

Monday 09th September 2019

NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Support for the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project
Application Number: SSD-9526

This letter is to express my support for the application made by Malabar Coal for the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project.

This application is for an underground coal mine that will predominately (75%) produce coal which will be used for manufacturing steel. Every day we all use items made from steel – cutlery, washing machines, fridges, ovens and cars. As a country we use steel for modes of transport including trucks, trains, military vehicles and ships. We use steel in agriculture for the manufacture of tractors and ploughs and our hospitals use surgical steel for medical purposes such as implantable devices. We all use steel products on a daily basis, no matter where we live, who we are, or what we do. By approving this application, we are securing a source of steel for another 26yrs, not to mention the other benefits like:

- Securing a new place of employment in the Hunter for 350 people
- Boosting revenue for the local economy and the state of NSW
- Continued source of support for local charities, sporting and community groups

From a person who lives in Muswellbrook and is employed in the mining sector, I see the enormous benefits that projects like this bring to a small town. Muswellbrook is a town that depends on mining and much of the local economy is supported by this sector.

It's a fact, coal mining is needed in this country. It's a fact, where resources are located cannot be chosen. We can choose however to approve coal mine operations that recognise the potential implications of their operations and adopt measures to minimise their impacts. Coal mining via open cut operations is traditionally known for dust, noise, blasting and looking ugly. Malabar Coal has already demonstrated their commitment to never allow the site to be operated for open cut mining by relinquishing this ability on their exploration licence. This project is for an underground coal mine only, therefore any potential for the above impacts are void.

I know firsthand as I am an employee of Malabar Coal and I currently work on the Maxwell Infrastructure site. I see the consultation they are undertaking with neighbours and interested community groups, I see the expense and effort they are exerting into rehabilitating the former open cut workings onsite by seeding and planting trees and I know of their intention to peruse an application in the future for green energy generation via a solar farm.

I truly believe that the owners of Malabar Coal have the right intentions for this project and are doing everything they can to co-exist with not only other industries and sectors, but in general, integrate into the local community as a good corporate citizen. Malabar Coal has completed all the due diligence for this application, and I see no reason why this application should not be supported.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and noting my supportive view on this project.

Kind regards,
L Benson
Linda Benson