



27<sup>th</sup> June 2013

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**RE: Mangoola Coal Modification 6 of Project Approval 06 0014**

Redman Park is a thoroughbred horse stud and lucerne farm on the outskirts of Denman, clustered among other studs such as Darley Woodlands, Amarina Farm, and Coolmore, vineyards and dairy / beef operations.

Our thoroughbred business is integrated into the equine critical cluster of the Upper Hunter. Not only do we provide boutique broodmare and racehorse spelling facilities but we produce quality lucerne.

We have some major concerns, based on limited knowledge/consultation, in relation to the above modification to Mangoola Coal and would like to submit our objection accordingly.

Despite all the current advertising mining does not co-exist with our industry it is to the detriment of it. Not only does it threaten our soils, our water, our land, our air quality but the entire future of agriculture in the Hunter Valley.

Mining Companies now own more than 50% of the ratable land in the Muswellbrook Shire (by area). Farming land is being swallowed up constantly by the mines and we hate to think of how we are to sustain a viable economic future for our children if this continues at the current rate. It is no longer co-existence it has become saturation.

Clean water is our most critical resource for the survival of our business. Water in the rivers, dams and streams needs to be protected to maintain the quantity and quality of our water not only for farmers and other agricultural pursuits but for the residents of the Hunter Valley. The discharge of saline water from Mangoola Mine to the Hunter River was specifically not permitted in the original application and is absolutely incomprehensible and without doubt a

major threat to our future viability in business and should not be permitted in any expansion plan.

Mining is without a doubt a significant contributor to poor air quality within the Hunter Valley. The expansion of the mine, so close to the township of Denman, which has no form of air quality monitoring system is not acceptable. Until Denman is part of the air quality network expansion of this mine and establishment of new mines near Denman should not be allowed.

For a region to have a secure economic base, it must encourage diversity not saturation of one industry to the detriment of any other. Mining is a commodities industry. While there may be a demand for coal now, the increasing number of coal mines will result in a supply that will exceed demand. The price of coal will fall, it already has dropped significantly, and we will see mines go by the wayside. Where will the miners find work if we have shunted other industries like such as ours and other agricultural industries out of the valley?

Finally, we are not against mining as diversity is important in this valley for future sustainability, but the burden this mine and all the other surrounding mines /proposed mines is at a tipping point for the community and land holders. We find it frustrating, expensive, alarming and threatening to our livelihood that we have to continually divert our own time, people and money away from running our profitable quality business to monitor/stay on top of latest mine developments. Is this the last modification or is it only the first of many? Irrespective of environmental and resource impacts, we require some form of certainty and time to run and invest in our business with confidence?

Yours sincerely

**REDMAN PARK PTY LTD**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR3' or similar, written in a cursive style.

**Amanda & Stuart Thomas**  
***DIRECTORS***