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The Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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HVO NORTH MODIFICATION 8

Godolphin Australia Pty Ltd ("Godolphin") is the largest integrated breeding and racing operation in Australia.

We support Coolmore Australia's and the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association submissions, and the issues identified by them in their objections to the Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) North Modification 8.

Godolphin

Godolphin is part of a global breeding business, which operates around the world, including Australia's Hunter Valley, Newmarket in the UK, County Kildare in Ireland, Kentucky USA, Hokkaido, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

Largest Integrated Australian Breeding and Racing Operation.

In Australia, Godolphin employs in the region of 280 people (over 100 in the Hunter Valley) and has 6 main operational sites (3 stud farms and 3 training facilities):

- NSW: 2 farms (Woodlands and Kelvinside in the Hunter Valley) and 2 training facilities (Warwick Farm & Agnes Banks);
- Victoria: 1 farm (Northwood Park) and 1 training facility (Flemington).

Godolphin established its commercial breeding operation in the Hunter Valley in 2001 (trading under the Darley Australia name) in recognition of Australia's growing force in international thoroughbred breeding and racing.

In 2003 we purchased the 1,700-acre Kelvinside Stud in Aberdeen in the Hunter Valley. The property has since been developed into a world-class facility with capacity to stand 17 stallions, comprehensive mare, racehorse spelling and rehabilitation and yearling facilities and a world class education and training operation.

Godolphin Australia Pty Ltd
ACN: 093 921 021 ABN: 42 093 921 021

In 2008 we also purchased Australia's then largest integrated breeding and racing operation, Ingham Bloodstock, which included the 6,000-acre Woodlands Stud at Denman. In addition to its Hunter Valley farms, Godolphin operates a Victorian breeding operation from its stud Northwood Park, at Seymour Victoria, where it stood 8 Stallions for the 2024 Season.

Our Woodlands and Kelvinside properties operate as one integrated operation in the Hunter Valley.

Godolphin owns in excess of 700 horses with approximately 250 horses in training or racing from its two training bases in Warwick Farm and Agnes Banks (Western Sydney), and a Victorian training base at Flemington racecourse in Melbourne, Victoria.

Godolphin's business model is to "breed to race and race to breed". All of our progeny are bred from the finest thoroughbred bloodlines, building their reputation and credentials on the racetrack, and retired to stud to produce future elite athletes of the turf.

Godolphin employs some 100 employees in the Hunter Valley across its two stud farms. These include horse handlers, bloodstock experts, gardeners, and others working in corporate functions including administration, finance, human resources, IT, and marketing and sales.

Godolphin hosts, in normal circumstances, over 2,000 clients and visitors annually to our stud farms at Kelvinside and Woodlands.

Our business relies on a pristine environment, which is clearly visible to our clients, visitors and tourists.

Continuous Operation Since 1800's

Godolphin's Woodlands operation has a proud uninterrupted history of thoroughbred breeding dating back to the 1800's. The property was settled in 1824 and it is believed that the current homestead was built in 1833.

Woodlands' first recorded association with thoroughbreds dates back to the 1870's under the ownership of H.C. White, who bred and raced thoroughbreds, the most prominent of which was dual Caulfield Cup winner Paris in 1892 and 1893.

Since then it has been operated as a thoroughbred stud by notable industry participants including George Ryder (founder of the Golden Slipper), Lord Derby and the Ingham brothers.

Champion Sires that have graced Woodlands include Yeats, Canny Lad and Lonhro. Champion racehorses reared at Woodlands include Octagonal, Golden Slipper winner Marscay, and notably Golden Slipper winners and Champion 3 year olds Pierro and Sepoy.

2019 Golden Slipper winner Kiamichi was born and raised on Woodlands, and she has since commenced the next phase of her career as a broodmare at Woodlands. Australia's and the world's champion racehorse Winx was sired by Darley's champion sire Street Cry and raised next door at the Coolmore stud.

Woodlands remains one of two international scale thoroughbred breeding operations in the Jerrys Plains/Denman area in the Hunter Valley. It is one of over 200 thoroughbred breeding farms and supplier companies located in the Hunter Valley's critical concentration of thoroughbred breeding and support operations.

The Woodlands “village”

Woodlands is the home of 34 adults and 15 children. There are some 33 dwellings on Woodlands, along with staff recreation facilities (tennis court, barbecue area and swimming pool).

The property also runs 1,000 cattle at present and has a significant lucerne production operation.

The workforce on the property spans a broad skill base including thoroughbred related staff, farmers, mechanics, maintenance crew and gardeners. Their children are educated locally, the school bus comes to the property, and the Woodlands community support all aspects of the local economy, and social/sporting activities.

Woodlands is essentially a 24-hour operation, and this is particularly the case during the breeding season, where heavily pregnant mares are monitored on a 24-hour basis. It is largely for this reason that we seek to house as many of our staff on site as practicable.

HVO North Modification 8

We concur and support the submissions lodged by Coolmore Australia and the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

We further submit that full cumulative impact assessments should be undertaken on the Upper Hunter’s air quality and water security impacted by this and other proposed mining operations (new or extensions) in the Upper Hunter so that informed decisions can be made on this and any other mining applications.

In particular, we submit the following:

- Air quality, dust and associated pollution is poor in the Upper Hunter.
- The HVO North Modification 8 proposal admits it will result in exceedances. This in turn will exacerbate an already unsustainable situation in this rural area, which has the most polluted postcodes in NSW.
- Air, dust and blast plumes can and have been visible from our operations. This proposal will prolong those impacts.
- This situation is further aggravated by inadequate dust mitigation measures.
- Water is the lifeblood of our industry and our operations. For surrounding landholders, water users, and the Hunter’s community the failure to adequately assess the water implications of this proposed modification is not acceptable.
- Deficient data sets and analyses of surface and groundwater, greenhouse gas emissions and other aspects of the modification proposal, are contrary to NSW Government guidelines and do not provide the requisite information for the community or decision makers to make informed submission and decisions.
- Given the importance of water security to our region’s sustainability we reiterate the need for a cumulative assessment of mining impacts (current and proposed) on the Upper Hunter’s water resources should be conducted prior to the approval or commencement of any further mining.

- The Proponent erroneously assumes that the proposed 18-month extension has negligible environmental impacts, has ignored the cumulative impacts of this proposal and the potential prolonged impacts on adjacent landholders and the Equine Critical Industry Cluster.
 - This proposal does not align with the Government's guidelines for State significant modification proposals, the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, the Government's legislated net zero emissions targets, or the Net Zero Commission's guiding principles including considering the economic risks of delaying action to address climate change.
 - We respectfully submit that the Department refuse this modification application.
- Yours sincerely



Ross Cole

Director of Corporate Services