

18th November 2020

Christopher Kelley

3933 Golden Hwy Denman
NSW 2328

chrisroskelley@bigpond.com

04580223410

IPAC,

I am writing to object to the approval of the Maxwell underground mine approval.

I live & work at Woodlands Stud with my wife & children.

I have concerns about the impacts that the mine will have on the environment & the natural resources. The water is one of the most important natural resources that is available to the Hunter Valley & is a resource that is needed to maintain the survival of any rural industry. (i.e. Thoroughbred, cattle, hay production & other farming enterprises).

It is ridiculous to approve any further mining that has any potential to have any impacts on the Hunter River, any aquifers or tributaries that support the river system.

Woodlands like so many other farming operations in the Hunter Valley rely on the water from the Hunter river which is feed from the Glenbawn dam catchment & the many water aquifers that support the river system. The water is used for Domestic, livestock & irrigation which is why the security & the quality of the water are extremely important for the survival of the rural industry in the Hunter valley.

I have worked in blasting in the mining industry & with my experience, I believe that any blasting in the area will have effects on the horse industry. When blasting occurs, there is always ground vibration, over blast pressure along with dust & potential toxic fumes. There will also be operational noise coming from the mine. All these factors will have impacts on the behavior of animals (horses & cattle) as animals hearing & other sensors are extremely sensitive. When animals are affected be such things it can have impacts on animal production, the safety of the animals & the safety of handlers. It is a known fact that there are problems with blasting in mines (dust, Toxic fume, ground vibration & over blast pressure) so any blasting on the proximity of the thoroughbred industry should be avoided.

My family & I previously lived & worked close to other mines in the Hunter Valley & these mines impacted our lives daily through their operations (blasting & machinery).

If this mine is approved it will affect the Horse industry of the surrounding areas & have impacts on any other farms relying on water from the Hunter River. The horse industry & other farming operations support a great deal of family's, businesses & local groups & will be a part of the Hunter Valley for many generations.

The rural Communities & the environment have been impacted from the mining for too long now. The land on which we farm for food, employment & the survival of the rural communities relies on our natural resources to progress into the future.

I urge the IPAC to deny the approval of any mining that will have any impacts on our communities, natural resources & the environment.

Thankyou

Christopher Kelley