

Milica Sekulovski
2/32 Highland Ave
Bankstown NSW 2200

23rd September 2019

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 am writing to lodge my support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project.

This is a sound project that has been designed so the community can enjoy a much-needed economic boost without negatively impacting other local industries and land uses.

I support the project because it will deliver important benefits for the local community and NSW.

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. The project will generate \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion for the NSW State Government and local Councils. 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.

The project will mean 350 more skilled jobs for the local community. These jobs will inject around \$55 million in wages into the community – benefiting many other businesses in the area. Malabar has also promised to provide training for local people so the skills to operate an underground mine can be developed within the local area. They have also said they want to prioritise hiring locals to ensure that the benefits of the project stay here in the community.

The project will boost the 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.

Previous open cuts proposals were contentious, Malabar has developed a sensible project that means the 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.

Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. They started rehabilitating the old Drayton open cut straight away and have made great progress so far. 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.

I appreciate 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 the community.

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

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

Regards,

Milica Sekulovski