

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 Allan Davies and I lived in the Upper Hunter Valley for over 30 years. Whilst I currently live with my wife in Queensland, we retain a large farming operation at Bureen (over 900 ha) on the western side of the Hunter River. In addition, we are shareholders in Malabar Resources.

The farming operation is focused on fattening beef cattle for market and hay and silage making. We make hay and silage for a range of customers including thoroughbred horse studs and for our own use. We employ 3 permanent employees and up to five more when the workload increases.

The Bureen farming operations are in direct line of site with the Malabar operation and in particular the proposed Maxwell Underground Mine Project. We are very supportive of the Malabar Resources' Maxwell Underground Project because:

- The Maxwell project is now an underground project. When Anglo Coal was seeking approval for the Drayton South mine, it was an open cut proposal. The Maxwell project is infinitely less intrusive, environmentally more 'in keeping' with the local area and will minimise environmental impacts such as noise, dust, vibration, visual intrusion and groundwater loss.
- 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. In the COVID-19 world we live in, job creation in rural areas is a very positive initiative and should be supported.
- As a consequence of approval, the Maxwell Project will boost the local Upper Hunter economy and help local business owners. It will support local businesses throughout the construction phase and operation of the mine over 26 years. Long term projects, like this one, will mean local businesses can hire more people and keep young people in the region.
- The Maxwell Project is a sensible and common-sense proposal that can co-exist with other industries. As a local property owner, I was concerned with the impacts of the Drayton South proposal. Instead, Malabar has developed an underground proposal that minimises impacts on nearby properties and the horse studs. In addition, Malabar has moved exploration licence boundaries and modified its mine plan to assist minimising and even eliminating major impacts on the nearby horse studs.
- Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. The Maxwell Project will mean better rehabilitation outcomes by filling voids at the former Drayton Mine with reject stone and rock. This will eventually result in a satisfactory final land form which otherwise would not have occurred.

All of these benefits will make a long-term, positive difference to our local community.

Regards



Allan Davies
8 November 2020