

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the latest in a series of coal mine applications in the Hunter Valley.

While the current proposal is not as problematic as what has preceded it, it is still the case that it will be another mine that will do untold subterranean damage for questionable gains. What is also not in doubt is that if this mine application is granted then the proponent will seek to mine Spur Hill also. This would be 2 mines on the doorstep of big horse studs who bring huge numbers of visitors to the Hunter Valley as well as sustainably employing people.

The Hunter Valley has thriving horse and tourism industries this mines approval will affect these industries negatively as apart from the physical impacts it could also dent their reputation as pristine environments for the raising of thoroughbreds. The Hunter Valley is currently the epicentre of the thoroughbred industry in Australia. Encroaching mines will make this a less attractive place for thoroughbred breeders to keep their horses. Our clients have many alternatives in other parts of the country. These other states are actively marketing their horse Industry as being mine and dust free.

The Edderton road is an important thoroughfare for the equine CIC and the proposal will have marked visual effects 4/5 kilometres from the gates of Darley and Coolmore which will be damaging for their business.

Maxwell is next door to what PAC decisions have called the epicentre of the Hunter equine Critical Industry Cluster. This is the best agricultural land in the valley and approval of this mine increases uncertainty for an Industry that left alone will be in the Hunter Valley in 100 years time rather than just 26 years. I have been fortunate to have worked in the equine Industries in Kentucky, Canada, Ireland, France and England. None of these places are as good an environment for raising horses as what we have here in the Hunter Valley. Incongruous land uses like mining threaten to erode this equine cluster which will struggle to coexist with the growing number of mines and lack of balance in the region.

Thank you,

Peter O'Brien, General Manager, Segenhoe.