

My name is Atsuko Radcliffe, running a small business Small Forest Pty Ltd on the property of Merton Vineyard in Denman.

The Merton Vineyard is owned and operated by Spur Hill Agricultural which is owned by Malabar.

I have a contract in between Spur Hill Agriculture since the end of 2013, buying fruits from the Merton Vineyard and renting out buildings for winemaking, sales as well as a residence.

I am not a mining specialist, but I'd like to explain things what I've been experiencing and working with Spur Hill Agricultural.

Since they took over this vineyard as well as purchased this area, they are fully committed to the area, also making sure existing businesses in this area to be thrive and to be co-exist.

They assessed whole property including grape varieties, equipment, and building. There were many changes and investment which improved this property as highly recognised vineyard. Also, I could not start my small business without their understanding and support.

About this property, they reviewed whole site what was left on the property. For the vineyard, viticulture consultant and myself as a winemaker, making sure the vineyard to be better and fruit would be in demand, even we made big decision to change variety which is working very good now.

For the buildings and winery also reviewed and assessed with the engineer, making sure complying all requirement and safety measurement, there were more than few changes and invests.

Those many changes were for our safety, efficiency for work and productivity and very important to start of business and for the future.

They are aware of their responsibility and committed to businesses, communities, and people in this area.

I can see their minor changes are absolutely necessity for their project to be successful in many directions, which will benefit our community in the future.

It is also important to me that their project will not use water from the Hunter River for the mine. Malabar will often share their water licences from their agricultural properties with other local farmers and other industries which is important as we are still in drought. We can not live without water.

I have no hesitation to support their application.