



NEWGATE

28 March 2025

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

Dear Secretary,

Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 8

The Newgate Group (Newgate) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 8.

The Newgate Group supports the submission made by the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association in respect of this modification, and particularly emphasise the need for appropriate time for the community to assess these proposals (14 days is insufficient) as well as the need for a comprehensive cumulative impact study to be undertaken by the Department on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and water against which proposals such as this one can be properly and confidently assessed.

We object to the Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 8 application and recommend the Department refuse this modification.

Newgate

Newgate is one of the leading thoroughbred breeding operations in Australia encompassing 2,500 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 had already produced Golden Slipper winners, Classic winners, and Cup winners - the equivalent of Gold Medal Olympic winners, among countless others. Since acquisition Newgate has produced two Golden Slipper winners and an Everest winner.

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 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 mining.

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

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

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 a 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 coal mining is a fact that 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.

Dartbrook Modification 8

We have serious reservations about this modification application – including concerns about its impact on the Upper Hunter's air quality and stressed water resources, as well as noise and blasting impacts which this proposal is going to prolong without undertaking appropriate analysis.

The Dartbrook modification 8 proposal seeks to increase mining intensity, 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 prospect of six more years of intense mining along with the knowledge that this proposal will increase and prolong already poor air quality, dust deposition, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and harm to the environment, along with already stressed water systems is not supported.

Separately and collectively, these impacts present unacceptable outcomes 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 local communities.

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We support the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association submission 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 Dartbrook Modification 8 proposal.

Yours faithfully,



Tony O'Driscoll
Chief Financial Officer

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