

Bruce Slade – introduction to Tony Williams letter

17/11/2016

PAC MEETING - MUSWELLBROOK

Good morning PAC committee,

My name is Bruce Slade and I have been asked by Mr Tony Williams to read his letter addressed to the PAC committee.

Just a brief back ground on me. I am currently the Director of Stallions and Sales at [REDACTED] in Aberdeen. I relocated from Sydney to Scone in 2014 with my young family and we are so happy with our move. We love the spirit of the Upper Hunter community. I particularly appreciate the warm welcome and ongoing kindness shown to my wife [REDACTED] and me since our arrival.

My place of work is Newgate Farm, a young Australian owned farm with big ambitions. Four years ago our stallion operation employed 4 people full time. Today Newgate employs 40 people, not including the countless contractors building, fencing, shoeing, vetting etc on the property. Three years ago our stallions covered 150 mares on farm. This season our stallions will cover over 1200 mares, 1000 of these mares have walked-in from over 80 different Hunter Valley based broodmare farms.

Make no mistake, Newgate is in the Hunter Valley because this is the centre of Australian thoroughbred breeding.

Make no mistake, without Godolphin and Coolmore based here, with their scale, scope and global industry importance, the Hunter Valley would not be the centre of Australian breeding, and Newgate would not be here either.

This letter is from a former Newgate employee Tony Williams. Tony had worked and lived in this area for over a decade. His knowledge and expertise have been key to the development of Newgate. Our farm and this community lost Tony to Ireland late last year, predominantly because of the uncertainty around our industry caused by the lack of a FINAL decision from our government. Here is what Tony has asked to read on his behalf: