

My name is Cindy Englebrecht and I am employed full time in the thoroughbred industry at Coolmore Australia as the Stud Secretary. My job entails interacting with over 100 stud and agistment farms in the Hunter Valley alone on a constant basis. We also have to schedule mares that come from interstate and overseas on a regular basis, help to arrange agistment farms for them if they have to stay for a period.

My family have been in the racing industry for over eighty years based here in Muswellbrook in various different roles.

Immediate family members include Peter (husband, horse trainer) Jason (son, track work rider for Gerald Ryan) Cristie (daughter, assists her father with training and also employed by Coolmore in the accounts department) There are many more family members involved in the industry.

I object to the application for the Malabar underground mine proposal and ask that you the commission please reject the mine.

This industry puts food on our table, supports my family and also serves to support various employees and business operators including stable hands, track work riders, jockeys, truck drivers, horse dentists, veterinarians, feed companies, farriers, saddlers and rug repairers. The people relying on our business' locally is very far reaching.

We are passionate about the horse racing and breeding industry and ensuring we have a legacy to pass on to our children's children. This industry offers incredible diversity to those looking for employment either hands on or in various other roles.

Our industry has lived in relative co-existence over the past 80 years, although we have watched as the mining industry seems to have engulfed farms and training facilities in more recent times in our area.

We rely on the close proximity of stud farms such as Coolmore and Godolphin not only for our immediate livelihoods but also for the fantastic racing we are able to be involved in through their direct sponsorships of local race clubs Muswellbrook and Scone. (Scone currently hosts Australia's richest country race meeting which has gone from strength to strength in past years due to the massive support given by local horse studs).

Our business benefits from impact of these studs via new horses to train, being able to purchase horses direct from the paddock attracting new clients as they frequent the studs during the season, being located to incredible facilities including specialist veterinarian care at the best equine centre in the Southern Hemisphere.

I implore that you not only consider the fate of these two internationally recognised horse studs and the families this will directly affect if the proposed Malabar underground mine is to go ahead, but also of the other businesses who rely on their close proximity.

I have grave concerns for the water that this mine will take, following the worst drought we have seen in a long time.

Thank you.

