

Stud Office

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is our organizations' belief that the continuity and growth of the Thoroughbred Industry within several kilometres of the Drayton South proposal will be severely disrupted and therefore we object to its approval.

For the purpose of submitting our objections to the Drayton South proposal I will be representing Cressfield, which is a thoroughbred breeding enterprise 11 kms north of Scone along the New England Hwy. I am the General Manager of this property and have held this position for over 14 years.

This property is a multi-million dollar operation that relies directly on the Coolmore and Darley operations for its livelihood. The Cressfield property also supports 20 full and part-time staff, several of whom live on-farm with their families.

Cressfield believes that the relocation within NSW, or worse yet interstate, of these two major Thoroughbred breeding organisations would have catastrophic repercussions upon what is one of three internationally recognised regions of thoroughbred excellence. Locational, environmental and aesthetic factors dictate their paramount position and inter-connectivity with the rest of the Hunter Breeders.

The best Thoroughbred breeding happens in valleys that have gently undulating slopes consisting of calcium rich soils to help promote good bone growth, valley walls for protection from the elements and the valley floor for its fertile flats and watercourses. The Hunter Valley consists of a connected series of these particular valleys and therefore is the home to more than a hundred thoroughbred farms, not to mention thousands of other types of horse properties. That so many elite stud farms can be within an hour and a half of each other is the very reason that the Hunter Valley has become the thoroughbred breeding epicenter of Australia.

Should even one of the breeding industries major players relocate, let alone several, it would decimate what has become a "critical mass" of thoroughbred breeding operations

in the Hunter Valley by causing a “domino effect” of relocating or disbanding farms within the region.

My industry is a massive financial contributor to the local, state and federal budgets with a long, solid history and a bright, sustainable future. We tick all of the “triple bottom line” means test requirements and yet our governors in the past have shown very little regard for our worth in their treatment of us through policy and planning legislation. Fortunately, in the Bickham Coal Company determination, the PAC that presided over that particular development found that, “open-cut mining and a viable international-scale thoroughbred breeding enterprise are incompatible land uses” and so Cressfield, who are several kilometres south of this proposal, remains operating to this day.

Naturally, if our industries size is reduced markedly then subsidiary industries such as veterinary services, farriers, feed merchants, float companies, saddlers’, horse breakers and many more will suffer and in many cases will also need to relocate. It is not co-incidental that the Upper Hunter boasts the largest veterinary clinic in the southern hemisphere, nor is it co-incidental that they have put expansion plans on hold and have started to purchase interstate practices while they watch with concern the thoroughbred industries direction with regard to the resource sector growth in our region.

Cressfield asks of you, “Is our sustainable and enduring industry to be overlooked for the relatively short term gain of a very finite resource, in a situation where we prize the extraordinary environment that gives us our living and the resource sectors environmental legacy is questionable at best”?

We hope that the final PAC determination is analogous to those that have already been made with respect to this development proposal and that this proposal does not receive approval.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wayne C. Bedggood', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wayne C. Bedggood

General Manager, Cressfield