

YARRAMAN PARK



24th September 2019

The Secretary
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
320 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

RE: MAXWELL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE PROJECT – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Yarraman Park Stud in the Upper Hunter has been home to thoroughbreds for over 100 years, dating back to the early 1900's when the Thompson family raised many fine horses on the farm including the great champion Eurythmic, foaled in 1916. Eurythmic won 30 races in all, beginning his racing career by winning the Karrakatta Plate, WATC Derby and Perth Cup before venturing east where he defeated the best horses of the time and claimed victory in races such as the Caulfield Cup.

Yarraman Park Stud came into the ownership of the Mitchell family in 1968. Yarraman Park has been a family owned and run operation for over 50 years and is now under the charge of brothers Arthur and Harry Mitchell, who bring a lifetime of international and local experience in the industry to the operations of the stud farm.

We operate our world class facilities in the Upper Hunter Equine Critical Industry Cluster on 1500 hectares of fertile, undulating country, with some 330 horses and 300 head of cattle and are supported by an excellent team of 24 staff (many of whom live on the farm) who care for Yarraman Park's leading Australian Stallions and top class broodmares.

The Yarraman Park team is also supported by veterinarians, farriers, saddlers, fodder producers, equine transport and many other equine support businesses. We have a policy to support local businesses as much as possible and are proud of the contribution we make to the Upper Hunter's local and regional economy.

Yarraman Park's champion sire, I Am Invincible, has produced over 30 Group and Stakes winners, including Oohood, Brazen Beau, Voodoo Lad, Viddora, Invincibella, Hellbent, and Illustrious Lad to name a few.

Owners of broodmares send their mares from all states of Australia to be served by I Am Invincible, and we are currently hosting mares from both the US and the UK that will return home to foal in the Northern Hemisphere.

I Am Invincible made history earlier this year when becoming the most successful sire of Australian stakes winners in a season with 28 to his credit, highlighted by Oohood, Voodoo Lad, Viddora and Invincibella.


I Am Invincible also ended world-wide speculation on the chosen stallion to partner champion Australian (Hunter Valley born and bred) mare Winx in the production of her first foal following her history making racing career.

Like all other thoroughbred operations in the Upper Hunter, Yarraman Park is dependent on a clean, green and "serene" environment (particularly air quality and water) for its operations and reputation as a producer of equine athletes respected and renowned around the world.

We are part of the Upper Hunter's Equine Critical Industry Cluster, which has been recognised as an industry of regional, state and national significance and international importance by the NSW Government. An industry that has a proud and long history of nearly two centuries in the Upper Hunter, which has been mapped and protected from coal seam gas development and promised heightened protection from coal mining by the NSW Government.

Yarraman Park supports the concerns relating to air quality, regional water availability (particularly during drought periods), the potential impacts on the Equine Critical Industry Cluster's two largest and central thoroughbred breeding operations directly across from this proposed mine, reputational and collateral impacts on the Hunter's thoroughbred breeding industry and investment uncertainty as articulated in the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association submission. Given these concerns we oppose Malabar Coal's "Maxwell" proposal situated on the former Drayton South site.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arthur Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, there is a faint, circular watermark or stamp that is partially visible but mostly illegible.

Arthur Mitchell
Principal and Director