



Ciaron Maher Racing Pty Ltd

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## **Submission to Independent Planning Commission – Maxwell Underground Coal Mining Project**

Ciaron Maher Racing is the leading racing operation in Victoria and one of few stables with dual operations in Victoria and NSW. We have one of the largest client bases of any Australian thoroughbred operation with over 3,000 clients and in 2020 were the single largest participant in the Australian yearling market, acquiring in excess of 80 horses for more than \$15 million. A large proportion of our yearling purchases were either conceived or reared in the Hunter Valley and included product from both Coolmore and Godolphin.

Given Ciaron Maher Racing's reliance on product from the Hunter Valley and our scale and reach it's important that the view of Ciaron Maher Racing is considered by Independent Planning Commission and we appreciate the opportunity to make a submission.

We are concerned about the proximity of the mine to the Coolmore and Godolphin Studs and the Hunter River. The mine is too close, there is no margin for error and the impact of the mine on the local environment will flow long beyond the economic life of the mine. We recognise that these impacts pose irreversible risks.

We have particular concern around impacts of the proposed mine as they relate to water, air quality and blasting. All these aspects are crucial environmental factors for the development of young equine athletes and any diminution has the potential to cause harm. As a purchaser of yearlings we take into account the environment as part of our selection process, so these potential impacts have the capacity to diminish the reputation of Hunter Valley product and cause irreversible harm to what is Australia's largest nursery of quality thoroughbred athletes.

It is for these reasons we object to the Maxwell Underground Coal Mining Project.

Andrew Wiles  
Chief Executive Officer