

Mr Warwick Morris
25 Prince Albert St
Mosman NSW 2088

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Date 17/9/2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Warwick Morris. I was involved in the development of coal mines in the Hunter Valley going back to my days as an Environmental Investigations Officer with the State Pollution Control Commission in 1978-79 during which time various coal mines were developed including HV1 and then as an industry consultant with Dames & Moore where, amongst other projects, we prepared the EIS for Drayton. I thus know the area and issues quite well.

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. It would also be a source of material royalty benefits to the state government over a long period of time.

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

- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The Maxwell Project will create 350 new jobs for the region. These new well paid 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 the local 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 in the local community.
- **COEXISTENCE:** The project is a common-sense “win-win” for the community. Previous open cut proposals were contentious, but Malabar have listened and developed a sensible project that means the 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. Further, Malabar is a VERY SUBSTANTIAL landholder in the Upper Hunter and have proven themselves to be excellent land managers and landlords over the past decade.

- **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.
- **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.

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

Yours sincerely

Warwick Morris