

Amanda Barry
Yarrowa Road
Denman NSW 2328

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Date 13th September 2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Amanda Barry and I am the WHS Coordinator for JE & J Robinson Pty Ltd.

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

This is a sensible project that has been designed so our community can enjoy a much-needed economic boost without negatively impacting other local industries and land uses.

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

The project will mean 350 more skilled jobs for the local community. These jobs will inject around \$55 million in wages into our community – benefiting many other businesses in the area. Having seen the decimation that the closure of Drayton caused to the local community, Malabar can replace the deficit that was left behind after the closure of Drayton.

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.

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.

The project is a common-sense “win-win” for our community. Previous open cuts proposals were contentious, but Malabar have heard us and developed a sensible project that means our community can benefit from the economic boost a new mine will provide – while also allowing the horse studs and other land uses 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.

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. A number of employees from JE & J Robinson Pty Ltd are involved in the rehabilitation of the old Drayton open cut, and I have personally been out and seen the quality of work that has already occurred. I can see that there is pride being taken in the quality of work being completed, and safety is a major focus.

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 reject stone and rock. This will mean a much better outcome for our community.

I appreciate that Malabar are also investing in a solar farm on their rehabilitated land. If approved, this could provide additional power directly to the grid, or help to power local businesses and homes. This

shows the company is open to different ideas that can benefit our community, especially considering the pending closure of

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

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

Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Barry', is positioned above the printed name.

Amanda Barry
WHS Coordinator

JE & J Robinson Pty Ltd