

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 Cheryl Holz and I am a Lead Geologist with Xenith Consulting based in Singleton in the Hunter Valley region of NSW. I have worked as a Geologist for nearly 30 years in and around the Singleton LGA for a variety of mining companies and consulting groups. I have four children and have been involved as a volunteer in many community organisations including sporting and school committees and associations. I am currently the President of Singleton High School P&C and on the executive of the Coalfield Geology Council of NSW. I have lived in the Hunter region for almost 30 years on a small farm just outside of Singleton, as such I have a broad depth of knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the Singleton and broader Hunter Valley region and quite a unique perspective when it comes to the impact of projects like the Maxwell Underground Project on the local community.

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

I support the Project because 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.

The Maxwell Project will allow our community to benefit from the existence of several strong local industries. Our region has a long history of industries co-existing and working together to support jobs, services and economic growth. Having lived within this community for almost 30 years I have seen firsthand how these various industries co-exist and how this type of project boosts not only increases in direct employment opportunities but how it indirectly sustains local shops and even the number of school teachers available to teach at local schools.

This is something that those that would vote against this project have absolutely no understanding of, because more often than not – they don't actually live here! The impact on regional schooling if projects like this one do not get approved can be very detrimental. In an area where there are already so many disadvantages to our children due to being in a regional area this type of project will only bring huge benefit. I see through my role as President of Singleton High School P&C the input we get from local industry to support such things as student wellbeing, health, STEM and indigenous programs. These programs would not run without the support of local industry.

The Maxwell Project is a sensible and common-sense proposal that can co-exist with other industries. Malabar has 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. Mine rehabilitation is also an area where Malabar Resources has done exceptionally well. The rehabilitation works that have been occurring since their purchase of the old Drayton Mine site have been outstanding. Having worked at this site for nearly 20 years I find it so fulfilling to see that the once mined out landscape is being replaced with rehabilitated land, not only that but also the creation of a renewable energy solar farm – if that doesn't epitomise just how this company can co-exist with other industry than I don't know what does.

These benefits will make a long-term, positive difference to my community and I hope that you make the right decision for our community and vote in favour of supporting this project.

Regards

Cheryl Holz (BSc. Hons.)