

MAXWELL UNDERGROUND MINE PROPOSAL

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the Maxwell Underground Mine Proposal.

As a long-time resident of the Hunter Valley I have watched with dismay the unprecedented proliferation of mines in this area. I have listened in outrage as mine proponent after mine proponent claims that thoroughbred breeding, farming, wine production and mining are perfectly compatible land uses and have been working happily side by side for several generations.

What they totally fail to acknowledge or take into account is the massive increase in scale of the mining enterprises. This represents an enormous drain on our finite and dwindling water resources not to mention the deterioration in air quality and quality of life in the Upper Hunter Valley.

As a valley famed around the world for its wine, its thoroughbred industry, its farms and its beauty, to destroy this and with it the futures of the generations to follow, for short term gain is irresponsible and inexcusable.

Mining is driving away investment in agriculture and tourism, polluting our air and water, dividing our community and ruining our rural landscape.

For our valley to have a long-term future as a thriving regional area, we need to have diversity, protect our land and water and endeavour to repair the damage done by mining, not increase it.

Yours sincerely,

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