

Longwall Engineering Consultants

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162 Brigadier Hammett Rd
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NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526

I wish to lodge my positive support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project.

I have several interests in this project as a Director of my own Company and Principal Engineer for an Engineering Consultancy, and I am a resident of the Hunter Valley living in Singleton.

This is a sensible project that is in the local, state and national interest. The operation proposed has been designed so our community can enjoy the various benefits without excessively impacting other local industries and land uses and environment.

I support the project because it will deliver net benefits for the community including:

- **UNDERGROUND MINING:** The Maxwell Project has recognised the versatility of underground coal mining to optimise a valuable resource while having negligible surface or visual impacts.
- **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. 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.
- **SUSTAIN STATE INFRASTRUCTURE:** The Hunter Valley has an extensive long term investment in state infrastructure for a sustainable coal industry. This Project utilises a large amount of site infrastructure and as part of the long term coal industry, maximises the return to the state and enterprises for infrastructure investment.
- **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 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. Having a number of strong industries has helped our community to flourish. This project means that can continue for years to come.
- **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 reject stone and rock. This will mean a much better outcome for 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



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