



NEWGATE

10 December 2024

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

Dear Secretary

### **HVO NORTH MODIFICATION 8**

The Newgate Group appreciates the opportunity to comment on Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) North Modification 8.

The Newgate Group supports the submissions made by both Coolmore Australia and the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association in respect of this modification.

We object to the HVO North Modification application.

#### **The Newgate Group (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 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.

**Newgate Operations Pty Ltd** ABN: 14 162 416 104

**Newgate Stallions Pty Ltd** ABN: 48 158 624 349

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### **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 close proximity to any thoroughbred breeding operation 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 14 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, increasing greenhouse gas 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 NORTH MODIFICATION**

We have serious reservations about HVO North's modification application – including concerns about its impact on the Upper Hunter's air quality, stressed water resources, both the Hunter Rivier and its alluviums, along with noise and blasting impacts which this proposal proposes to prolong without undertaking appropriate quantitative analysis.

The HVO North Modification 8 proposal seeks to increase mining intensity, and impair air quality and increase greenhouse gas emissions, during a period when the State of NSW should be decreasing its exposure to greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with its legislated net zero emissions targets for 2030, 2035 and 2050.

The current HVO mine (North and South) 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 a further increase in mining intensity without relevant data sets, supporting evidence and objective analysis to demonstrate to the community and consent authority that this proposal will not increase already poor air quality, dust deposition, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and harm to the environment and potentially already stressed water systems is not supported.

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Separately and collectively, these impacts present unacceptable outcomes 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 and water quality and quantity is also doing an enormous disservice to the local communities.

We support the submissions by Coolmore Australia and the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and support calls for the NSW Government to undertake an independent cumulative impact assessment of air quality and water security in this region before considering and/or approving 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 mining projects on the Upper Hunter's air quality or water security.

For these reasons, we respectfully recommend the Department refuses the HVO North Modification 8 proposal.

Yours faithfully



Tony O'Driscoll  
Chief Financial Officer

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