

The Hunted Gourmet
148 Kelly Street
Scone
NSW 2337
meryanmc@bigpond.net.au

The Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

June 17th 2015

Objection to the Drayton South Coal Mine

Dear Ms McNally,

I am writing, once again, to record my strong objection to the Drayton South Coal Project Development Application lodged by Anglo American. I have previously submitted an objection to the original proposal and spoke at the first PAC hearings (into the potential effects on Darley and Coolmore) held in Denman.

I am the owner and operator of The Hunted Gourmet, a Scone based catering business. We have provided catering services in the Upper Hunter for 27 years. Much of my business comes from the Thoroughbred Breeders of the region, many of whom I have served on a long-term basis. We are proud to have long associations with both Coolmore Stud, for whom we provide all client and corporate catering in both Jerry's Plains and at the Sydney yearling sales, and Darley Stud, for whom we operate staff canteens at both their Woodlands and Kelvinside studs and whose Hunter Valley client and corporate catering we have provided since Darley began operations in NSW at Collingrove in 2001.

I employ 5 full time staff, around 10 part time staff and up to 80 casuals for larger jobs - such as the studs' annual Open Days and Stallion Parades and the Scone Race Club for whom I have catered the 1000 guest Emirates Marquee at the Scone Cup for more than ten years. Other clients include Vinery Stud, Segenhoe Stud, Yarraman Park Stud, and the Scone Vet Hospital. I therefore consider the wider health and sustainability of what has been designated by the NSW State Government as the 'Equine Critical Industry Cluster' integral and essential to the ongoing viability of my own business.

I came to the upper Hunter Valley nearly 35 years ago from Victoria to work at Segenhoe Stud and then ran with my first husband his family's Alabama Stud. I now live with my second husband, a former General Manager of Vinery Stud, and our daughter close to Darley Stud's Kelvinside property near Aberdeen where we currently keep 3 mares. Though I'm a caterer, horses and the breeding industry have been - and remain - a large part of my life.

Proximity of the proposal to Coolmore and Darley

It is my view that even contained behind the second ridge-line, this mine is still too close to the two stud farms Coolmore and Darley and cannot be allowed to proceed for that reason. I note that the EIS repeatedly claims that the distance between the project and the studs has doubled and that there is now a sufficient 2 kilometre buffer. This sound-bite argument might work 'down the pub' but doesn't bear close inspection and is only able to be claimed by the underhand and misleading use of the words "horse stud *operational areas*". The truth is that there are paddocks, crushes and laneways well inside the "buffer" Anglo is claiming. Further, anywhere a horse can go on a stud

farm is an “operational area”. There are also staff houses and accommodation inside the “buffer”, accommodation that is actually inhabited as opposed to the uninhabited Strowan Homestead which is detailed [with measured distances] in the EIS.

Project Economics

No doubt the economics of the proposal will be challenged by economists more qualified in their field than me, however I was astonished to read the assertion contained within the Economic Assessment that “*historic or current coal prices are not relevant*”! The historic price of coal may be less relevant than the current price, although tracking the changes of price is certainly useful to identify both the trend in price, which is overwhelmingly downwards and the band widths of that trend. Although the proponent has provided a less unrealistic assumed price [US\$72 per tonne in 2016 and US\$82T in 2017, as opposed to the last proposal’s A\$107T in 2015 which was ‘ramping up’ to A\$120T in 2022] those prices are still at the top end of the trend’s band width and well above the current Newcastle Thermal Spot price of \$64.99 [May 2015].

The EIS also states, “*The Project will facilitate the recovery of a valuable, export steaming coal resource. Thermal coal remains a highly sought after energy source in Asian countries, including Japan, China and India. These countries continue to be the world’s largest coal importers, and will largely account for an estimated 70% growth in total coal imports from 2009 to 2035 (U.S. EIA, 2011). This increasing demand supports the need for the Project and justifies further investment in the industry*”. It is fanciful to quote and rely on such an out of date report, indeed the inclusion of India in particular and to a lesser extent China could be construed as misleading. There is no increase in Chinese demand, imports had been flat lining and are now slackening. Numerous articles published at the time Anglo’s latest EIS was being written back this up:-

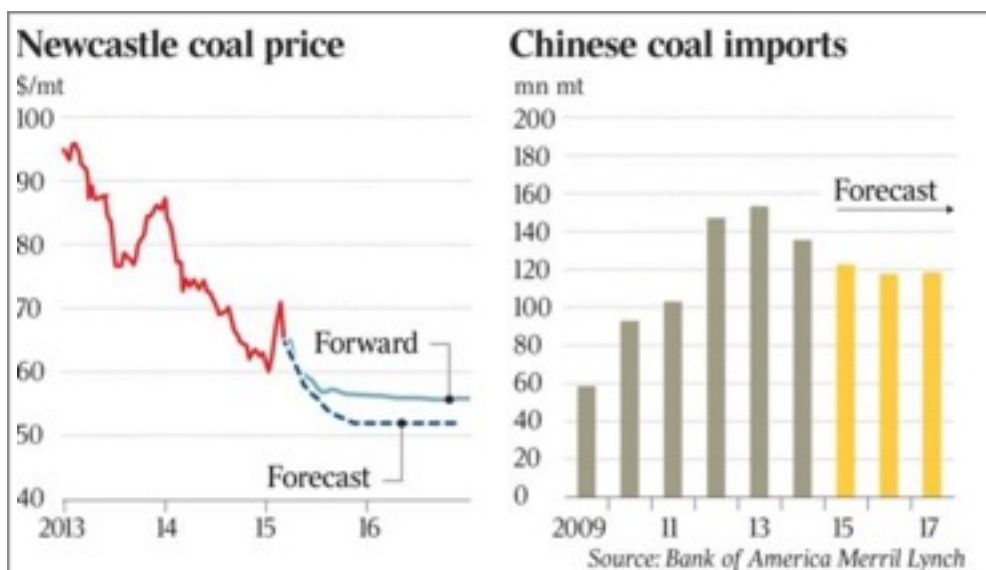
‘China to cut coal consumption’ - www.miningaustralia.com.au March 9 2015

‘New coal mines have Buckley’s chance as China cuts consumption’ - www.abc.net.au 24/4/2015

‘China’s thermal coal imports overstay their welcome’ - Platts ‘The Barrel’ April 24 2015

‘Coal price forecasts slashed as China cuts imports’ - The Australian March 23 2015.

Indian demand for thermal coal will not only decline, but may cease altogether within 2 years if Coal and Energy Minister Piyush Goyal’s ambitious plans come to fruition. It was announced in November that Goyal had asked Coal India to double annual production of India’s own thermal coal reserves to 1 billion tonnes with a mind to ceasing thermal coal imports within 2 to 3 years. A Reuters report of November 13th 2014 noted - “*Declining shipments to India would drag on global coal markets grappling with oversupply as top consumer and importer China tries to shift towards cleaner fuels*”. As recently as May 15th Goyal was quoted in India’s Economic Times as saying “*We will see a declining trend in the imports of thermal coking coal. It will stop after two years*”.



Indeed the potentially precarious position that this country’s thermal coal export business is in and the wider implication for Australia and its economy was explored in depth by the ABC’s Four

Corners programme titled "*The End of Coal?*" which went to air this past Monday, June 15th 2015. The Drayton South project was specifically mentioned and its Project Manager Rick Fairhurst interviewed. It is not just the NSW Minerals Council's so called "*plague of greenies*" and '*anti-mining activists*' who are questioning the future of thermal coal, it is the mainstream investor and banking sector.

All of this feeds in to the larger question as to whether this new proposal is indeed economically viable. Anglo have previously argued vigorously that the Redbank pit was "fundamental" to the economic viability of the mine as a whole and that without Redbank, the project was "uneconomic" and "unviable". Now, even with a lower coal price compounded by a lower Australian Dollar, they are saying the exact opposite. Which Anglo American are we to believe?

Anglo say the new proposal will produce around 8.5% less coal annually compared to the former proposal, that they will receive less money for that coal, that the coal will still be mined by the same sized 500 person workforce using the same methods and equipment and that they will forego mining areas previously stated to be fundamental to the economic viability of the project. That doesn't add up.

Land Use Timeline

I viewed the *Land Use Timeline* that the proponent produced in the Executive Summary of their EIS as so thoroughly inaccurate and misleading via omission that I produced my own version. Dating back to their submission to the draft SRLUP, Anglo American have consistently misrepresented the long and remarkable history of thoroughbred breeding on the two studs. The list of legendary 'patrons of the turf' connected with the two farms is in itself highly impressive, including as it does the likes of George Ryder, creator of the Golden Slipper race and the first to syndicate a stallion in Australia, the 'pioneering' Moses brothers and more recently the 'iconic' Ingham brothers as well as the entrepreneurial and ground breaking John Messara. However, the list of notable persons is dwarfed by comparison to the near endless list of legendary horses connected to these two farms. Anglo's ignoring of the studs' histories is further compounded by their claiming both that mining pre-dates horse breeding in the immediate area which is patently untrue, and that Coolmore should have known better than to buy next to a coal mine, which didn't happen.

Anglo ignores the fact that when Coolmore bought the property in 1991, the approved Mount Arthur South project was already dead, having effectively been shelved by the NSW State Government which had been unsuccessfully trying to offload its 50% stake since December 1989. By the time Coolmore took over the management of the property in 1996, the development consent and mining lease for Mount Arthur South had lapsed years earlier, because of "proponent inactivity".

Coolmore was well established by the time Shell Coal, then owners and operators of the Drayton mine (which operation was 8 kilometres or more away from Coolmore) bought the old Mount Arthur South site in 1998. Anglo American themselves only purchased Shell Coal's NSW assets on May 31st 2000, assets which included both Drayton and the 'Saddlers Creek' tenement as it was then known [nb that purchase date makes a mockery of the claim in Anglo American's press release of June 5th 2015 that the company "has invested in the Hunter Valley for over 30 years"].

With the benefit of hindsight one could ask if Anglo American were aware they were buying a project next to the then two biggest thoroughbred breeding operations in the southern hemisphere? No doubt they were, no doubt they didn't consider this to be a factor. Back then, pre-Bickham, mining companies could do what they liked, go where they wanted and if anyone got in the way, like Bob Oatley, the mining friendly Government would change the law. Not too dissimilar to nowadays. The post-Bickham difference is that the Equine Industry has been galvanised into fighting to protect their patch and to ensure that they too have a future, and they, and others, are now scrutinising the mining companies and their proposals more closely. Darley clearly bought after Anglo American and after the granting of EL 5460 in 1998, but as the Hunter Valley is covered by ELs and PELs, many of which were granted by Ministers subsequently found to be corrupt, Darley would have had a difficult job finding a property not in proximity to, or covered by one.

Woodlands first surveyed	1822	
First settler (and horse breeder) George Bowman living at Arrowfield (Coolmore).	1824	
Woodlands first settled	1824	
H. White advertised selling colts from “the well known Woodlands Stud”	1883	
The Morning Bulletin reports Robert Ross to retire from horse breeding and to place Woodlands and its ‘high class’ stock on the market.	1893	
Woodlands in the hands of Edward Blume (E.J. Craven). Noted breeder and ‘prominent patron of the turf’ who stood many stallions on the property.	1911	
William and Frederick Moses buy Arrowfield ‘for the purposes of thoroughbred breeding, going on to be ‘pioneer thoroughbred breeders’.	1912	
A E Grace, one of the retailing Grace Brothers buys Woodlands to breed thoroughbreds	1926	
	1940	Bureau of Mineral resources surveys Drayton South [DS] site
Retired jockey Ted McNenamin buys Woodlands from Grace.	1944	
Syndicate headed by George Ryder buys Woodlands. Ryder is a turf legend, creator of the Golden Slipper, under whose tutelage Woodlands becomes one of the pre-eminent commercial stud farms	1946	
	1960	Basic exploration at DS site by Elcom and Joint Coal Board
Woodlands consigns a record 94 yearlings to the Inglis Easter Sales	1964	
Syndicate of King Ranch and Lord Derby buys Woodlands, successful breeders of legendary Marscay, Golden Slipper winner of 1982	1970	
	1979	Authority 169 granted to Elcom to explore DS site.
	1980	Further exploration by Mount Arthur South Coal at DS site
Ingham brothers buy Woodlands and turn it into the biggest and most successful racing and breeding operation ever seen in the Southern Hemisphere.	1985	
July. John Messara buys Arrowfield and sets about transforming it into a world class breeding operation	1986	Sept. Development Consent granted to Mount Arthur South
	1989	Mining Lease granted for Mount Arthur South.
	1989	NSW Govt. lists its 50% share of the project for sale, effectively shelving the project.

Ireland's Coolmore Stud buys the Arrowfield property and leases it back to John Messara.	1991	Mount Arthur South Development Consent lapses through proponent inactivity
	1994	Mount Arthur South Mining lease lapses through inactivity
Arrowfield's lease is not renewed, property is renamed Coolmore Australia and they assume management and running of the stud.	1996	
	1998	Shell Coal, operator of Drayton Mine, purchases the DS site
	1998	EL 5460 issued for the DS site to Saddlers Creek Joint Venture
	2000	Anglo American purchases Shell Coal's NSW assets.
Darley lease Collingrove Stud at Sandy Hollow and commence Australian operations	2001	
Darley buys Woodlands Stud and stock from the Ingham brothers	2008	
	2011	'Drayton South' application process begins

In essence what the above shows is that :-

- 1). Coolmore's ownership pre-dates any Drayton ownership of Drayton South.
- 2). Coolmore comfortably pre-dates Anglo American as investors in the Hunter Valley.
- 3). Thoroughbred breeding comfortably pre-dates any coal mining 'activity' in the "precinct".
- 4). Woodlands Stud has been a pre-eminent stud farm for well over 100 years.
- 5). Woodlands Stud had been producing thoroughbreds for up to 150 years before the Drayton mine commenced. Arrowfield's first confirmed breeding venture began in 1912, 68 years before the Drayton mine was given the go ahead.
- 6). Since the late 1980s the two biggest players in the thoroughbred breeding industry have been based at these two properties, as the Arrowfield and Woodlands Studs were, prior to the arrival and rise of first Coolmore and then Darley, the dominant operators. Indeed Woodlands has been home to either a pre-eminent or dominant thoroughbred breeder almost continuously since the 1880's. It is a truly remarkable, historic, iconic and successful property and one without peer in this country.

Edinglassie

The example of Edinglassie Stud has often been used by the proponent, BHP Billiton and the NSW Minerals Council as how co-existence can work in the valley. The following is an edit of my original submission to the first proposal -

Mick and Michelle Talty who lease Edinglassie from BHP Billiton are popular and highly regarded members of our community yet it is also widely understood that their Lease contains a 'no nuisance' clause which specifically precludes the Taltys from providing any adverse on the record commentary or complaints regarding the impacts of their landlord's and neighbour's business activities. The 'no nuisance' clause is a standard insertion to lease agreements with mining companies.

However, it is possible by collating information from a number of sources including the National Pollutant Inventory and the Mt Arthur Annual Environmental Management Reports [AEMR] of 2011, 2010 and 2009 and the Bengalla AEMR of 2010 and 2009 (which are available on the websites of the parent companies) to gain an insight into the very tangible and at times alarming impacts the two mines have on the property.

Dust. The NSW Government stated in a 2010 Environmental Report that ***“Managing dust from coal mines is important as it can impact local and regional air quality and adversely affect local amenity and pose a risk to public health”***¹ Although a colour photograph of a High Volume Air Sampler at Edinglassie is reproduced in the 2009 Mt Arthur AEMR, results and readings from this monitor have never been released publicly.

Dust is monitored via dust deposition gauges at Edinglassie by both Mt Arthur (gauge DD16) and Bengalla (gauges D12A and D12B) with samples recorded and weighed monthly. The Air Quality Standards and Criteria for Particulate Matter Concentration Standard for insoluble solids in deposited dust is 4 grams per square metre per month. The Table below lists the results for the three gauges at Edinglassie from 2009, 2010 and 2011 and gives the average, total and highest monthly reading for each year compared to the Air Quality Standard Criteria.

Gauge	2011 Av	2011 Highest	2011 Total	2010 Av	2010 Highest	2010 Total	2009 Av	2009 Highest	2009 Total
DD16	5.25g*	7.6g	63g*	4.1g*	8.2g	49.3g*	5.0g	11.3g	59.6g
D12A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.0g	28.8g	71.6g	3.9g	5.6g	47.2g
D12B	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.5g	12.0g	78.1g	5.7g	8.9g	68.6g
criteria	4.0g	4.0g	48.0g	4.0g	4.0g	48.0g	4.0g	4.0g	48.0g

* Where samples have been reported as contaminated with insects and droppings and no result listed in the Mining company returns, I have used the Ash residue weight recorded for that given monitor in that month to provide a more representative figure. The true weight of the sample would have been higher (ash forming only one component of the insoluble solids collected).

In the AEMR, BHP Billiton explain away the ‘elevated dust depositional dust results’ for gauge DD16 by stating ***“This monitor is located on land owned by Mt. Arthur Coal and is used for management purposes only; it is not indicative of nearby privately owned residences”*** and that the monitor is ***“3.5ks from the nearest sensitive receptor”*** which will be a great comfort to their tenants at Edinglassie. By such means are BHPB able to claim that they have ***“achieved 100% compliance with air quality criteria”***, even though the criteria for depositional dust was exceeded at Edinglassie in every month of 2011 except May and July, and the annual criteria was exceeded by 31%. In both 2009 and 2010 the criteria was exceeded in 7 individual months at this gauge.

Bengalla’s two gauges have both produced some alarming results. The October 2010 reading for gauge D12A of 28.8grams is 620% above the concentration standard. Gauge D12A exceeded the annual criteria in 2010 by 63% and gauge D12B by 49%.

The table below shows pm10 and pm2.5 emissions from both mines. Figures from the National Pollutant Inventory available at www.npi.gov.au

Report Year pm type kg	2010 / 2011 pm10 kg	2010 / 2011 pm 2.5 kg	2009 / 2010 pm10 kg	2009 / 2010 Pm 2.5 kg	2008 / 2009 pm10 kg	2008 / 2009 pm 2.5 kg
Mt. Arthur	4,200,000	110,000	2,600,000	270,000	7,100,000	300,000
Bengalla	1,900,000	26,000	1,600,000	23,000	1,700,000	25,000
Total	6,100,000	136,000	4,200,000	293,000	8,800,000	325,000

Noise is not measured at Edinglassie by BHP Billiton, but is measured by Bengalla via monitor NO3. Bengalla state ***“Monitoring at this location for BMC internal use only”***. Bengalla monitor noise at 5 other locations each of which has a differing set of specified decibel limits as set out in the 2008 Bengalla Mine Modification Approval.

¹ ‘Management of dust from coal mines’ NSW Government 2010

The table below compares the noise levels measured in 3 categories quarterly at Bengalla in 2009 and 2010 against the *highest* specified limit in each category from the other 5 locations. Noise measurement units are decibels (dB). The 'A' weighting scale describes human response to noise.

The table illustrates how noise levels at Edinglassie are routinely higher than the mandated highest limits for privately owned land, occasionally much higher.

The 2010 3rd quarter *average* measurement of 68 dBA exceeds the highest limit set by the 2008 Bengalla Modification by 79%. 68 dB is the equivalent of a commercial petrol-engined generator at 7 meters.

Category	Day LAeq (dB A)	Night LAeq (dB A)	Night LA1 (dB A)
Edinglassie 2010 quarterly	44 50 68 47	39 40 46 41	46 46 52 46
Edinglassie 2009 quarterly	45 38 40 47	44 46 40 42	48 52 46 48
Highest limit	38	38	46

Blasting. Both Bengalla and Mt Arthur blasts are recorded on geophone monitors at Edinglassie. Although the 2010 Annual Environment Management Report for Mt Arthur features the same colour photograph used in the Edinglassie Case Study of their geophone (BP08) together with a thoroughbred mare and foal on the lawn near the homestead, results for this monitor were not included in that report and only partially in the previous year's. This means that blasting results information for 2011, 2010 and 2009 at Edinglassie from both mines cannot be accurately collated.

However, from the information that is available it is apparent that Edinglassie is regularly rocked by blasts, with in excess of 100 blasts a year that exceed 100 dBL. In 2009 Mt Arthur initiated 15 blasts which resulted in ground vibration of more than 5 millimeters per second and 13 such blasts in 2011. In both those years there were 4 blasts exceeding overpressure of 115 (dBL) emanating from Mt Arthur. In 2010 there were 3 Bengalla blasts in excess of 115 (dBL) one of which exceeded 120 (dBL) and was reported.

Nor are these the only issues of living next to open-cut coal mines as the photograph below demonstrates. The picture was taken in May 2010 from the Denman Road and shows Edinglassie Stud in the foreground and an orange plume drifting towards it from the Bengalla coal mine. A witness Robert Reid told the ABC that *"You'd swear to God it was a sunset coming out of the mine, that's how orange it was"*.



The plume takes its colouring from the presence of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). The acceptable level of nitrogen dioxide in a plume is five parts per million and it turns orange-red when the concentration is between 50 and 250 parts per million and a deep red from 250 parts per million up. Nitrogen Dioxide is toxic by inhalation and a large scale pollutant. Researchers at the University of San Diego have suggested a link between levels of NO₂ and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. It can also irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infection. Sensitivity increases for people with asthma and bronchitis.



The photograph (left) was taken by a Victorian racehorse trainer at Edinglassie on March 27th 2013. He was on the property to inspect yearlings. He reports a ground shaking explosion was followed shortly after by this cloud, which is clearly NO₂, and which he photographed. This is co-existence in action.

The National Pollutant Inventory lists combined Oxides of Nitrogen emissions from Bengalla and Mt. Arthur in reporting year 2010 / 2011 in excess of 2,300 tonnes.

A spokesman for Bengalla said the amount of fumes from the 2010 blast was “an unusual event and is thought to have resulted from an interaction of water with the explosives”. These plumes are not rare or unusual occurrences, indeed they are commonplace and although they very well may result from the interaction of water and explosives they also result from careless and substandard practices from mining companies who tout themselves as being “world’s best” but routinely fall short of that. They then explain away their mistakes and poor behavior in their AEMRs in garbled ‘mine-speak’ where incidents are always ‘localised’ and usually the result of some

completely unforeseeable circumstances (like shoving explosives into a wet hole) and accompanied by a litany of dog-ate-my-homework excuses. As a result these AEMRs are full of what the authors might describe as ‘localised non-truth incidents’, and where exceedences are hidden by averages and the real impacts on neighbours and the community are shoved in a graph that is barely able to be read or comprehended.

The Edinglassie Case study does not present a sustainable blue-print for the future of the Hunter Valley wherein coal mines and horse studs live side by side happily ever after. Indeed, careful consideration of the facts reveals the case study to be quite the opposite - it is a telling reminder of how vitally important the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan was to the ongoing commercial viability of the thoroughbred breeding industry in the Upper Hunter. Furthermore, subjecting tenants to quite shocking levels of pollution, blasting and noise whilst effectively gagging them and limiting their rights to freedom of speech is behavior few should be proud to brag about in a widely disseminated ‘case study’. If BHP and the Minerals Council want to continue to use Edinglassie as a ‘case study’ they should be made to collate and release all the data from every monitor housed on that property. Then, and only then, can an accurate picture of the impacts be properly assessed.

The only point to add to the above is that the Talty family no longer live at Edinglassie.

Equine Health Assessment

Although not drawing quite such long bows as Dr Kannegeiter did in his original Assessment, where he seemed to imply that blasting vibrations might be beneficial to equine health - a judgement arrived at after studying the sales literature of a Swedish vibrating floor pad - the simple fact remains that there has been very little research work done that is relevant to the potential health impacts of the proposal.

As Dr Kannegeiter admits there are few studies into the effects of mineral or crustal dust on equine health but that there are several into the effects of organic dust as typically found in bedding and fodder. Without convincing explanation or evidence he says that because the project’s dust is

largely crustal and without the attached bacteria and endotoxins found on the organic dust horses are usually exposed to, the project's dust won't be a problem. The gaping hole in the argument is that we just don't know what the health impacts of mineral derived dust will be on equine athletes, we don't know for sure because no work has been done investigating the issue.

Apparently there are "sufficient differences between horse and human responses to dust exposure" for all the ample research and evidence which details the detrimental impacts of dust on human health to be irrelevant and for Dr Kannegeiter to state "There is limited correlation between humans and horses in regards to the adverse effects of dust pollution on health", without providing any explanation of how he came to this conclusion at all. The fact is humans and horses both have "mucociliary clearance mechanisms" to deal with dust, we both sneeze and we're all mammals, chances are horse are going to have health issues with mine dust just the same as humans do.

If we're going to experiment and test the health effects of open cut coal mining on equine health, I'd suggest it wouldn't be prudent to do so with the most expensive and valuable horses on the planet, horses which are the backbone of a thriving and very successful industry and horses which have been selectively bred for centuries to produce the ultimate equine athletes. That's just plain stupid.

The Proponent

In the EIS the proponent states, *"Anglo American confirms its commitment to best practice environmental outcomes by making the operational 'commitments' described through this EIS. These operational commitments provide certainty that the impacts of the Project will remain within the predictions presented"*.

However, the compliance record for the existing Drayton mine is a long way from perfect, with non-compliance with license conditions recorded in 10 out of the last 13 years - how can such a sub-optimal performance record inspire any confidence that Drayton South can co-exist with their new, highly sensitive, next door neighbours? These transgressions include many of the issues the two studs are so concerned about, air-blast over-pressures, noise limit exceedences, dust emission exceedences, blast limit exceedences, blasts fired outside license timing limits etc.

I also feel compelled to comment on the conduct and statements of Anglo American's hierarchy which I believe are creating a level of mistrust in the community. Since becoming Chief Executive, Mark Cutifani has delivered keynote speeches on four continents. In both Canada and Brazil he grandly stated, *"We must dedicate ourselves to connecting to and working with with local partners to solve the problems our close proximity to their communities creates for them in terms of social development. If we cannot engage constructively with our immediate neighbours how can we expect to lead the world in a new set of conversations around our role in society?"*

Which contrasts sharply with his comments in the Newcastle Herald article June 27 2013 "Mine Boss aghast at Stud Farm's Objections" where he's quoted, *"I've never seen this anywhere else in the world. What we are talking about is the visual impact on horses. I'm flabbergasted"*. These comments couldn't really be described 'constructive engagement with immediate neighbours' and show a fundamental misunderstanding and lack of respect for the legitimate concerns of those immediate neighbours. Physician heal thyself.

Seamus French is Anglo's Coal Chief Executive. On June 14th 2012 he told Investors and Analysts in London the Dartbrook mine near Aberdeen would begin pre-stripping in 2015 and that the Open Cut mine would be commissioned and in full production by 2017. Just 6 days later Anglo's local Stakeholder engagement specialist told a Public Meeting in Aberdeen the opposite, that there were no plans to proceed with Dartbrook and that he was in fact preparing a suspension report. A subsequent letter from Anglo American of July 12th 2012 states, "it is unfortunate that the Investor and Analyst Briefing did not reflect the latest information". It is more than 'unfortunate', it is unbelievable that Anglo's most senior Australian executive would present inaccurate company information to investors, information he could reasonably be expected to know was inaccurate.

Rick Fairhurst is Anglo's New South Wales project Manager. His name was attached to Anglo's submission on the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan which was submitted to the NSW State Government and contained numerous inaccuracies. In relation to Drayton South the document states -

"This area has been a mining precinct since well before the horse studs commenced there and investment decisions have been taken on that basis.

The area of Drayton South has been a mining precinct for many years. The area was originally approved for open cut mining with a development consent and mining lease granted to Pacific Power in the 1980s. This occurred before there were any material horse studs located in the vicinity. The development of the horse studs has post dated the establishment of the area of Drayton South (and its approval) as a coal mine.

Any development of horse studs in the vicinity was, or should have been done, with full knowledge of the pre-existing mining approvals and resource".

This is highly misleading, as has been established Woodlands and Arrowfield studs were around a long time before the 1980s, Woodlands had been a leading stud farm for well over 100 years at that stage!

In conclusion, Drayton South remains the wrong mine in the wrong place, it is not in the public interest and poses a grave threat to the ongoing viability of Coolmore and Darley stud's neighbouring operations and the wider Equine Critical Industry Cluster.

Meryan McRobert
The Hunted Gourmet