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

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

**Re: Maxwell Underground Project**

Dear Commission

My name is Ian Long and I am currently employed in an Open Cut coal mine in the Upper Hunter, where I have been for the past 7 years. Prior to that I worked in the wine industry for 26 years in various winemaking & winery management roles, including 15 years at the largest winery in the Upper Hunter region. I have lived in the Upper Hunter region for 31 years.

I am writing to register my support for Malabar Resources’ Maxwell Underground Project.

I support the Project for the following reasons;

* *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.*
* *Current forecasts show continued demand for Australian coal extending out to at least 2050. With a number of coal mines in the region approaching end-of–life it is important to continue approving new projects to ensure ongoing supply to meet this demand. The Maxwell Project will boost our 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.*
* *In the time I have lived in the Upper Hunter I have seen the continual growth of mining & the support industries behind it. The increased employment opportunities resulting from this & the subsequent population growth in the area have seen towns like Muswellbrook developed significantly with a vast array of shopping and entertainment facilities that simply would not have been made available without mining. Projects such as Maxwell will help to ensure this development continues into the future.*
* *The Maxwell Project is a sensible and common-sense proposal that can co-exist with other industries. Previous open cuts proposals have failed to listen to local people. Malabar has instead developed an underground proposal that will greatly reduce dust and noise related impacts on nearby properties and the horse studs. These changes will make a significant and positive difference to the local community. The Maxwell Project has addressed all of the issues raised in previous objections, with current objectors appearing to be idealogically driven, rather than concerned about any actual tangible impacts from the project.*
* *The Maxwell Project will allow our community to benefit from the existence of a number of strong local industries. Our region has a long history of industries co-existing and working together to support jobs, services and economic growth.*
* *Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. The Maxwell Project will mean better rehabilitation outcomes by filling voids at the former Drayton Mine with reject stone and rock.*
* *I note the recent announcement that the owner of one of the adjacent horse studs is currently constructing a HELE coal fired power plant in the UAR. It is possible that these neighbours can negotiate a mutually beneficial supply arrangement to collectively support the Upper Hunter region where they both operate?*

These benefits will make a long-term, positive difference to our community.

Regards

Ian Long