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19th June, 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 member of the community to object to the second application by Anglo American for the Drayton South open coal mine project.

As a resident of Bulga I am increasingly concerned at the proliferation of coal-mining operations in the area and the adverse effect this is having on resident's health and amenity

Health costs in the area are spiralling out of control and must outweigh the "economic value" (ethically and morally) of coal operations. Healthcare costs are met from the same State coffers that receive any royalties.

**Table 1. The local health costs of coal in the Hunter Valley**

Source of health damage	Value of health costs
Externalised health costs associated with pollution from five coal fired electricity generators in the Hunter Valley	\$600 million per annum
Health costs among people living in Singleton associated with fine particle pollution (PM2.5) from coal sources (coal mines and coal fired power stations) in Singleton	\$47 million per annum
Health costs among people living in Muswellbrook associated with fine particle pollution (PM2.5) from coal sources (coal mines and coal fired power stations) in Muswellbrook	\$18.3 million per annum
Health costs among people living in Newcastle associated with air pollution (PM10) from coal sources in Newcastle	\$13 million per annum

**Table 2. Social costs of carbon associated with Hunter Valley coal**

Estimates of the social costs of carbon (SCC)	Current production volume of Hunter Valley coal	Social cost of carbon associated with Hunter Valley coal
\$37-190/tonne CO <sub>2</sub> e	145 million tonnes per annum	\$16-66 billion per annum

Horse Breeding is an important and **prestigious** contributor to the Hunter economy and to the reputation of Australia. As stated by DPI;

## Equine highlights

The Upper Hunter is an internationally acclaimed and mature thoroughbred breeding region and is one of three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence. The region is ranked second only to Kentucky, USA in terms of the concentration of thoroughbred stud properties, the quality and number of bloodlines (Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association HTBA, 2012).

This is a world-class industry that **cannot** “co-exist” with mining. Pregnant mares carrying foals of potentially huge value cannot be exposed to the noise stress and the danger to health from coal-dust.

This industry employs almost 3,000 people. It has a long history and will have an indefinite future if protected.

It is an industry that will have to move if this short-sighted project is allowed to expand. Such a move risks both financial and reputational losses for NSW and Australia.

- Mining contributes less than 2% to the State’s revenue
- 1% of NSW employees are engaged in mining.
- Mining gains are extremely short-lived, particularly as the world rapidly transitions to cleaner forms of energy.

The Renewables (REN21) 2015 Global Status Report has found more than a quarter (27.8%) of the world’s generating capacity now comes from renewables!

NSW cannot afford to risk a renowned and respected industry just to extract more of a commodity that is declining in price and popularity

This mine may well make “undertakings” to minimise the effect, but as a resident of an area where broken promises from the mining industry and Government are legion I would urge this PAC apply the “precautionary principle” in discounting the worth of any such commitments.

- The project has not demonstrated that it will not adversely impact on equine health and the operations of the Coolmore and Darley horse studs.
- The health of thoroughbred horses cannot be compromised in an experimental approach of monitoring the response to the mine’s operation. This is not acceptable because once the damage to the animals and thus the operations of the studs occurs, it is irreversible.
- As is the reputation of the NSW equine industry and the reputation of Australia as a country that would allow such a risk to occur.
- The economic benefits of the project do not outweigh the risk of losing Coolmore and Darley studs and the potential demise of the equine industry in the area
- Impacts on the viticulture tourism will also be felt. We cannot continue to allow

the once-beautiful Hunter Valley to be further despoiled by mining scarification.

- The project is not in the public interest.

This expansion has been put forward on two previous occasions where the PACs have rightfully rejected the benefit vs risk to this industry and this vital tourism area.

**Grounds for Previous rejections/refusals:**

**PAC Review Report 2013: The PAC recommended:**

- The Coolmore and (Darley) Woodlands horse studs should be recognised as essential to the broader Equine Critical Industry Cluster and given the highest level of protection from the impacts of mining.
- The mine plan for the site should not be approved.

**PAC Determination Report 2014: PAC Refused the Project:**

- The project does not provide sufficient buffer to protect Coolmore and Darley from the impacts of mining as recommended in the PAC Review Report and the Gateway Panel Report.

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Yours faithfully,

J Leslie