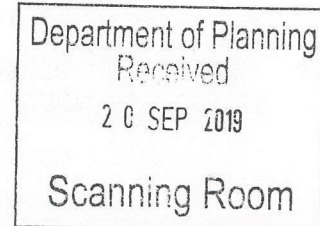




Jason Beddow
10 Ferdinand Street,
Hunters Hill, 2110

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Date 16 / 09 /2019



To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Jason Beddow and am currently working in investment markets. However, I am a Mining Engineer and previously worked in the Mining Industry.

I am writing to lodge my 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.

- Mining and in particular coal mining are very topical at present, especially in regard to the impacts on climate change and while I empathise with these views. As we work our way to a more sustainable carbon reduced future, coal will play an important role in any sustainable and economic viable transition.
- This project will utilise existing infrastructure, is an underground project, with far less environmental impact than an open cut project and is using a superior quality coal resource with higher calorific value and less impurities than many other projects both in Australia and Internationally. This is before the significant economic benefits to the local community and the State of NSW.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Regards

Jason Beddow