

24 September 2019

NSW Department Of Planning

Dear Sirs,

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

William Inglis & Son hold grave fears for the future of the New South Wales Thoroughbred Breeding Industry if the proposed Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project proceeds. This area of New South Wales is home to the major Thoroughbred Studs of Australia with a multi-billion dollar investment in facilities, bloodstock and employees. The establishment of the mine as proposed has the potential to lead to a withdrawal of overseas and local investment in the area, the potential destruction of one of the world's leading horse breeding areas and the loss of over 1000 specialised equine jobs which have over the last 100 years formed successful communities throughout the Hunter Valley.

The Thoroughbred industry in New South Wales is the leader in the Southern Hemisphere generating enormous returns for the state through the investment of millions of dollars from equine enthusiasts from around the world. If the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry is lost from the Upper Hunter Valley it will be lost to the state forever. The prolonged concerns around coal mining in the Hunter Valley have led to significant bloodstock investment flowing elsewhere including Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand.

The Australian Bloodstock Industry is synonymous with the Hunter Valley, with numerous economic reports demonstrating the significance of the region in terms of the volume of foals produced annually and the economic benefit that flows through the New South Wales economy from this investment. It is estimated that approximately 75% of the sales at the 2019 renewal of our Australian Easter Yearling Sale, the most prestigious thoroughbred yearling sale in the Southern Hemisphere, came from the Hunter Valley.

The management and cultivation of the landscape in the Upper Hunter Valley region produces racehorses who become Champions of the Turf. Racehorse buyers invest in horses from proven producers. The Upper Hunter Valley studs are the proven producers in the Australian Bloodstock industry. All this has the potential to be compromised if the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine project is approved.

William Inglis & Son have been selling Thoroughbred horses in Sydney for over 150 years. The majority of our business has been and is derived through horses bred in the Upper Hunter Valley region of New South Wales. Our full calendar of sales generates significant economic benefit to the economy of New South Wales.

We therefore request that you carefully consider our objections when assessing the appropriateness of the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project.

Yours faithfully,  
William Inglis and Son Limited



Arthur Inglis  
Deputy Chairman