



25 November 2020

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

To whom it may concern,

The Hunter Business Chamber (The Chamber) is the largest regional business chamber in Australia. Established in 1886, the Chamber independently represents over 2,500 member organisations to all levels of government and is the peak business and industry association in the Hunter region, reflecting the interests of all sectors of business and industry.

The Chamber is an integral part of the Business NSW and Business Australia networks. We advocate to local, state and federal government for business-positive policies that promote investment and growth to deliver flow-on benefits to all in our community.

The Chamber notes the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine is an operation within the Hunter region. The Chamber is supportive of the proposal (the Project) submitted by Malabar Coal and particularly the economic benefits the project would bring to the local area and the region.

We understand the Project will generate around 250 jobs during construction and 350 jobs during ongoing operations. This will generate income in the local area of \$2.7 million per year in the establishment phase and \$7.6 million per year during operations. The flow on economic benefits are also significant and have the capacity to generate additional expenditure of \$2 million per annum during the establishment phase and \$43 million per annum during the estimated 26 years of operation of the mine. It is important to acknowledge the relative long life of the mine which will generate these benefits and boost the NSW economy over a sustained period of time.

The Chamber also notes Malabar has developed an underground proposal that will greatly reduce dust and noise related impacts which is so often a focus of concern of mine projects in local communities. They are to be commended for this approach noting this operation will serve to support people with particular skills relevant to underground mine activity which has diminished over time.

We also understand the Project will provide material to facilitate the continued rehabilitation of the former Drayton Coal open cut mine to reduce final voids. This is another area of concern to the community and helps to resolve issues around environmental rehabilitation and amenity.



The Chamber believes the region need to support projects where they highlight real economic benefits and have demonstrated and documented a capacity to meet or exceed the planning considerations which include an assessment of the economic and social impacts of the proposal. We believe the Maxwell Project achieves these objectives and commend the project to you for approval.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit to the Commission and would be pleased to provide further information if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Hawes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bob Hawes
Chief Executive Officer
Hunter Business Chamber