

Kylie Woodham
PO Box 378
Scone NSW 2328

June 15 2015

The Secretary
The Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Objection to Drayton South Coal Project Application Number: SSD 6875

I am writing as a concerned business owner to object to the last application by Anglo American for the Drayton South open cut coal mine project.

Having been born and raised in Australia and worked overseas for a period, my family and I moved to Jerrys Plains six years ago from Ireland. I currently have my own advertising business which I operate from Jerrys Plains, Denman and Scone. My husband and I live in Jerrys Plains along with our four children aged 13, 11, 9 and 7. Our children attend a local school and we are members of and on committees of the local Pony Club, rugby club and musical societies.

My reasons for objecting to this proposal are twofold – as a business owner and as a mother.

My business – evolve advertising – currently supports myself and family, two designers and indirectly supports local businesses. I rely heavily on the business of local horse studs as my primary form of income and each year when the Scone Cup Carnival (the largest country race meeting in Australia) is held, I manage the media and advertising for the Scone Race Club.

Due to the specific nature of my business and level of expertise in this area, I am extremely concerned as to the future of the two horse studs in question who are threatened by Drayton South and the entire industry as a whole. My business is very specific in relation to horse racing and breeding and the opportunity for my business to thrive is only possible due to the availability of these studs.

As an Australian, and a keen racing and breeding enthusiast, growing up in Central West New South Wales, the Hunter Valley was understandably recognised as the “epicentre” of the thoroughbred world. After travelling the world visiting other centres where breeding and racing is considered integral to the national economy (including Newmarket UK, Kentucky USA, Hokkaido Japan, Germany, Kildare and Tipperary Ireland and the Waikato in New Zealand) for 11 years, my husband and I finally decided to settle and live in Jerrys Plains.

As a mother, I am extremely concerned for the welfare of our children’s ongoing health. The cumulative effects on their growing bodies are of concern and possibly unquantifiable until they are older. We take precautionary measures already in our home such as not using the tank water for drinking purposes (due to the large amounts of coal dust we already collect on our roof). We don’t allow the children to play outside on particularly windy days as the dust and particle matter is visible even to the naked eye.

As an observer, I am deeply concerned that the economic benefit it is alleged we would be gaining in the short term of the approval of this mine is seriously jeopardising the longevity of industries which

have existed in the valley for over 150 years. Once prime agricultural land area has been sterilised (and this is what we have witnessed first hand after visiting the Hunter Valley 30 years ago to how it is today), it can never ever be reclaimed and regain the original profile of the soil structure. Please register my objection to this proposal and consider my objections when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South open cut coal Proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie Woodham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kylie Woodham,
B.Bus (Agricultural Commerce) Sydney Uni.
Owner, evolve advertising