project applications will be considered as one application. We object to the HVO Open Cut Coal Continuation Project ("Project").

Newgate

Newgate is one of the leading thoroughbred breeding operations in Australia encompassing 1,700 acres of prime Hunter Valley land. With a foundation based upon quality bloodstock, quality people, and quality land Newgate is thriving.

In 2013 Newgate purchased one of the finest properties in the Hunter Valley, the historic Brooklyn Lodge Stud, which has already produced Golden Slipper winners, Classic winners, and Cup winners - the equivalent of Gold Medal Olympic winners, among countless others.

Newgate ranks among the top consignors at major Australian thoroughbred auctions having a record of producing high priced, quality yearlings that go on to perform on the racetrack.

We are an integral part of the Hunter's Equine Critical Industry Cluster and like all of the studs in the Upper Hunter, our livelihoods and reputations rest on clean air, water and scenic peaceful

Newgate Operations Pty Ltd ABN: 14 162 416 104

Newgate Stallions Pty Ltd ABN: 48 158 624 349

Phone: 02 6543 8395 | 586 Rouchel Road, Aberdeen NSW 2336 | Locked Bag 3002, Aberdeen NSW 2336

www.newgate.com.au

landscape. As previous Planning Assessment Commissions have found, we are very vulnerable to the impacts and threat of open cut mining.

We invite you to the Hunter Valley to see our studs before you finalise your decision.

The Hunter's Thoroughbred Breeding Industry

Our industry has been in the Hunter Valley for nearly 200 years.

The reason it has been here this long is due to a number of factors, three of which are:

1. The quality of the land,
2. The quality and supply of water; and
3. The clean environment.

Investors in our industry are very discerning, highly competitive and highly mobile. We are in the business of breeding elite equine athletes. Investors are in the business of maximising their returns on valuable bloodstock investment. Having an open cut coal mine in very close proximity to thoroughbred breeding operations is not compatible with our business or our investors' and clients' business expectations.

Our industry's vulnerability to the threat of open cut coal mining is a fact has been acknowledged by various Planning Assessment Commissions and Gateway Panels over the past 13 years.

Our industry's contribution to the regional and state economy, and as an industry of state, national and international importance, has also been well documented. Our industry is long term, sustainable and the largest agricultural industry in the region, in terms of both employment and economic contribution.

At a time when as a nation and a state we are seeking to reduce carbon emissions and transitioning away from coal, it is not the time to be further impairing our air quality, water and land, significantly increasing CO2 emissions, dissuading investment in our industry and other sustainable agricultural activities, and risking the future of our sustainable industry by expanding coal production.

The HVO EIS

We have significant concerns regarding to the impact of the HVO Open Cut Coal Continuation Project (North and South) on the Upper Hunter's air quality, stressed water resources, both the Hunter Rivier and its alluviums, noise and blasting impacts which this project now proposes to bring closer to the southern gateway of the Hunter's thoroughbred breeding industry, closer to one of the industry's central players, Coolmore, and closer to the town of Jerrys Plains.

This "Optimisation" Project increases mining intensity by some 80 percent and adds another 25 and 15 years to the life to existing operations at HVO North and HVO South respectively.

The current mine has already caused significant degradation to the landscape and added significantly to the worsening quality of air in the Upper Hunter Valley. The prospect of such a significant increase in mining intensity to extract some 400 mt of mine output, with the consequent

increases in poor air quality, dust deposition, noise and harm to the environment and potentially our stressed water systems is not acceptable.

We consider the damage and legacy this one mine expansion will leave particularly concerning, including the:

- Air and noise impacts and exceedances of the project;
- Potentially significant impacts on the highly productive Hunter River system and its alluviums, with and drawdowns (of 2 – 5m) in contravention of the Aquifer Interference Policy; and
- Final voids that will take some 1,000 years to fill and reach equilibrium with potential for saline pits in perpetuity.

Separately and combined, these impacts present unacceptable consequences and irreparable damage from one mine that no community should be asked to accept and no consent authority should support.

The lack of cumulative assessment impact studies as required by the NSW Government for all mining proposals in respect of air quality and water quality and quantity is also doing an enormous disservice to the local communities.

We strongly support the submission by the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and their call for the NSW Government to undertake an independent cumulative impact assessment of air quality and water security in this region and again, we implore the Department to conduct these independent cumulative assessments prior to the consideration and/or commencement of any further mining in this region.

Without these cumulative assessments we are strongly of the view that informed decisions cannot be made and no confidence can be placed on the impacts of either air quality or water security for the Upper Hunter community.

For these serious reasons, we respectfully recommend the Department refuses the HVO Open Cut Coal Continuation Project.

Yours faithfully



Tony O'Driscoll
Chief Financial Officer