



To Whom it May Concern,

I write to you As the Founder and Chairman of AgriWebb, the nation's Startup of the Year and fastest growing tech company focused on agriculture and primary production, in support of Australian Rural Industry, Agriculture and the fabric of the Hunter Valley community. I fully support the Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeding Industry and its defence of the natural beauty of the Hunter Valley.

AgriWebb is at the forefront of developing products for the Australian agricultural industry. The company aims to leverage farm data to transform the livestock industry via two integrated products: With over 2,500,000 animals, 7Million acres of land and over \$10Bn in agricultural assets connected to the platform I hold an advantaged insight into the future of Australian agriculture. Connecting on a daily basis with a multitude of service providers from consultants, agronomists, stock agents, genetics experts, farm mangers and international investors we have a wealth of information about seeing the future of the Australian \$51Bn annual industry.

To quote the recently published *Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper* ([agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au](http://agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au)) Agriculture contributes around 2% of Australia's GDP and accounts for 15% of total Australian merchandise exports. 65% of production exported is valued at over \$41Bn. 270,000 people are employed in the sector with a farther 223,000 in food manufacturing.

One of the key initiatives stated in the Agricultural White paper: "We want a more competitive business environment for a stronger economy and stronger agriculture sector". It is with these foundational points that I stand convinced that there is no other option for the Independent Planning Assessment Commission but to oppose the 75 million-tonne coalmine for the Hunter Valley by American giant corporation: Anglo American.

Evidentiary support cites that the most recent scanning results of Coolmore's prime Angus breeding cattle herd were a market leading 95%. This puts the productivity in the highest bracket in the country. Furthermore the Coolmore herd were recognised by JBS as world leading with a best in class award. Numerous studies link air and water quality to the productivity of animals and it is a likelihood that approval for an American industrial mining project will directly harm one of the highest quality livestock management producers in the country.

The critical consideration goes beyond the passionate emotive negative impact drivers against the mine of employment, natural beauty, local community, and associated health risks; rational opposition extends to fundamental economics. Anglo American is a company that reportedly seeks to cut more than 53,000 Australian jobs, a company that has been reportedly entangled with legal accusations of fraud against its own executives.

The Australian agriculture industry relies on the support of Planning Assessment Commission and the State and Federal Governments to back their desire to feed Australian jobs, local economies and families. Farming and racing ventures that surround the proposed Drayton South mine are under threat of environmental, physical and personal risk from a corporation seeking to exploit Australian resources only during a period of profitable gain, and leave the local economy to rot when economic conditions become tough.

I am writing this letter to express my indignation at the at the Department of Planning's recommendation that the Drayton South mine should be approved. I simply cannot believe that the Department of Planning would make a decision that directly contravenes the standing decision of 3 independent PACs and the NSW Gateway Panel. One is led to question the motivation that belies a method behind such a flagrantly illogical decision.

The Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding industry contributes over \$5 billion annually to the national economy and \$2.6 billion annually to the NSW economy. It supports over 230,000 jobs throughout Australia. It is one of three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world.

Thoroughbred racing is tied to the community as a cornerstone of the economy and mental health. The benefits of thoroughbred breeding and racing simply can not be overwhelmed by the environmental and economic damage done by a mine with such a short life span that Anglo American have openly put it up for sale.

It becomes the duty of the Independent Planning Assessment Commission to deny the application for an extension of the Drayton south mine; just as it is the duty of the Honourable Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to defend the backbone of Australian farming.

Respectfully,

Justin Webb  
Founder & Chairman – AgriWebb Pty Ltd.

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