

19 September 2019

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Jason Needham and I am a seasoned resources professional based in NSW.

I am writing to lodge my support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Coal Project.

I have reviewed the proponents EIS and supporting documentation for the Maxwell Underground Coal Project and hold the informed opinion that the Project proposed is both sensible in scope and adequately minimises impact on local industry, on-going viable land use, water resources and the environment.

In my opinion, the proposed Maxwell Underground Coal Project offers a sound technical solution to extracting critical coking coal resources, enables the symbiotic use of existing facilities and legacy mine voids, whilst mitigating impacts on the local community and environment.

In voicing my support for this Project, I would like to point out that:

- Coal extraction will be by underground methods (bord & pillar, longwall), thereby avoiding impacts on surface land caused by open-cut mining and almost eliminating airborne dust pollution.
- Coal will be processed at existing CHPP facilities, reducing the need for additional facility construction and associated impacts.
- Long-term coal haulage from the mine to CHPP will be via covered conveyor, thereby minimising transport-related dust pollution.
- The majority of coal produced by the Project will be coking coal used in steel making. No practical substitutes exist for coking coal.
- The remaining coal will be high quality export thermal coal used in power generation, and is of superior quality (low ash, low sulphur) to thermal coal produced by other jurisdictions.
- The majority of mine-related infrastructure will be located at pit top, thereby reducing visual impacts across the rest of the mine area.
- CHPP reject material will be permanently impounded in an existing mine void, providing a logical use for that void and promoting long-term rehabilitation of this area.
- The proposed underground mining domain avoids the Hunter River and Saddlers Creek, such that mine-related subsidence will not impact these waterways or associated near-surface alluvial aquifers.
- Mine subsidence will affect only land owned by the proponent.
- The proponent has an excellent track record for rehabilitation, demonstrated by the accelerated remediation of the Drayton open cut.
- The proponent has actively accommodated community feedback by modifying the scope to exclude open-cut mining.
- The Project will provide long-term (life of mine is 26 years) direct employment as well as economic opportunity for local business.
- The Project will provide long-term taxation and royalty income streams for government.

- The proponent has demonstrated commitment to positive long-term land use, including livestock grazing and solar electrical generation (separate planning application).
- Executives and senior management in Malabar Coal are recognised as sector professionals, have long-term experience in coal operations in NSW, and have the expertise to deliver a project which complies with complex planning conditions.

I am a seasoned mining industry professional and what I see is: a proponent that is a solid and experienced Australian-based operator, a well-conceived mining operation leveraging existing infrastructure, a mine plan that actively mitigates major impacts on local community and environment, and a project that will deliver long-term economic and social benefits to the local community and the State.

For the avoidance of doubt, whilst I am a professional within the mining sector, I will not receive any employment or monetary benefits from the proposed Maxwell Coal Project.

Regards,

Jason Needham