**Maxwell Underground Mine**

**Submission in Support**

**24 November 2020**

The Maxwell underground mine expansion should be supported for the following reasons:

* The right to mine coal in agricultural land was first conferred on the AA Company in the Hunter Valley as a combined right in the early days of the colony of NSW.
* Mining coal in the Hunter Valley predates any stud activity and wine growing.
* Both the above activities continued their expansion in the full knowledge of the continued expansion of the coal industry both above and underground.
* I first witnessed the coal mining on my first trip through the Hunter Valley in 1952 as a small child and before the New England Highway was bitumised.
* I have been there countless times since for coal mining, wine drinking and horse riding and found all three entirely compatible.
* Maxwell Underground Mine operation enjoys an enviable position in the coal mining industry. It is well managed, and it is a well run profitable operation
* Importantly, it is an underground operation with minimal surface interference and comes complete with an excellent rehabilitation program.

I commend the operation.

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