

I am Warwick Cox (7th generation of the Cox family) and have lived in this region all my life and am a Drayton Coal employee. I along with the communities around Muswellbrook and Singleton would like to see the Drayton Coal project get the go ahead.

Mining is an industry that has existed within the Hunter Region for over 100 years. Throughout these 100 years, the Cox family has grown with the mines. I myself have been involved in the mining industry for about 25 years and I also own a small grazing property of about 150 acres. William Cox 3rd was first Cox to arrive in the Muswellbrook region in 1833 and he was granted land just North West of where Muswellbrook lies today and before Muswellbrook was gazetted as a township.

The mining industry has existed in the Muswellbrook region for over 100 years and in this time has co-existed with the horse industry, for example the 'pit ponies' that were used in the underground workings. Along with the horse industry, mining has co-existed with the dairying industry, cattle grazing as well as the thoroughbred industry and wine industry. This is evident along Denman road, roughly about four or five kilometres from Muswellbrook where BHP/Billiton's Mt Arthur mine and the Endinglassie Thoroughbred stud lie. These industries are roughly 150 metres apart and are divided by Denman Road. Endinglassie Stud has bred many Group 'A' thoroughbreds and have been purchased by such people as Gai Waterhouse, Chris Waller and David Hayes. Drayton South was first exploratory drilled for its reserves in the early 1940s.

The community of Muswellbrook has suffered from the downturn of the mining boom. If Drayton South is approved it would secure employment for roughly 500 families and local businesses. This would be a positive outcome for the township of Muswellbrook as it has lost families and businesses to the lack of employment in the region. Although the coal prices have lowered and the Australian dollar is fluctuating, Anglo American is still fighting for the Drayton South Project. This should be seen as a positive sign for the region as the company is passionate about the local area and the families involved with the corporation. Drayton Coal has been part of the community for over 30 years. Throughout this time Drayton has supported local families, sponsored sporting teams, supported local events, supported local businesses and organisations. Thus, if the Drayton South project achieves approval, this local support will be continuous.

The local communities benefit from the mines as it provides numerous occupations, employees do not only operate the machinery but also obtain trades through the mining industry such as heavy/light vehicle mechanics, boilermaker and electricians. The Australian and NSW governments also benefit from the mining industry through taxes and royalties. After reading an article in The Financial Review by Matthew Stevens dated the 5th Nov 2014. Titled "Are We Done Horsing Around" It seems these horse studs are just a tax haven for wealthy overseas owners.

Some facts about Drayton South are:

- Fact 1: The annual taxes and royalties paid by Anglo American Drayton South paid each year will be in excess of \$60 million. Coolmore and Darley pay \$0.
- Fact 2: Local business and the annual wage bill will be paid in excess of \$140 million.

- Fact 3: 500 people will be directly affected (in a positive way) by the approval of the Drayton South Project.
- Fact 4: The Drayton South Project has been reduced by 25%, which means the royalties lost by the reduced plan will be in excess of \$360million.
- Fact 5: The revenue lost by the original mine plan would be an excess of \$7000million.
- Fact 6: Coolmore Stud was going to relocate if the BHP/Billiton's Mt Arthur project went ahead.

In expressing my opinion towards the Drayton South Project, the main question I want to ask is, if the Coal & Allied Mt Thorley/Warkworth mine gets approval for the extension and move closer to the Township of Bulga, why would the whole community be forced to relocate? Why would a local town potentially relocate when a thoroughbred horse stud has all rights to stay where it is? Hopefully you can see where the deceived power lies between the two parties.