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June 12th 2015

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

Via E-mail: matthew.sprott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mrs McNally,

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

As a resident and employee at Coolmore Stud, I am writing to object to Anglo Americans second application to establish a new open cut coal mine at Drayton South. This is a proposed mine that has already been considered by two independent sittings of the Planning Commission and rejected on both occasions. That Anglo American are re-submitting a new proposal with mild amendments (which they had implied were unviable in their original proposal) could almost be considered an abuse of process. There is certainly a distinct lack of consistency between their statements in support of their initial proposal and those in support of this subsequent one.

I have been resident on the property occupied by Coolmore for nearly 7 years and consider it a privilege to be associated with a company that is a world-leader in the bloodstock industry. I work with a number of people who are experts in their chosen fields on a farm which is not only exceptional in it's natural make-up, but has been consistently enhanced by the owners to as to maintain it's status as a world-class thoroughbred breeding operation. I recently became engaged to be married and it is the intention of my future wife and I to live on this property and start a family here.

The management of land is fundamental to the continued development of any rural community. The Hunter Valley is no different. It is most disappointing to see the threats posed by coal mining to sustainable, long-term, viable industries such as agriculture, viticulture and tourism in the Hunter Valley. For instance, the land at Coolmore has been a proven source of thoroughbred champions for over a century. There is a large team of people here committed to serving a buoyant, progressive and sustainable thoroughbred industry on a facility that has been nurtured, developed and managed to become what is considered to be one of the finest farming properties in the country, if not the world. The proposed new mine at Drayton South would serve to compromise much that allows Coolmore (and Darley) to be as successful as they are – What about the air pollution, the noise, the risk to the water table? It has to be asked, is this mine really in the best interests of the continued development of the community of the Upper Hunter Valley? Why compromise existing, viable businesses such as Coolmore and Darley, along with the livelihoods of thousands of people whose business in

return relies on these international operations? It certainly doesn't make sense to me that preference would be shown for a mine with no scope to make a valid long-term contribution to the development of the Upper Hunter Valley community. I am not anti-mining, not are the majority of people that I have met who are opposed to this project. My concerns lie in the fact that business and operations such as Coolmore and Darley (and on a wider scale, industries such as agriculture, viticulture and tourism) are being jeopardised to facilitate a poorly considered mine in the interest of a short-term financial gain. It is most worrying.

I respectfully ask that you register my objection to this proposal and seriously consider my objections when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South open cut proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sebastian Hutch