



NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Date: 20 August 2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

We the undersigned are very pleased to offer our support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project. We have been in the coal resources business for 50 years, in no small part, due to the ongoing sensible development of coal resources in the Hunter Valley.

This is a very smart project that has been designed so the community can enjoy a much-needed economic boost without negatively impacting other local industries and land uses. It was born out of the continued failure of developing these coal resources by open cut methods.

It is taking place in regional part of the Hunter Valley, New South Wales that has been the source of coal since the early 1900s.

We support the project because it will deliver important benefits for the local community of Muswellbrook and Singleton and NSW in the following ways;

- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The Maxwell Project will create 350 new jobs for the region. These new jobs and the wages that will flow from them, will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy. Further afield, the project will also generate \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion for the NSW State Government and local Councils. This money can be used to upgrade regional hospitals, schools or infrastructure. Projects like this help ensure the ongoing prosperity and can support the economy for years to come.
- **JOB CREATION:** The project will mean 350 more skilled jobs for the local community. These jobs will inject around \$55 million in wages into the community – benefiting many other businesses in the area. Malabar has also promised to provide training for local people so the skills to operate an underground mine can be developed within the local area. They have also said they want to prioritise hiring locals to ensure that the benefits of the project stay here in the community.
- **LOCAL ECONOMY:** The project will boost the local economy and help local business owners. It will support a wide range of local businesses throughout the construction phase and operation of the mine over 26 years. Long term projects, like this one, will mean local businesses can make more investments, grow their operations, hire more people and keep workers – especially young people – in the region.
- **COEXISTENCE:** The project is a common-sense “win-win” for the community. Previous open cuts proposals were contentious, but Malabar has developed a sensible project that means the community can benefit from the economic boost a new mine will provide – while also allowing the horse studs and other land users to continue their operations. We are pleased



that the EIS for the Maxwell Project shows that the underground mine can co-exist safely with other industries. Co-existence has always been an important part of the community. Having several strong industries has helped the community to flourish. This project design and plan means that can continue for years to come.

- The use of the Maxwell Infrastructure for the Project as detailed in the EIS results in less disturbance and a significantly lower initial capital cost, than would otherwise be required for a 'greenfield' project to access the coal resource within the lease.
- **SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS:** Malabar has provided funding to local community groups for over six years. The Maxwell Project will mean continued support for a range of organisations, for more than 26 years.
- **REHABILITATION:** Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. They started rehabilitating the old Drayton open cut straight away and have made great progress so far. It is great to see a business take this job so seriously. We appreciate that they have already opened some of the land for cattle grazing, demonstrating the company's commitment to coexistence with other local industries. We also note that the Maxwell Project will deliver a better rehabilitation outcome in the long term by filling voids at the former Drayton Mine with reject stone and rock, providing a better outcome for the community.
- **SOLAR PROJECT:** We appreciate that Malabar is also investing in a solar farm on their rehabilitated land, which if approved, would provide additional power directly to the grid, or help to power local businesses and homes. The company is clearly open to different ideas that can benefit the community.

These benefits will make a substantial long-term improvements to the communities in the Upper Hunter and to NSW.

The community needs a diverse economy and the Maxwell Underground Project can help make sure the economy prospers for decades to come.

Sincerely

Dr John Bryan

Chairman

Kerry Whitby

Managing Director

Charles Parbury

General Manager – Commercial