

I wish to object to The Maxwell Underground Proposal.

Four generations of our family have lived and conducted successful business in the Upper Hunter Valley and it distresses me greatly to see the deterioration of this once beautiful part of the world. Our limited water supply is under threat with mining tapping into pristine aquifers and contaminating them with saline aquifers despite best practice and consultants advice. The air quality in the valley has deteriorated to an alarming level with not enough research into the actual effect on human health.

The undeniable science of man made climate change will be exacerbated by approval of yet another mine. We are becoming known as a country more interested in the profit from coal than the overall good of the human race. This is bound to have a negative effect on future trade relations with countries who do acknowledge the science of man made climate change not to mention our Pacific Island neighbours whose existence is reliant on decisions made by us. Now is the time we should be transitioning away from coal and promoting other industries such as various agricultural pursuits, tourism, horse industry etc.

The cumulative impact of so many mines in one area is unacceptable. Enough is enough. This same site has been proposed for mining too many times and knocked back as being an unsuitable site. The amount of time, effort and money spent by organisations having to write submissions could be far better invested in helping the community find alternative employment.

Thank you