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NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001  
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To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526**

My name is James Johnson and I am writing to lodge my support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. For the past 22 years I have worked in a variety of operational and key senior management roles in the NSW underground coal industry. I support this project because it is a sensible project that has been designed with the community in mind and it will provide many benefits for years to come.

I grew up in Heddon Greta as the proud son of a Hunter Valley coal miner and throughout my lifetime I have been touched first-hand by the many benefits mining provides, from the basic everyday needs of reliable power and products made from steel, to family needs such as housing, health, nutrition and education paid for directly from the wages earned by my coal miner father. My wife and I now have four children and I look forward to continuing my career in the NSW Underground coal industry so that our children can continue to enjoy these same benefits, this will only be possible through projects like the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine project. Projects like these make a significant contribution to the economy through job creation and the wages that will flow from them. This project will also generate significant revenue for NSW State Government and local Councils. This money can be used to upgrade regional hospitals, schools or infrastructure to ensure future generations will continue to benefit from this project and ensure that current and future generations continue to enjoy our enriched lives.

As stated in the EIS the coal produced from Maxwell Underground over the life of the project has the capability to be utilised for both steel-making and high-quality thermal coal suitable for use in High Efficiency Low Emission power plants. This goes to supporting our global needs for the production of steel products as well as providing the opportunity of efficient and affordable energy locally and globally by utilising this high-quality Australian Coal.

I'm pleased that the EIS for the Maxwell Project shows that the underground mine can safely co-exist with other industries. The Malabar Coal team have clearly worked hard, consulted extensively and listened to the local community to ensure this project strikes the right balance between the economic benefits that will be enjoyed now while also mitigating any potential impacts to other local industries and land uses.

Our community needs a diverse economy and the Maxwell Underground Project can help make sure our economy prospers for decades to come.

Regards,



James Johnson