

Christopher Dalton
82 Glenmore Road
Paddington NSW
2021

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Date 20/09/2019

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

My name is Christopher Dalton and I am a Legal Principal of Matthews Solicitors.

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 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. Projects like this help ensure our ongoing prosperity and can support the economy for years to come.

In my view the project seems to be a common-sense "win-win" for our community. Previous open cuts proposals were contentious, but Malabar have 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.

I also appreciate that Malabar are 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.

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



Chris Dalton