

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001  
Date 24/09/2019

To Whom It May Concern

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

**Letter of Support**

In response to the call for submissions in relation to the abovementioned project, this letter expresses my support for the Project. I confirm I have, as a mechanical engineer, assisted Malabar Coal in the development of the current infrastructure arrangement of the site. This work has provided me with an insight to the effort the Project has gone to, to mitigate Environmental impacts, particularly visual amenity.

My support for the project is founded on the economic benefit to the local region, and NSW more broadly. I present the following supporting comments:

- **COEXISTENCE:** The project is a common-sense “win-win” for our community. The previous Drayton South open cuts proposals were contentious, but Malabar have taken this feedback, listened to the receivers 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.
- **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 for grazing which 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.
- **CARBON EMISSIONS:** Our country, and the world, needs to transition to a low-carbon economy and I have reflected on recent IPC determinations. Maxwell underground is predominantly a metallurgical coal mine, producing an essential ingredient for steel production, with the remaining product being for power generation. The mine will export coal of the highest quality in terms of energy density. As countries seek to reduce emissions, high-quality coals such as those from Maxwell will act as a transition fuel within existing infrastructure. This opportunity should not be ignored, nor understated, as it has the potential to provide energy security, or indeed access to energy in the first instance, to millions of people in under developed and developing countries throughout Asia. In this regard, Maxwell has the opportunity for inter-generation benefit over the life of the mine.  
I also understand that Malabar are also 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.

- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The job creation and significant economic benefit to the community, region and broader economy is reason alone to approve this project. The employment and the direct, as well as flow on benefits to local business is significant. The +\$1B in royalties and payment to state and local governments is significant sum and has the opportunity to provide tangible benefits to our state with funding of education, health and infrastructure. Unemployment rates for young people are disproportionately high in the Hunter. The training opportunities presented by Maxwell provides a mechanism to address this social issue in part.

These benefits will make a substantial long-term difference to the communities in the Upper Hunter and to NSW.

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

Regards

**Malcolm Peattie**