

12<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The Independent Planning Commission  
Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 7 (DA 231-7-2000 MOD7)  
Level 3  
201 Elizabeth St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Objection to the Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification Proposal

I am writing as a concerned landholder, business owner and resident of the Upper Hunter to object to the Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification Proposal.

My reasons for objecting to this proposal are as follows:

1. **Cumulative Impacts** - The Upper Hunter is already a very large coal producer with a high concentration of coal mines in the area. We do not believe that the cumulative impacts of mining in the Upper Hunter have been fully considered. This mine proposal will further impact on the areas dust and noise pollution, leading to further deterioration of the local environment. These impacts will also affect the health and wellbeing of the local communities. The proposed mine will also further impact the viability of the surrounding prime agricultural land.
2. **Loss of Diversity** - This development will result in the significant loss of agricultural land and a reduction in the agricultural diversity of the area. Our region boasts a vibrant agricultural sector which enjoys secure access to irrigation water and some of the most fertile land in the country. Agricultural industries contribute to the diversity and prosperity of our community and if the dominance of mining in this area is not brought into some sort of balance, we risk losing these industries to this area for ever.
3. **Air Quality impact** – As landholders and citizens we are seriously concerned about the impact of dust from this mine to neighboring towns and properties and the overall health and air quality of our region. The cumulative air quality impacts are posing real health risks and will further impact on local communities.
4. **Visual impact** - The proposed mine will further impact the visual amenity of the area, limiting the opportunities for tourism businesses to attract visitors and limiting the opportunity to attract further investment. As much as the mining industry would like to believe that mining and wine tourism can co-exist, that is certainly not the view of the wine tourism industry.
5. **Water Resources** - The Hunter River is the lifeblood of the Upper Hunter's agricultural industries and local communities. It is critical to this region that the Hunter River remains a high quality, viable and reliable resource. Any operation that threatens or pollutes and damages this supply of water will threaten the future viability and reputation of the entire Upper Hunter. Given the

problems experienced at this mine in the past, and its proximity to the Hunter River we are not confident that appropriate attention has been paid to this critical aspect.

6. **Impacts on the Wine and Tourism Industry** - The wine and tourism industries need a critical mass to survive and the further expansion of mining in the Upper Hunter will impact on the viability and credibility of this area as a serious wine and tourism destination. There are numerous tourism development proposals that are constrained by the current levels of uncertainty created by existing and proposed mining developments. The proposed mine will further impact the future viability of the wine and tourism industries which have already been negatively impacted by the rapid expansion of the mining industry in recent years.

I respectfully ask that you register our objection to this proposal and give serious consideration to the above points when assessing the appropriateness of the Dartbrook coal mine modification proposal.

Yours faithfully,

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