

The Planner
The Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Sprott

RE: Objection to Drayton South Coal Project Application Number: SSD6875

We are writing to you to object to the application by Anglo American for the Drayton South Coal Mine.

We have a long association with the Hunter Valley and are extremely concerned with the changes we have seen over the past 5 years and most of all with the proposal of the Drayton South Open Cut Coal Mine.

My husband was born and raised in Singleton on a lucerne farming property and we have lived and worked in the Hunter Valley for 20 years collectively. We currently live at Darley Woodlands and work at both Woodlands and Kelvinside (Aberdeen), therefore travel to work on Edderton Road on a daily basis. Already I see the visual impacts of mines on my way to work and that would increase if this mine is to go ahead, not to mention the changes and disruptions that will happen to the road itself. This also has an impact on clients and visitors/tourists to the area as they see mines springing up on their travels to our region.

We feel that the community living on the farm at Woodlands (approx. 70 people) will be greatly impacted by this open cut mine proposed so closely to where we live and work. These impacts will be physical, visual and mental. Again, this is not only an issue for us but also tourists and clients that visit Woodlands and surrounding areas. It is also a possibility that if the mine goes ahead the entire operation may have to move and that not only impacts the community of Woodlands but the entire thoroughbred industry in the Hunter Valley and associated businesses.

We feel that the mine is not in the public interest, not only in regard to the impacts it will have on the thoroughbred and wine industries, tourism and the environment but also in regard to the future for the Hunter Valley. Fossil fuels as a source of global energy are on the way out and we need to have a plan in place to set our communities up for the future. It is not wise to bank on the longevity of coal as we can already see with current redundancy rates in the mining industry that this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Coal is no longer a given as a source of economic income and it would make a lot of sense for the government and community of the Hunter Valley to focus on training and education in other areas so we are not left with an even bigger unemployment problem in the future. Planning to stop the problem makes a lot more sense than fixing it once it has already occurred. This includes not putting at risk long term sustainable industries such as the horse breeding, wine and tourism industries amongst others. These industries should be nurtured and encouraged and other sustainable industries need to be found/grown and implemented before coal mining reduces further.

We ask that you register our objection to this proposal and seriously consider the reasoning behind it when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South Open Cut Proposal.

Thank you.

