

Travers Wood  
8 Cobbedah Dr,  
Springfield  
NSW 2250

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001  
Date: 16/09/2019

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526**

My name is Travers Wood and I am a Father, Husband and a Mechanical Engineer. I own an electric car and ride my bicycle to work most days.

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.

- **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. All of which are needed to support the current and future population of the area. Projects like this help ensure our ongoing prosperity and can support the economy for years to come. As a country we need to become better at being regional, we cannot all live in capital cities and spreading our population and infrastructure away from our capital cities will ease the burden in numerous ways.
- **JOB CREATION:** 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. 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 Jobs is critical to any area and the more we can avoid skilled people needing to seek work in other states requiring them to be away from family the better it will be for the community as a whole, focusing on keeping families together through local jobs can have positive generational improvements reducing the load on community services to support broken families.
- **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 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. 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. For example, Malabar has helped my organisation by [PROVIDE RELEVANT DETAILS HERE.] The Maxwell Project will mean continued support for a range of organisations, including ours, 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. I appreciate that they have already opened up some of the land for cattle to graze on. 8000 saplings have already been planted and 640ha of pasture already rehabilitated for this grazing. This shows a commitment to coexistence with other local industries. The site also hosting a vineyard which is perfectly matching with the winemaking area. 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.
- **SOLAR PROJECT:** 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. The desired size for this application will provide enough power to support about 10,000 homes. This shows the company is open to different ideas that can benefit our community. This power supply means the project is consuming less energy and requiring less power to be generated from other means. As an owner of my own roof top solar system and an electric vehicle this is great to see at a commercial level for industrial use and this sort of behaviour needs to be encouraged so it is adopted by more companies.
- **STEEL:** This mine has quality metallurgical coal to support the steel industry. In 2017 1,587 million tonnes of steel was used worldwide. Every industry requires steel, from medical to construction to transport and while coal mining has negative stigmas in some people's mind, we need steel for all aspects of our community and as such this is a much needed project to provide the required resources our community and country needs.

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

Travers Wood