

November 2020

New South Wales Government

Independent Planning Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project developed by Malabar Resources

I am a consulting geologist and have specialised in the coal sector for more than 40 years. I have worked on many coal exploration and coal mining projects in the Hunter Coalfield, where the Maxwell coal deposit is located. I fully support the development of this coal resource as planned by Malabar Resources.

I have a thorough knowledge of the coalfield in the Upper Hunter including the deeper coal resources at Maxwell (EL 5460). These deeper seams contain in the order of 650 million tonnes of coking coal. These coking coal resources are the equal to or better than, in terms of their low ash and coking properties, the semi soft coking coals that are currently produced from a few other Hunter Coalfield mines and exported to the steel mills in Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and China.

The coal resources in EL5460 are very well located in terms of existing infrastructure, and a vast amount of geological data has been obtained at great expense to Malabar and its partners in relation to the coal seams that are amenable to underground mining. By way of example the database includes more than 900 drill holes and substantial amount of 3D seismic. The development of these resources could provide export coal for decades without the need to build a new coal preparation plant or rail loop, as these currently exist nearby at the now closed Drayton Mine that has ceased production.

If the Maxwell underground resources were to be developed, using the former Drayton Mine facilities this would be the first of many coal mining operations to transition from open cut to underground. In doing so the coal mining industry maintains the production of coal, employment and the payment of royalties for the benefit of the New South Wales. The opportunity to develop a world class deposit is unique and deserves the support of the Government of New South Wales. Malabar's development strategy is the future of coal mining in the Hunter Coalfield. The world needs coking coal as an essential raw material for steel-making as the chemical reduction process within the blast furnaces are dependent on coke as the most cost effective reductant. EL5460 has the potential to provide an essential commodity to the global markets for decades with minimal environmental impact.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Parbury

General Manager and Director