



H.H. THE AGA KHAN'S STUDS

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

Re: Anglo American Drayton South Open Cut Mining Proposal

3rd April 2014

Dear Sirs,

For the last number of years we have kept some mares at John Messara's Arrowfield Stud and during this time, on the occasions that I have travelled to Arrowfield to see our stock, I have become very aware of the effect of mining on the landscape in New South Wales, as I fly from Sydney to Scone.

It is on this subject that I write to you as I have become aware recently of a potential mining development right in the heart of the Hunter Valley and very close to Darley's property, as well as Coolmore at Jerry's Plains. The devastation that this would cause to the largest bloodstock operations in Australia, and the effect on the industry in the Hunter Valley, could be extremely significant.

The worldwide bloodstock industry's foundations are built on centres and areas of excellence. You only have to think United States – Kentucky, Great Britain – Newmarket, Ireland – Kildare, France – Normandy, New Zealand – The Waikato Valley and most definitely Australia – The Hunter Valley.

Both Darley and Coolmore would certainly be threatened by this mining development and that undoubtedly would also have a knock on effect on the other operations in The Hunter Valley, with Arrowfield Stud being one of these, where of course the Aga Khan stock are boarded in Australia. One thing in common to all of us who breed thoroughbreds is that we require clean air, water and soil to raise our horses and indeed it would not be possible without these three components. I can only imagine the detrimental effect this mining development would have on the industry in The Hunter Valley.

I am aware of the work The Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeders Association are undertaking at the moment to try to ensure that this development does not get the go ahead, in order to protect an important industry and revenue generator in the state of New South Wales. I support the HTBA's endeavors and hope that common sense will prevail for the future of the thoroughbred industry in the Hunter Valley.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Downes