

## Submission to the Proposed Reopening of the Dartbrook Underground Mine in the Upper Hunter

By: Brendan Taylor

I have recently moved back to the Hunter Valley to assist my family establish a new and exciting food business. I attended St Josephs in Aberdeen in the early 1990's and then moved away.

On my return to the Scone area, where my family has a farm and a developing food business, I was struck by:

- The impact of the current drought on the family farm and the area in general. If the scientific community is to believe this drought is not only a natural event, but also one made worse by human activity. Extremes of climate, we are told will only worsen in the years to come, with more extreme wet and more extreme dry
- The advance of mining operations into and in close proximity to the upper Hunter. I noticed in particular the deterioration of air quality on our farming country and I am concerned not only for the health of my family but also the health of the animals and the safety of the food we produce both now and into the future.

The Upper Hunter Shire is opposed to coal mining in our area, which I strongly support. The Upper Hunter has a policy of encouraging clean green energy and clean green industry, which I also strongly support.

Our growing food business is based in the Upper Hunter Shire, because the Upper Hunter Shire is supportive of our industry. I believe our food business can grow substantially not only based on these policies but on the unique environment and water quality in the Upper Hunter.

I am strongly opposed to the reopening of the Dartbrook Mine, it will be a negative for our future food business, a negative for the community and a negative for the environment. The reopening is opposed by the community, is not consistent with the Upper Hunter Shire stated policy opposing such mines and will be a negative for new clean green industry in our area (including tourism).