

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

By email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Re: Maxwell Underground Project

Dear Commission

My name is Emma Newton and have lived and worked in the Denman for just over 2 years.

I am writing to register my support for Malabar Resources' Maxwell Underground Project.

I support the Project because it is proposed that the Maxwell Project will generate approximately 250 jobs during construction and 350 jobs during operations. Malabar has also promised to provide training for local people so the skills to operate an underground mine can be developed within the local area. With the current economic climate and subsequent slow-down of the mining industry in the Hunter Valley I believe it is essential for this project to go ahead. Already this year many people involved in the mines have been stood down or face reduced hours. In addition to this, as mines close or reduce capacity there is a devastating knock on effect on the local communities as businesses directly and indirectly involved in the industry are affected. I believe the Maxwell Project will provide a much-needed boost to our local economy and help local business owners – especially as Malabar Coal proposes to support local businesses throughout the construction phase and operation of the mine which I believe is to be over 26 years. Long term projects, like this one are essential to our local economy. The project going ahead will mean local businesses can hire more people and keep young people in the region, as well as encourage people from outside the area to move here – a further boost to the area.

As a resident of Denman I am fully aware of the number of high-class horse studs in the region. In my mind the Maxwell Project is a sensible and common-sense proposal that can co-exist with other industries and allow our community to benefit from the existence of a number of strong local industries – providing not only employment opportunities now, but opportunities for the next generation of children growing up here. I understand that previous open cut proposals have failed to listen to local people. Malabar has instead developed an underground proposal that will greatly reduce dust and noise related impacts on nearby properties and the horse studs. These changes will make a significant and positive difference to the local community.

I strongly believe that it is essential for the Maxwell Project to go ahead for the continued well-being of the region – both economically and as a community. One example of community support we receive from Malabar Coal is their sponsorship of a local sports club, and last year they funded all the swimming lessons for children at the local Catholic Primary School. Without such support from industry, local sports clubs would disappear. These Clubs are vital in a regional community - as a mother of 2 young children I am grateful that my boys are able to participate in all manner of sports despite our distance from a large urban hub.

For the reasons listed above, which are in no way exhaustive, I wholly support the Maxwell Underground Project. The benefits from this project will make a long-term, positive difference to my community.

Regards

Emma Newton