

Jim Middleton
7 Dobbie Avenue
East Corrimal NSW 2518

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
10th September, 2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Jim Middleton and I have been involved as a Director of more than 10 mining companies in my career as an engineer and more senior management.

I am writing to lodge my support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project.

This project provides a new source of income for the region, state and country. The balance with land use and community needs appears to have been thoughtfully designed into the proposal. There are significant global needs for this high-quality coal, for mainly steel production, but also the latest power generation currently being built in SE Asia.

I support the project because it will deliver important benefits for the local community, Australia and NSW.

- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The Maxwell Project envisages 350 new jobs for the region. These new jobs and the wages that will flow from them, plus the local suppliers, regional support businesses and manufacturers across NSW, will deliver a much needed boost to the local and state economy. Directly, the projected royalty and other payments will also generate \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion for the NSW State Government and local Councils. This money is key to the continuing high standard of regional hospitals, schools and other infrastructure.
- **JOB CREATION:** As part of this project, an additional, direct, 350 skilled jobs for the local community will be added. These jobs will inject around \$55 million in wages into our community – benefiting many other businesses in the area. Past research has indicated employment multipliers of UG coal mines at between 3 & 5, in contracting, maintenance, manufacturing, suppliers, consulting, transport, power, etc. This is highlighted by the prosperity in the Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas. Malabar has also promised to provide training for local people so higher skills to operate an underground mine are 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 our 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 our community. Previous open cut mine proposals were contentious, but Malabar has reviewed the previous proposals and developed a plan with relatively few local impacts, using underground mining methods. This

means the local 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. I'm 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 our community. Having a number of strong industries has helped our community to flourish. This project means that can continue for years to come.

- **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 the life of the project.
- **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. I appreciate that they have already opened up some of the land for cattle to graze on. This shows a commitment to coexistence with other local industries. I 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 coal washery reject material. This will mean a much better outcome for the community and long term agricultural use.

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

NSW has, and will continue to, benefit from a diverse economy including mining, and the Maxwell Underground Project can be part of our continuing economic prosperity, into the future.

Regards

Jim Middleton