

Scott Doran
9 Redbank Drive
Scone, NSW. 2337

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The Director General
The Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Support for the Drayton South Coal Project - SSD 6875

Introduction

My name is Scott Doran, and I support Angloamerican's application for the Drayton South Project (SSD6875). I am an employee of AngloAmerican working at the Drayton Mine since 2011. My family and I chose to move to the Hunter Valley for the lifestyle provided by the diverse local economy in the Upper Hunter region. I don't have any political affiliations, nor have made any donation to a political party.

Reason for supporting the Project

Employment and Local Economy

Drayton for the past 30 years has been part of the community of the Upper Hunter. It has provided employment for people who live in the area, as well as commencing careers for young people through apprenticeships and traineeships as they grow up in the valley. To not approve Drayton South is a decision to force 500 people to loose their jobs. This is opposite to the equine industry that has a choice to walk away from their investment in the Hunter or develop it further while coexisting with other industry if Drayton South is approved.

If Drayton South does not proceed a majority of its workforce, and contractors that service Drayton, will have to look at relocating out of the Hunter to seek employment elsewhere. Include the immediate family members who move with them, potentially the Upper Hunter will have an immediate reduction in excess of 2000 people, who will no longer be spending money in the area, or participating in sporting and community groups. Local small business in Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton, and Denman will be impacted with this loss of revenue. Government and business will reduce services as the population requiring the services decreases. Lifestyle for those remaining in the area would feel a reduced quality of life, and have to travel further for goods and services.

Business in the Upper Hunter has already taken a major blow with job losses and population reduction due to the decline in the global price of coal. Why any government would make a decision to increase unemployment by deciding on something they have full control of, is not understood by the community. The people

I talk to, see Drayton as an essential member of the community contributing to economics of the Hunter Valley. Drayton Mine will directly inject \$140 million annually into the area through community sponsorship, wages, engaging contractors and procuring services. A good percentage of this money brought into the area will circulate locally maintaining other employment in the area.

Personally I have invested in the community. My partner and I have bought a home in Scone. While living there we have improved it using local business. When we shop we buy locally. Having lived in remote towns that have lost business, and services we appreciate local business in the upper hunter. We also appreciate the tourism industry in the valley, and use this frequently.

Buffer zone

In the last submission Drayton South had retracted back behind two ridgelines from the Golden Highway, deleting the Houston Pit which could be seen directly from the highway and the front of Coolmore. The last submission was knocked back due to insufficient buffer zone. This submission has reduced the footprint in line with the recommendation of the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) recommendation (10 December 2013), and in turn increased the buffer zone to 2 km. This will aid maintaining the clean green image referred to in the October 2014 determination, as you drive along the Golden Highway.

Coolmore has an airstrip adjacent to the highway, and nearby horse paddocks. Both Coolmore and Darley have their main complexes located on the back of their property adjacent to the Hunter River. This inherently adds further distance to the buffer between the mines, and the operational areas of the horse studs. Any horses residing in the paddocks adjacent to the Golden Highway would be conditioned to the occasional aircraft landing at Coolmore, and the Golden Highway noise. Trucks using the Golden Highway would be using exhaust brakes as they descend the hill from Hollydene towards Jerry's Plains. Livestock and people living in the area near the highway would hear this frequent noise.

Issues raised by local and Sydney Media, about flying over coal mines will not go away, by not approving Drayton South. Existing mines will remain to operate, and rehabilitation of those mines will continue as directed under their respective environmental approvals. Drayton South will have to comply with its EIS, and any approval conditions.

Dust

Drayton currently shuts down equipment when extreme wind conditions are not favourable to maintaining approved dust levels. When water carts are unavailable, parts of the operation stop. All personal on site know the importance of minimising dust and act accordingly. Any dust generated does not cover wide areas like smoke.

Living in Scone and travelling down the New England Highway, I frequently see smoke from agricultural burn offs impacting air quality in the valley which is more wide spread than mining activity dust. An example was on 26 May 2015, when a farm just south of Scone was burning off. The wind and air conditions were such that the smoke stayed low, and was blown into Scone. I have two asthmatics that were affected and needed to stay indoors. On the same day I travelled to Newcastle, and the smoke haze looking from McDougall's hill south to Cessnock was wide spread.

Dust from Drayton South would have to be regulated as per the EIS and approval conditions. Smoke from uncontrolled burns, and bush fires I consider as a greater risk to equine and human health.

My fellow workmates and I are conscious of our impact on the environment. When we have noisy equipment on site it is shut down and corrected before it becomes a problem. We see blasts delayed to suit conditions, and hours of operation, even if production is impacted. We all know that we have a responsibility to mine in a way that our neighbours are not affected, so we can exist beside each other, and we maintain our licence to operate.

Equine Health

Drayton has cattle and horses grazing on rehabilitated land adjacent to mining operations. Dartbrook has also recently commenced running cattle on an old tailings storage facility. At Drayton they are within a few hundred metres of operating equipment, with direct line of site of shots, and Macquarie Generation tailings dam. I am not aware of any impact to their health. In fact I believe there has been birth of foals and calves.

Reading the first PAC report there is this concern about fright and flight. Lightning in the area of Drayton South is an uncontrollable risk. Speaking with horse owners I understand that when a horse takes to flight in a storm they suffer injury from running into fences. Blasts are a manmade controlled event. Communication between mines and their neighbours allow controls to be in place to prevent stock on property to be frightened. Horses on Drayton land simply look up and listen when a shot is fired. This analysis should be considered as evidence, that a mine that is now 2km away, will not create a negative response by the thoroughbred horses. When horses are transported to, and stabled in a busy and noisy environment at the race track, they don't appear to have any impact on their ability to run and win races.

From reading I have done on common horse health issues such as Colic, Heaves, Laminitis, Hoof problems, parasites, and tying up are all determined by how the horse is looked after (<http://www.petuniversity.com/horses/common-horse-health-problems.htm>). None of these are listed as being caused by airborne PM10 dust particles. Heaves is the main dust related disease caused by dust and mold in a horses stable. It is cited as an allergic reaction similar to asthmatics. Having

asthmatics in my family I see changes in weather, and smoke being the biggest risk to their condition.

Conclusion

Drayton South should be approved as it was recommended by the Department of Planning in the last submission, and there has been further concessions given in this submission. The foot print of the mine in this latest submission now complies with the recommendation of the first Planning Assessment Commission recommendation. Technical, environmental, and community requirements are allowed for in the Drayton South EIS, which will allow the mine to operate and co-exist with it's neighbours.

Without Drayton South the economy, and the standard of living in the community will reduce as will population, business, sporting clubs, and government services. With Drayton South the Upper Hunter community will be able to continue growing from the benefits of having a diversified industry base built on all businesses coexisting together.

Scott Doran.