

David Lennard  
263 Roughit Lane  
Roughit NSW 2330

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001  
Date 18/9/2019

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. SSD-9526**

My name is David Lennard and I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation coal miner from a long-term Hunter Valley family. I work in an office that supports coal mining and also run a small hobby farm outside Singleton.

I am writing to lodge my support for Malabar Coal's Maxwell Underground Project.

This is a sensible project that has been designed so our community can enjoy a much-needed economic boost without negatively impacting other local industries and land uses.

I support the project because it will deliver important benefits for the local community and NSW.

- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The Maxwell Project will create 350 new jobs for the region. My son is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation coal miner, having completed his apprenticeship at the now closed Drayton Mine. I am pleased to see his generation enjoying low unemployment in the region and would like to see these opportunities continue. These new jobs and the wages that will flow from them, will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy. Further afield, the project will also generate \$1 billion to \$1.25 billion for the NSW State Government and local Councils. This money can be used to upgrade regional hospitals, schools or infrastructure. Projects like this help ensure our ongoing prosperity and can support the economy for years to come.
- **JOB CREATION:** The project will mean 350 more skilled jobs for the local community. These jobs will inject around \$55 million in wages into our community – benefiting many other businesses in the area. 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. They have also said they want to prioritise hiring locals to ensure that the benefits of the project stay here in the community.
- **LOCAL ECONOMY:** The project will boost our local economy and help local business owners. It will support a wide range of local businesses throughout the construction phase and operation of the mine over 26 years. I manage a resource industry consultancy in Singleton and rely on projects like this to provide the confidence to allow continued recruitment and training of industry professionals.
- **COEXISTENCE:** The project is a common-sense “win-win” for our community. Previous open cuts proposals were contentious, but Malabar have heard us and developed a sensible project that means our community can benefit from the economic boost a new mine will provide – while also allowing the horse studs and other land uses to continue their operations. I'm pleased that the EIS for the Maxwell Project shows that the underground mine can co-exist safely with other industries. Co-existence has always been an important part of our community. Having a number of strong industries has helped our community to flourish. This project means that can continue for years to come.

- REHABILITATION: Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. They started rehabilitating the old Drayton open cut straight away and have made great progress so far. It is great to see a business take this job so seriously. I appreciate that they have already opened up some of the land for cattle to graze on. This shows a commitment to coexistence with other local industries. I also note that the Maxwell Project will deliver a better rehabilitation outcome in the long term by filling voids at the former Drayton Mine with reject stone and rock. This will mean a much better outcome for our community.
- SOLAR PROJECT: I appreciate that Malabar are also investing in a solar farm on their rehabilitated land. If approved, this could provide additional power directly to the grid, or help to power local businesses and homes. This shows the company is open to different ideas that can benefit our community.

These benefits will make a substantial long-term difference to the communities in the Upper Hunter and to NSW.

Our community needs a diverse economy and the Maxwell Underground Project can help make sure our economy prospers for decades to come.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Lennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Lennard