



The Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39,
Sydney 2000

24 September 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Re - MAXWELL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE PROJECT SSD-9526

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by Malabar Coal regarding their application for an underground coal mine at the former Drayton South site (now known as Maxwell).

My name is Wayne Bedggood and I am the General Manager of Cressfield, a Thoroughbred Horse Stud that has submitted its opposition to this project in the past, albeit when it was known as Drayton South.

I thank the Department for this opportunity to express my employers' grave concerns about the impacts we feel the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project may have on our social, economic and environmental amenity, even though the projects immediate footprint is many kilometers from our property boundary.

Cressfield acknowledges the coal mining industry has played an integral and pivotal role in the growth of this region, and that this will continue to be the case for some years to come. We also acknowledge that other industries are every bit as important, and when they are sustainable into the future as well as being far less harmful to our environment, we believe that they should be protected with vigour. There is no doubt fossil fuels are a finite energy source and that we must continue to focus elsewhere for our energy needs, instead of doggedly extracting every ton of coal available at the expense of the environment and competing for land use.

We would ask that you note that the dominant competing land use in the region is agriculture (most notably the beef and equine industries) and further recognise the critical mass of thoroughbred breeding ventures and interrelated services located within the

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region; brought to the area because of the once pristine natural environment which supported those industries and enhanced the region as a preferred place to live and work.

We would also ask that consideration be given to the impact the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project may have on the Equine Critical Industry Cluster that is gazetted in the Strategic Land Use Policy of 2012.

We would like to remind you that the Drayton South Coal Project Review Report, Dec 2013 states that,

“A range of stakeholders from within the equine Critical Industry Cluster (CIC) spoke at the public hearing. These include other farms, as well as the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association, the Scone Equine Hospital and the Scone Race Club. The submissions of these stakeholders emphasise that Coolmore and Darley are critically important to the broader cluster. There are significant links between these studs and many of the agricultural and allied activities in the Upper Hunter. While they may not sit at the centre of the cluster spatially, the proximity of these studs is nonetheless critical to the ongoing operations and success of the cluster as a whole.

The Commission found that the studs and the broader equine industry also complement the wine and tourism industries in the Upper Hunter. The equine industry is part of the identity of the Upper Hunter.

Also in the Drayton South Coal Project Review Report 2013 is the comment,

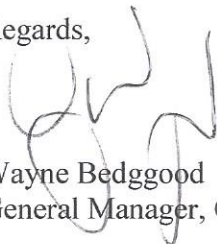
“The Commission agrees that the studs (Coolmore and Darley) are highly important to the equine Critical Industry Cluster and consequently to the broader region, and should be protected from the impacts of mining. The Commission found the proposed mine would threaten the studs’ reputation and brand, and potentially their onsite operations as well”.

And yet here we are again, several years and three PAC hearings later discussing the merits of a mine in this particular area.

Cressfield would like to lend its weight to the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association submission which covers off on all the issues our industry has with the proposed project. We, like many others rely on not only the industry participants but the environmental amenity in which we live and operate.

In short, Cressfield does not support the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project.

Regards,



Wayne Bedggood
General Manager, Cressfield