

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

To, The Independent Planning Commission

My name is Emma Flannery and I have been an employee here at Coolmore Australia since 2014. I have covered several roles since my employment began, spending five years working on the farm with the horses before taking up a stud secretary role in the office from August 2019. Since arriving here, Coolmore did not simply become my job, but also my home, and a place I care very much about.

Coolmore Australia is a farm like no other, not only because of its sheer size, top class facilities and dedicated team of staff. Coolmore is home to one of the most phenomenal stallion rosters in the world, along with a resident population of numerous high-class mares and thus their young stock.

I object to the application for the Malabar underground proposal and I ask you, the commission to please reject the mine. My objection is for several reasons. Coolmore is renowned for its high quality pasture and serene environment. Both ideal factors when considering land to breed and raise young stock. The quality of the lush paddocks that we are so lucky to have comes down to one factor, water. If the proposed mine were to affect both the groundwater and surface water availability to Coolmore this could have drastic consequences. A reduction in the water table beneath Coolmore may potentially threaten not only the quality of the pastures but also the many trees we are so reliant upon to provide much needed shade on those scorching hot summer days for our livestock. The damage the lowering of the water table could do has not been assessed by the proponent or planning department.

The drought we have been experiencing over the last few years has been devastating to see. Last summer, when we were living in a land full of dust and smoke haze, we were so dependent on the Hunter river for irrigation. During the worst months, it was clear to anyone how low the river level was with its flow almost non-existent. If the river level were to be reduced due to impacts from the mine, this could have devastating effects on the property. In the world we live in now with the effects of climate change clearly evident, these are times which we will undoubtedly experience again and again.

Another factor which is deeply concerning to me is the effect the mine will have on the air quality. As I mentioned earlier, the air quality we experienced last summer when we had bushfire smoke combined with the dust particles emitted from the mines was simply horrendous. Each year the air quality in the hunter valley is deteriorating, another mine added to this is surely only going to make it worse. On a farm where the aim is to breed and raise the highest quality of racehorses the effects of such low air quality are bound to be detrimental. The reputation of the Hunter Valley as a place to raise race horses is being degraded every year and will not recover if ever closer mines keep getting approved.

I believe the new mine would also mean that Coolmore would be subject to the noise effects of mine blasting during the construction stages. I have been around horses since the age of six and worked in the equine industry for several years, I have seen numerous times the impacts sudden and loud noise can have on the horse. Horses are predominantly flight animals by nature, when suddenly panicked their instant reaction is almost always to run. I would hate to think of what may happen should any horse of any age; an older broodmare, yearling or 3 week old foal suddenly be startled by a mine blast. This may not only put them at serious risk of injuring themselves but also the staff around them.

This is the third application for a mine on this site since I started working for Coolmore. I ask you to please protect this beautiful area on which we live and work from irreparable damage and to please refuse the Malabar mine application.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Flannery".

Emma Flannery