

Peter Hodges
Riversdale
3021 New England Hwy
Scone NSW 2337.

19th June 2015

The Secretary
The Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms McNelly

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

Some of my family members may have already lodged an objection, so I will make my concerns brief.

As part of our business (primary production and horse breeding), I move up to 80 broodmares to Upper Hunter Stallions on behalf of clients during the breeding season. I have to move the mares when they are ready to breed. This means travelling at all hours of the day and night, and under all weather conditions. I have been doing this for many years and have witnessed a major expansion of the existing mines. The impact on the local environment has been devastating. The dust generation is a fact, not a myth. The visual impact is huge. The threat to the local water supply and the long term health of the Hunter River and its tributaries is real. Probably the water threat will become more real as the price of coal continues to fall and the environmental safeguards more unviable to adhere to.

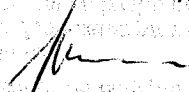
Another questionable fact published by the owners of Drayton South, Anglo Coal, is that this proposal will secure the existing 500 jobs. Absolute rubbish! I was told during the last proposal exercised by Drayton South, by some employees from the mine, the extension would not secure the existing 500 jobs. That at least 1/3rd of them would be sacked, or not replaced as they retired. Recent media coverage seems to have exposed this.

As coal prices continue to plummet, what guarantee is there for site rehabilitation after a mine has exhausted production and left widespread destruction. If the company goes bankrupt is the State Government going to spend millions of dollars trying to restore the landscape?

I am not an anti mining person. At this time, mining is an essential part of modern day living but what we have here is absolute nonsense. This expansion is a direct threat to Coolmore and Darley's existence in the Hunter Valley, especially the Upper Hunter, and therefore a real threat to the hundred of so similar businesses dependent upon the continued existence of these two major horse studs.

I respectfully ask that you register my objection to this proposal and seriously consider my objections when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South open cut Proposal.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hodges