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Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
17 July 2017

**GODOLPHIN AUSTRALIA – SUBMISSION MOUNT PLEASANT
MODIFICATION 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.**

Dear Ms McNally,

Godolphin Australia Pty Ltd appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Mount Pleasant Modification 3 Environmental Assessment (EA).

Godolphin supports the submission lodged by the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders and opposes the Mount Pleasant modification.

Godolphin

Godolphin is HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's global breeding business which operates in six countries around the world, including Australia's Hunter Valley, Newmarket in the UK, County Kildare in Ireland, Kentucky USA and Hokkaido, Japan. HH Sheikh Mohammed is ruler of Dubai and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates.

Godolphin established its commercial breeding operation in the Hunter Valley in 2001 (trading under the Darley Australia name) in recognition of Australia's growing force in international thoroughbred breeding and racing.

In 2003 we purchased the 1,700 acre Kelvinside Stud in Aberdeen in the Hunter Valley. The property has since been developed into a world-class facility with capacity to stand 17 stallions, comprehensive mare, racehorse spelling and rehabilitation and yearling facilities and a world class education and training operation.

In 2008 we also purchased Australia's largest integrated breeding and racing

operation, Ingham Bloodstock, which included the 6,500 acre Woodlands Stud at Denman. In addition to its Hunter Valley farms Godolphin operates a Victorian breeding operation from its stud Northwood Park, at Seymour Victoria.

Our Kelvinside and Woodlands properties operate as one integrated operation in the Hunter Valley.

Godolphin also owns in excess of 1,000 horses with over 400 horses in training or racing from its two training bases in Western Sydney, and a Victorian training base at Flemington racecourse in Melbourne, Victoria. It is estimated that Godolphin's ownership of elite thoroughbred racehorses amounts to some 10 per cent of all racehorses competing in metropolitan Sydney.

Godolphin employs some 370 people in Australia, including up to 150 in the Hunter Valley across its two stud farms. These include horse handlers, bloodstock experts, gardeners, and others working in corporate functions including administration, finance, human resources, IT, and marketing and sales. Godolphin hosts over 4,000 clients and visitors annually to our stud farms at Kelvinside and Woodlands.

During the Southern Hemisphere breeding season the value of bloodstock under Godolphin's stewardship is in the order of \$275 million, with in excess of \$200 million located in the Hunter Valley.

The Kelvinside property has a rich and continuous pastoral history since the 1800's. It was carved from the Segenhoe Estate in the late 1800's by John King Fleming who named it Kelvinside after a property in Scotland. The Kelvinside homestead was built in 1898, is one of the iconic historic homesteads of the district and is a classic example of Australian colonial architecture, complete with etched glass panels of waratahs, kookaburras and lyrebirds. The building is set on high ground with views of the Hunter and Pages rivers from the upstairs balcony.

Mount Pleasant Modification

The proposed Mount Pleasant mine was given consent in 1999. To this day no mining has taken place on that site. The previous owners, Rio Tinto, did not proceed with any of their mining plans and sold the site to MACH Energy in 2016.

In our view, the Mount Pleasant proposal and its underpinning environmental assessments (completed in 1997/98) are so outdated that this application should be rejected and a new application and full environmental assessment is warranted. The current Assessment only deals with the proposed amendments, and no assessment of the full impacts of the proposed mining and associated activity has been made for some 20 years.

The serious risks and cumulative impacts this proposal presents to nearby studs, the Hunter's equine critical cluster, the local community and to the

environment, heritage and landscape of the region should be assessed in light of today's environmental and socio-economic standards, attitudes and Government policies.

It is inconceivable that a mine consent issued nearly 2 decades ago, and with little relevance to today's environment, and no assessment of the current impacts, should be allowed to proceed without a fresh application and fulsome environmental assessment.

The need to assess the impacts to rural industries, critical industry clusters towns and community afresh is particularly highlighted in this case given:

- the proposed Mount Pleasant mine is intended to be located in close proximity the townships of Muswellbrook and Aberdeen (the latter being the gateway to many stud farms and broodmare farms in the Upper Hunter including the Segenhoe Valley) and rural residences than that originally suggested in 1997/98;
- the serious risks and impacts the proposal presents to the Hunter's water systems;
- the air and noise quality currently in the Upper Hunter and MACH's admission to air quality and noise/blasting exceedences – which for our operations is unacceptable;
- the visual and reputational impacts presented by this proposal for our world class operations at Kelvinside and the impact on our integrated operations in the Hunter;
- irreversible risks relating to aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural heritage, the region's landscape and visual amenity;
- the cumulative impacts this proposal presents, in terms of cumulative mining, environmental, heritage and social impacts; and
- the lack of current socio-economic analysis which allows for the public interest to be assessed in line with today's best practice environmental and social development standards.

In fairness to the community and residents of the Upper Hunter, to fairly protect our rights and ensure ecological sustainable development, we submit that the Mount Pleasant proposal should be rejected and a new application should be submitted and supported by a new full and up to date environmental impact statement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Henry Plumptre', with a stylized, flowing script.

Henry Plumptre
Managing Director