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Wednesday November 10, 2016

The Planning Assessment Commission
Drayton South Coal Mine

Re: Objection to Drayton South Coal Application

I am writing to convey my opposition to the application by Anglo American for the Drayton South open coal mine project. I am a concerned resident, landholder and small business owner (thoroughbred breeder) in the Hunter Valley.

I own a small landholding near Aberdeen from which I breed and trade Thoroughbred horses. I am also employed full time in this industry. I am greatly concerned that the value of land in this area has decreased as the mines have increased. My personal property and that of many others in the area has been eroded by the mining expansion. The negative publicity brought on by coal mining has affected the willingness of people to want to live in this area and the entire horse industry has been impacted by this. Major overseas investment in thoroughbred farms is now occurring in other states, something that would have been unthinkable 15-20 years ago.

The Drayton South coal mine is in an area immediately adjacent to the top two Thoroughbred stud farms in the district, one of which is owned by my employer. I am an employee of Godolphin Australia and have lived in this area for 14 years. If Darley are forced to relocate as a result of the approval of this coal mine how will I be compensated? My land is worth less than I paid for it 14 years ago and I have invested enormous money, time and energy into making it into a decent property.

In the relatively short time I have lived in the Hunter Valley I have observed an enormous increase in the amount of coal mines and all the negative impacts they bring. Rail and road traffic, dust, unsightliness of open cut mines have all had a negative impact on those whose livelihoods are carried out in the way that this area has known for decades. The increase in the presence of black coal dust over the period I have lived here is palpable as is the sulphur stench of coal mines on a still morning.

I hope you will have the courage to deny Anglo American their Drayton South Coal Application. It is ultimately bad for this region.

Yours sincerely

CHARLES ALASTAIR PULFORD

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