



SMALL FOREST™

Address letter to:

Planning Services, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Date: 24.September.2019

Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project

Application number: SSD-9526

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Atsuko Radcliffe and I am the winemaker and founder of Small Forest wines based in Denman in the Upper Hunter Valley. www.smallforest.com.au

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

I have worked alongside Malabar for the past six years.

By way of background, Malabar owns and operates the Merton Vineyard located on the Spur Hill exploration lease which is contiguous with the Maxwell exploration lease. I and my husband reside at Malabar's Merton Vineyard and they provide me with grapes and exclusive use of their winery and cellar door under the contract, and have signed for another 5 years contract. Since Malabar took over management of the vineyard, they have improved the quality of grapes by investing in reviewing practice – weed control, fertilisation, proper pruning, spraying program, attention to detail for all of works need to be done. Malabar also grafting of new clones of Chardonnay and upgrading the infrastructure, in particular, the water supply system which is critical to grape production for this potential site where could produce high quality fruit.

I have a degree in microbiology and food chemistry and was the first female winemaker in Japan, and the only Japanese winemaker to establish a wine brand in Australia. Small Forest wines have won international awards, and last year I was proud to be awarded the "*Consul-General of Japan's Commendation for strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Australia*". Also, I was one of panel discussion and had speech at 56th Australia Japan Business Conference in Sydney about starting the business.

As a winemaker, agriculture and caring for the land is very important to me. But I also believe that agriculture can exist alongside other industries in our community.

Upper Hunter is one of best and important wine region. Oldest wine region in Australia, and so many people started carrier in this region who is now leading this wine industry.

Hunter Valley is the biggest wine tourist destination by Australian and foreigner in Australia. We are not able to make good wine without good fruits. Good fruit is not only produced by how you approach, the "region" is important for producing good fruits – the site condition, elevation, rainfall, climate, soil and all geological condition. Maxwell is understanding and taking their responsibility to produce good

fruit in this region. That is giving us pride, not only for people in wine industry, also who is living in this great wine region.

The Maxwell Project has been designed so that agriculture (including viticulture) and mining can exist together. This will mean more jobs and investment, in addition to the benefits of agriculture and other local industries.

Previous open cut proposals did not strike this balance. Malabar, however, listened and developed a sensible project. I'm pleased that the Environmental Impact Statement for the Maxwell Project shows that the underground mine can co-exist safely with other industries.

Malabar has supported me and my business and invested time and resources to maintain the Merton Vineyard. They have also provided funding to local community groups for over six years. The Maxwell Project will mean continued support for a range of organisations and groups for more than 25 years.

Malabar also takes mine rehabilitation seriously. They started rehabilitating the land straight away and have made great progress so far. It is great to see a business take this job so seriously.

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

Regards



Atsuko Radcliffe

Small Forest Pty Ltd

5052 Jerrys Plains Road,
Denman, NSW 2328