

**Caroline Sherwood
194 Martindale Road
Denman
NSW 2328**

19 June 201
The Secretary
The Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Ms McNally,

Re: Objection to Drayton South Coal Project Application Number SSD 6875

We have been a landholder and vineyard owner in the Denman area since 1996.

We produce high quality wine grapes which are supplied to a variety of other wine companies.

In the years we have been operating we have seen many rural businesses purchased and then closed down by mining operations. We consider that the critical mass of other rural industries has been very severely impacted by mining operations, and further large mining projects in the area encompassing Jerrys Plains, Denman and Muswellbrook will significantly negatively impact the remaining rural industries.

The viticulture industry requires a positive environmental image in order to thrive and in recent years the reputation of the Hunter Valley and its 'clean' credentials has been threatened by the increased mining activity in the area.

The Drayton South project directly threatens large rural businesses in its vicinity, specifically two of the largest thoroughbred horse studs in the country, as well as the Hollydene winery and restaurant. The horse studs are key employers in the region and bring positive international attention to the Upper Hunter.

We believe that the cumulative impact of this development, with its negative health and environmental impacts, will make the continued diversity of rural businesses untenable. There is a grave risk that approval of this project will push the Upper Hunter down a 'one industry' track that will result in the closure of many of the rural industries. This is a track from which there will be no return.

The Planning Assessment Commission refused a mine development on this site in 2014 because of the threat the project posed to other rural industries and to the environment of the Upper Hunter. We submit that these factors remain the same today, and a slightly smaller development proposal should not be viewed as no longer posing a threat to the area.

In 2014 the PAC determined that this project was not in the public interest. We can see no reason why that view should have changed, and the project continues to not be in the national interest in 2015. Consequently the application should be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Sherwood
Pyramid Hill Wines