

To, The Independent Planning Commission.

I am writing this in objection to the proposed Malabar mine application.

I have been a resident here at Jerry's Plains for 15 years and an employee of Coolmore throughout. Applications for mines in any form on this proposed area of land need to stop. This is now the fifth application for a mine on this site and I please ask you to protect not only Coolmore but also the land, water and air that's surrounds us and reject this proposal.

Water is quite simply a lifeline to the farm. Without the Hunter river there would be no Coolmore. The lush green paddocks that we are so fortunate to see today may be severely jeopardised should this mine go ahead. We have just witnessed three years of desperate drought conditions. During this time, the need to irrigate the paddocks with water from the Hunter river was crucial to the operation of the farm. Should the flow to the river be affected in anyway, this could have catastrophic implications for the land we are so dependent on to raise our livestock. From what I understand it seems it may not be just the river that may be affected. Should the availability of underground water also be impacted this could add to the negative consequences brought upon Coolmore as a result. I am finding it hard to understand how these potential risks have been properly assessed and I struggle to see how the mine will source their own water supply in times of drought; times which we will undoubtedly see again.

Another concern I have with regards to the proposed mine is air quality. In the fifteen years I have lived here I have witnessed the increasing deterioration of air quality. Last summer it reached an all time low, when dust particles combined with smoke from the bushfires provided us with the worst air quality on record, conditions I hope never to experience again. However, another mine added to the area is quite simply going to degrade the quality of Hunter Valley air even further.

Australia is on many levels a world leader in the thoroughbred industry and continues to increase in size each year. Prizemoney for Australian racing has soared by 84% over the past ten years with at least 60 races worth a minimum of one million dollars. Without stud farms such as Coolmore providing top quality stallions to breed high class racehorses the industry would quite simply not exist. There is an everlasting future available for horseracing in Australia, can the same be said for the coal industry. When the coal is all gone, the mine has closed, the workers have moved away, what then becomes of this area? The agriculture to keep this beautiful part of the world alive and thriving is already here, but, it must be protected.

For these reasons, I ask you to please reject the Malabar mine application.

Yours Sincerely,

Frank Flannery