



PEHM/CEH

Premier and NSW Ministers  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney  
NSW 2000  
Australia

17<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Dear Sirs

When I was last in Australia I had forgotten just how beautiful the Hunter Valley was to look at and admire. The Hunter Valley is the centre of all that is best with Australian Bloodstock and which is appreciated and respected worldwide.

Only recently and following extreme flooding in England, scientists have become adamant that unless the world shows more responsibility toward their country's carbon emissions, the effect of climate change will only intensify. In particular, the coal industry has been named as one of the main sources of pollution.

Of course, each country will have their own views on this and will make an argument to suit their objectives. There is no argument, however, that the Hunter Valley is the best place to raise horses in Australia. This is without dispute.

Any recognised horseman will tell you that the land on which a horse is raised is paramount to his future as a racehorse. The other most important aspect is the purity of air – if a person is raised in the smog of a city they are at a disadvantage to a person raised in the countryside. One of our best regarded trainers in England, Barry Hills, was totally adamant that because one year when a field of oilseed rape was grown next to his gallops at Lambourn, his horses suffered with breathing

difficulties and this absolutely affected their racing ability. There is now no oilseed rape grown!

It is, therefore, ridiculous to suggest that raising a foal alongside a coal mine would have no detrimental effect on its long-term future as a racehorse.

To continue coal mining in the Hunter Valley would mean a blight on the landscape and prejudice the Hunter Valley as the centre of excellence for the Thoroughbred Industry.

Could Governments with such an international asset in their jurisdictions and true lovers of the Bloodstock Industry ever live with themselves if this happened and they had to explain to the next generation as to how coal mines were allowed to blot out and clog up the heart of the Australian Breeding Industry?

This cannot be allowed to happen and Juddmonte Farms give their full and unequivocal support to Darley and Coolmore in preventing such a tragedy to happen.

We wish them well and are quite certain common sense will and has to prevail. We trust that Government's will make the right decision to reject the Anglo American mine proposal and protect the Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip E H Mitchell'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that curves upwards at the end.

Philip E H Mitchell

General Manager