



**Keeneland Association, Inc.**

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April 4, 2014

Mr. Henry Plumptre  
Darley, Kelvinside Stud  
Rouchel Road  
ABERDEEN  
New South Wales  
2336  
Australia

Dear Henry:

Keeneland is the world's largest Thoroughbred Auction Company. As such, we are dependent upon international trade. We have a strong and interdependent trade relationship with the breeders of Australia. Those most immediately impacted by the proposed open cut coal mining in the Hunter Valley, both Coolmore and Darley represent the very top tier of our clientele; indeed our entire industry worldwide.

The importance of the impacted Thoroughbred breeding operations is undeniable. These farms represent a veritable cornerstone to the industry in Australia. Their need for clean air, pure water, and productive land is paramount to their survival. By threatening the survival of these farms by the inherent blasting, air and water contamination, and their likelihood of suffering relocation; the proposed, nearby, open cut coal mines threaten the very survival of the entire fragile Thoroughbred industry in Australia.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those affected breeders and those otherwise who oppose this proposed open cut mining project. Its proximity to the core of Australian Thoroughbred breeding should raise alarms throughout the country. Not only is a treasured industry under threat, but an entire way of life; one dependent upon the purity and quality of the exceptional natural bounty of the pristine ecosystem found in the Hunter Valley region.

Sincerely,

William W. Thomason, Jr.  
President & CEO