

19th June 2015

The Director General
The Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Objection to the Anglo American Drayton South Open Cut Mine Proposal

I am writing as a concerned landholder, business owner and resident of the Upper Hunter to object to the Drayton South open coal mine project.

My reasons for objecting to this proposal are as follows:

1. **Impacts on the Wine Industry** - The proposed mine will directly impact one of the Upper Hunter's key vineyards, Hollydene and the knock on effect will damage the reputation of the Upper Hunter Wine Industry as a whole. The wine and tourism industries need a critical mass to survive and the removal of some of our more prominent vineyards impacts on the viability of the industry and the credibility of this area as a serious wine region. There are numerous tourism development proposals that are constrained by current levels of uncertainty created by existing and proposed mining developments. The proposed mine will have a serious impact on the future viability of our industry, which has been already seriously impacted by the rapid expansion of the mining industry in recent years.
2. **Cumulative Impacts** - The Upper Hunter is already a very large coal producer with a high concentration of coal mines in the area. We do not believe that the cumulative impacts of mining in the Upper Hunter have been fully considered. This mine proposal will further impact on the areas dust and noise pollution, leading to further deterioration of the local environment. These impacts will also affect the health and wellbeing of the local communities. The agricultural impact assessment does not adequately address the impacts on neighboring farms or land uses within the area.
3. **Loss of Diversity** - This development will result in the significant loss of agricultural land and a reduction in the agricultural diversity of the area. Our region boasts some of the world's best thoroughbred studs, wineries and a vibrant agricultural sector which enjoys secure access to irrigation water and some of the most fertile land in the country. All of these industries contribute to the prosperity of our community and if the dominance of mining in this area is not brought into some sort of balance, we risk losing these industries to this area for ever.
4. **Critical Industry Clusters** - This proposed mine is within the Critical Industry Cluster area for the viticulture and thoroughbred industries as defined in the Upper Hunter Strategic Land Use Plan. If this mine is allowed to proceed it will undermine this document and make a mockery of the entire land use planning process.
5. **Impacts on the Thoroughbred Industry** – This mine will have a dramatic effect on one of the Hunter Valley's most iconic and important industries. The Hunter Valley is one of three centers of excellence for thoroughbred breeding in the world and is home to two of the largest thoroughbred

studs in the southern hemisphere; Coolmore and Darley. It is unthinkable that the future of these operations could be put at risk.

6. **Air Quality impact** – As landholders and citizens we are seriously concerned about the impact of dust from this mine to neighboring properties and the overall health and air quality of our region. The cumulative air quality impacts have not been adequately addressed.
7. **Visual impact** - The Drayton South mine is located at the gateway to the Upper Hunter wine region and directly opposite an existing vineyard/winery operation (Hollydene Vineyard) where significant further tourism investment is planned and being undertaken. As much as the mining industry would like to believe that mining and wine tourism can co-exist, that is certainly not the view of the wine tourism industry.
8. **Water Resources** - The Hunter River is the lifeblood of the Viticulture industry in the Upper Hunter. Any industry that threatens or pollutes and damages this supply of water will threaten the future viability and reputation of the industry. We are not confident that appropriate attention has been paid to this aspect in the environmental assessment.

I respectfully ask that you register our objection to this proposal and give serious consideration to the above points when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South open cut coal Proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Brett and Linda Keeping