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24th September, 2019

To whom it may concern,

Re: Objection Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project Application SSD- 9526

We are writing as concerned landowners and residents from the Jerry's Plains area to comment on the EIS for the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project in opposition.

We are farmers, not anti-coal mining activists. We believe this country needs mining, however it should not be allowed to destroy and impact on high quality agricultural land and our most precious resource of all, our water, without water this country will be doomed.

Our families have been continuously farming in this Valley, for the past 170 years. We operate a successful mixed farming enterprise where we produce top quality Vealers for the Butcher shop market; with the main crop/fodder grown on our properties is Lucerne to produce top quality Lucerne Hay for the Equine and Cattle Industries.

Our Properties are in close proximity to the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project (especially as the crow flies). As we look out over our Apple Tree Flat Property where I (Ian) has lived for over 60 years, of which 43 of those years were spent Dairying, we stop and think of the dust and the noise pollution, that we will have to endure from the prevailing North Westley winds that this area is known for, if this mine is allowed to proceed.

However our main concerns about this project are the environmental issues:-

Water is the biggest concern of all. The Maxwell Underground Mine will completely destroy the Aquifers in the area. The Underground Aquifers (Wells) in this area that were once used for Irrigation purposes are only capable of just supplying enough water for stock. This occurred before this resent drought.

The close proximity of the Maxwell Project to the Hunter River is also a major concern; there are major concerns that the Hunter River water could be lost into the Underground Mine.

The subsidence from this underground mine that will occur will destroy this prime agricultural land.

Another of our major concerns is the huge amount of high quality agricultural land that is endangered of being lost forever to the coal industry, either by been destroyed by mining, locked up by mining companies, and not used to its full potential, or by Agricultural Enterprises and Thoroughbred Studs like Coolmore and Godolpin who realize that it will be impossible for them to continue in the area, if this Coal Project is allowed to proceed.

The Hunter Valley is one of the finest agricultural valleys in the world.

We believe that the future of the historic village of Jerry's Plains and surrounding agricultural area must be protected from the pollutions of dust and noise that will be greatly increased by this coal project.

In the 60 years that I have lived in the area, I have witnessed many dryland crops been produced from this land that is earmarked to be mined, with previous owners growing and harvesting of grains and also Lucerne Seed, not many areas are capable of achieving this, along with the breeding of cattle and sheep for meat and wool. If this land is mined it will never be capable of doing this again post mining

The mines destroy the land forever.

The combined impact on the Hunter River and the aquifers are at risk, our water is so precious it must be preserved for our future generations, along with our very fertile land.

We respectfully ask that you register our concerns to this project and seriously consider our objections.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Moore.

Robyn Moore.