



NEWGATE

17 March 2021

The Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2000

By Email: lauren.evans@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project

The Newgate Group operates a thoroughbred horse stud in the Upper Hunter Valley and is one of the major Australian breeding operations.

We object to the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project ("Project").

Our industry has been in the Hunter Valley for nearly 200 years. The reason it has been here this long is due to a number of factors, three of which are:

1. The quality of the land,
2. The quality and supply of water; and
3. The clean environment.

The Mount Pleasant mine was commenced after 18 years of inaction. At that time its owners were not required to submit a new, comprehensive and contemporary environmental assessment. The community is now being asked to accept this "Optimisation" Project which has the potential to create enormous impacts on the environment in which we live and our business.

We have significant concerns as to the impact of the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project on noise, water and air quality. The cumulative impacts of all the mines in this area, such as Mangoola, Bengalla, Mt Arthur and now Mount Pleasant is significant and most concerning.

This "Optimisation" Project more than doubles the amount of coal projected to be extracted from the Mount Pleasant mine and adds another 22 years to the life of the existing mine. The current mine has already caused significant degradation to the landscape and added significantly to the amount of dust that exists in and around the towns of Aberdeen and Muswellbrook. The quality of air in the Upper Hunter Valley is extremely poor and only getting worse. The prospect of a doubling of mine output, with the consequential increases in poor air quality, dust deposition, noise and harm to the environment and potentially our water sources is unacceptable.

Newgate Operations Pty Ltd ABN: 14 162 416 104

Newgate Stallions Pty Ltd ABN: 48 158 624 349

Phone: 02 6543 8395 | 586 Rouchel Road, Aberdeen NSW 2336 | Locked Bag 3002, Aberdeen NSW 2336

www.newgate.com.au

~~We consider the damage and legacy this one mine expansion will leave to be particularly~~
egregious. This includes:

- a 6km long and 360m high waste dump that will fundamentally change the character of our area, irreversibly damage our landscape, our sustainable agricultural businesses and the Upper Hunter Valley's reputation as a premier global breeding centre;
- a 3km final void that will take 300 years to fill, 500 years to reach equilibrium and continue to increase salinity in our water systems year upon year; and
- potentially significant impacts on the highly productive Hunter River system and Kingdon ponds as well as dewatering drawdowns of potentially more than 100m for this project alone or more than 200m when the combined effects of surrounding mines are included.

These pose unacceptable consequences and irreparable damage generated by one mine that no community should be asked to tolerate.

The lack of cumulative assessment impact studies as required by the NSW Government for all mining proposals in respect of air quality is doing an enormous disservice to the local communities.

We strongly support the submission by the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and their call for the NSW Government to undertake an independent cumulative impact assessment of air quality and water security in this region prior to the consideration and/or commencement of any further mining in this region.

Yours faithfully



Henry Field
Managing Director