



17th September, 2019

Planning Services

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sirs,

RE – MAXWELL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE PROJECT –SSD-9526

Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry supports Malabar Coal's proposal to develop the Maxwell Underground Mine Project.

Our support is based on the substantial economic inputs to our local economy as well as the benefits to New South Wales and the Commonwealth.

The Chamber welcomes the opportunities the project presents, in particular –

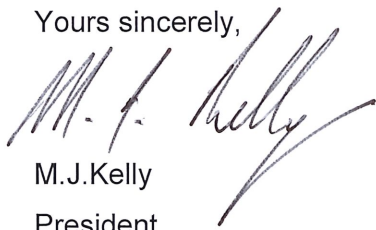
- 250 jobs in the construction phase and 350 new direct, long-term jobs in production plus indirect jobs. This will provide a real boost for the local economy for decades to come, keeping families and young people in the region.
- \$55 million in direct wages delivered into the local economy each year.
- The generation of \$500 - \$700 million to NSW annually in export income.
- \$1b to \$1.12b of royalties to the NSW State Government over the initial 26 years of the project, providing funds for hospitals, schools, roads and regional infrastructure.
- Maxwell's commitment to support local businesses for supply of goods and services in the construction and production phases of the project.
- The utilisation of the existing Drayton infrastructure including coal-handling plant, rail loop and load out facilities, workshops, bath house and administration buildings, access roads, and water management infrastructure.
- The production of high quality coal, 75% of which is suitable for use as coking coal in steel production and the remainder being suitable for use in High Efficiency Low Emissions power generation plants.
- Maxwell's commitment to community consultation and collaboration with neighbouring businesses and property owners. This proposal is vastly different to past proposals and is designed to comfortably co-exist with other industries in the region.
- The continuing rehabilitation of the Drayton Coal Open Cut site with the reduction of final voids, the commencement of cattle grazing and development of a 25 Megawatt Solar Farm on the rehabilitated land.

Our Chamber represents over one hundred and fifty (150) Muswellbrook businesses. Many of these are directly dependant on the coal industry and almost all benefit indirectly. The addition of this new underground mine will provide more diversity in our regional economy, while avoiding the environmental challenges of open cut mining methods.

The Chamber relies on the Department's thorough examination of the EIS with regard to the technical and regulatory matters around water, air quality, noise, vibration, visual amenity and cultural considerations.

We commend the project to the Department and look forward to your recommendation to approve the application, with conditions that protect the environment, accommodate neighbour's concerns and maximise the economic benefits to Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M.J. Kelly', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

M.J. Kelly
President