

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

18th November 2020

By email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Re: Maxwell Underground Project

Dear Commission

My name is Anthony Le Bas and I am a semi-retired metallurgist. I have worked in the steel and mining industries for 40 years and I have lived in the Hunter region for 18 years.

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.

I began my working career as a trainee metallurgist with BHP and I am grateful for the opportunities afforded to me by BHP and I am encouraged to see similar opportunities will be available to young people from this long-term project being developed by Malabar Resources.

Unemployment is the scourge of rural communities and the Maxwell Project will boost the local 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. It is of paramount importance that well-paying and highly skilled jobs are available in regional areas to mitigate the flow of young people, seeking employment, to the capital cities.

The Maxwell Project will predominantly produce coking coal which is used to produce coke which in turn is required to produce pig iron in a blast furnace. Two thirds of global steel production is via the blast furnace route and this will continue well into the future. If global steel mills do not import Australian coking coal, such as that produced from the Maxwell mine, they will import it from other coal producing nations.

Royalties from the Maxwell Project will help fund schools, hospitals and essential services which are vital in maintaining our high standard of living.

Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. I have been greatly impressed by rehabilitation work already undertaken by Malabar Resources and have no doubt this will continue into the future.

I strongly endorse this project and welcome the benefits it will undoubtedly deliver to the local community and our nation.

Regards

Anthony Le Bas