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To whom it may concern:

I am a proud local member of the Sandy Hollow community and have been for many years. During this time I have seen the support for local communities from the mining industry which has seen our local school benefited, the road upgraded, maintenance on the Community Hall, Local Cemetery and old church, the list is lengthy. Without this support our local village would not be the growing village that it is today.

I am also a local landholder, and our property is approximately 6 -7 kms from an operating mine and there has been no impact from the mining operation on our lifestyle. We also boundary a mining offset area and have found the maintenance of the adjoining property to be well managed. It would lead me to say that a coal mining company would be as good a neighbour that you could wish for.

I am also a local earthmoving contractor, and have been since the late 80’s. I have seen the highs and lows of mining, and have felt the full effects of the extremities on our business. During the past 30 odd years, I have seen the mining practices change from just mining companies, to responsible and integrated members of the communities that they operate in. During this time I have worked closely with environmental teams to achieve results which I believe are now known to be best practice in Australia.

I support Malabar’s Maxwell Underground Project as it has already been through stringent State significant project investigations. Muswellbrook is a mining town and needs mining projects. It should come as no surprise to anyone that mining projects need to continue in this area. As a business we have not performed any work for Malabar, but have sub-contractors who have, and their belief in the rehabilitation process appears to be very commendable.

In summary, I personally, and our business, support Malabar’s application and I am of the opinion that the coal mining industry are good members of the community, care about the environment, and an industry that takes the wealth created and shares it with the many local communities via employment, contributions, business and charity works.

Geoffrey Bowditch

Manager

Bowditch Earthmoving Pty Ltd