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NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Date 21/09/2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Ben Smee and I am the General Manager of Aero Logistics Pty Ltd

I am writing to lodge my full support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project.

This is a sensible project that has been designed so our community can enjoy a much-needed economic boost without negatively impacting other local industries and land uses.

I support the project because it will deliver important benefits for the local community and NSW.

After working many years in the Newcastle Media, I know how important responsible coal mining is for our community. I have personally witnessed the benefits it has on the local population and now more than ever the Hunter Valley and Newcastle region need investment, jobs and economic growth. Our aviation business relies heavily on the resources sector and it's because of this industry that we can provide jobs to pilots, engineers and a variety of support staff.

- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The Maxwell Project will create 350 new jobs for the region. These new jobs and the wages that will flow from them, will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy. Further afield, the project will also generate \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion for the NSW State Government and local Councils. This money can be used to upgrade regional hospitals, schools or infrastructure. Projects like this help ensure our ongoing prosperity and can support the economy for years to come.
- **JOB CREATION:** The project will mean 350 more skilled jobs for the local community. These jobs will inject around \$55 million in wages into our community – benefiting many other businesses in the area. Malabar has also promised to provide training for local people so the skills to operate an underground mine can be developed within the local area. They have also said they want to prioritise hiring locals to ensure that the benefits of the project stay here in the community.

- **LOCAL ECONOMY:** The project will boost our local economy and help local business owners. It will support a wide range of local businesses throughout the construction phase and operation of the mine over 26 years. Long term projects, like this one, will mean local businesses can make more investments, grow their operations, hire more people and keep workers – especially young people – in the region.
- **COEXISTENCE:** The project is a common-sense “win-win” for our community. Previous open cuts proposals were contentious, but Malabar have heard us and developed a sensible project that means our community can benefit from the economic boost a new mine will provide – while also allowing the horse studs and other land uses to continue their operations. I’m pleased that the EIS for the Maxwell Project shows that the underground mine can co-exist safely with other industries. Co-existence has always been an important part of our community. Having a number of strong industries has helped our community to flourish. This project means that can continue for years to come.
- **SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS:** Malabar has provided funding to local community groups for over six years. The Maxwell Project will mean continued support for a range of organisations, for more than 26 years.
- **REHABILITATION:** Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. They started rehabilitating the old Drayton open cut straight away and have made great progress so far. It is great to see a business take this job so seriously. I appreciate that they have already opened up some of the land for cattle to graze on. This shows a commitment to coexistence with other local industries. I also note that the Maxwell Project will deliver a better rehabilitation outcome in the long term by filling voids at the former Drayton Mine with reject stone and rock. This will mean a much better outcome for our community.
- **SOLAR PROJECT:** I appreciate that Malabar are also investing in a solar farm on their rehabilitated land. If approved, this could provide additional power directly to the grid, or help to power local businesses and homes. This shows the company is open to different ideas that can benefit our community.

These benefits will make a substantial long-term difference to the communities in the Upper Hunter and to NSW.

Our community needs a diverse economy and the Maxwell Underground Project can help make sure our economy prospers for decades to come.

Kind Regards

Ben Smee



General Manager

Aero Logistics Pty Ltd