



NEWGATE

23 November 2020

Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioners

The Newgate Group operates a thoroughbred horse stud in the Upper Hunter Valley and is one of the major Australian breeding operations.

We object to the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project (“Mine”).

Our industry has been in the Hunter Valley for nearly 200 years. The reason it has been here this long is due to a number of factors, three of which are:

1. The quality of the land,
2. The quality and supply of water; and
3. The clean environment.

You have had many experts provide information to you on this Mine. There is a strong likelihood that it will not provide a positive economic benefit to NSW. It also puts existing jobs at Coolmore and Godolphin at risk in the event they are unable to continue to operate in their current locations. We believe there could be more than 250 jobs lost, many of which would not be replaced, leaving good people unemployed.

Our industry relies on clean air, water and tranquility. Any mining project that puts these at risk is detrimental to our industry. You have heard from water experts about the risks this Mine poses. You have also heard how important water security is to all agricultural enterprises in the Upper Hunter. Water security can never be taken for granted and any risks to water, the water table, the Hunter River and associated water sources should not be accepted.

Given more regular and longer drought periods the concerns surrounding water are not exaggerated and given the risks this Mine poses to water we believe strongly that the precautionary principle should be applied.

We also note that there has been no assessment of the cumulative environmental impacts of this Mine as required by the Secretary’s Assessment Requirements.

Coolmore and Godolphin

Coolmore and Godolphin are critical to the Australian breeding industry. They attract investors and investment to our industry. They support the industry by purchasing a number of horses every

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year and they provide significant employment and spend large sums of money locally.

They also bring some of the world's best stallions to Australia which is of enormous benefit to the industry and they provide valuable training and experience to Australians. Staff that have been trained by Coolmore and Godolphin are spread throughout the Australian breeding industry, many in senior positions.

If Coolmore and Godolphin were lost to our industry it would be a major blow to the industry and have wide ranging ramifications.

We urge you to reject this proposal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Field', written in a cursive style.

Henry Field
Managing Director