

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Drayton South Mining Proposal - Objection  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 November 2016 1:18:38 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** ruth mant [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 3 September 2015 at 10:59:02 am AEST  
**To:** "[pac@pac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au)" <[pac@pac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** **Drayton South Mining Proposal - Objection**

Dear Planning Assessment Commission , we are very disappointed that despite the recommendations of 15 independent Government experts and last years rejection of this mine by the previous PAC that the department of Planning has recommended that this project proceed .

One can only wonder at the motivation for such a decision that has put at risk an industry - namely the Hunter Valley thoroughbred breeding industry - that is internationally recognized as one of the best in the world .

Breeding thoroughbreds has been an integral part of the Hunter Valley for over 150 years and has generated very significant economic and social benefits as well as being a major booster to the tourism industry in the region .

The Dept of Planning is now on course to jeopardize and destroy the Hunter Valley thoroughbred breeding industry by potentially driving two of the major players - Darley and Coolmore ( and quite possibly several others !) to move their operations to Victoria where no doubt they will welcomed with open arms .

To put the interests of the coal mining lobby above those of the thoroughbred industry totally defies logic particularly at a time when most coal mines around the world are actually losing money and many are closing down .

Coal mines do irreparable damage to the environment and no doubt when a mine has extinguished it's reserves many mines will be simply put into bankruptcy and therefore are unable to meet their much touted remediation obligations .

The local community will be left with a destroyed landscape and to deal with the health and social issues that are likely to emerge .

Certainly recent events at Lithgow with Centennial coals ecological disasters should surely serve as a reminder to the dept of planning of how difficult it is to ensure that the mine companies fully comply with the guidelines that are agreed at the time approval is given. Once things go wrong , as they inevitably do , it is too late to reverse the problem - the damage is done and while financial penalties may be invoked against the companies concerned the money is rarely enough to bring repair the damage that is done .

From our own point of view , as the operator of a small boutique broodmare agistment farm we are very concerned that our business will be severely compromised if the proposal to extend the Drayton South mine gains approval .

Our business provides agistment for a very small percentage of the several thousand broodmares that visit the Hunter Valley each breeding season from all over Australia and New Zealand to be served by the world class stallions that predominantly Darley and Coolmore bring to Australia .

Our business currently employs 6 full time and 7 casual staff which amounts to annual payroll bill in the vicinity of \$ [REDACTED]

Most of the revenue that our farm generates is spent in the local area - for instance ;-

- farrier - [REDACTED]
- horse dentist [REDACTED]
- "overflow" agist [REDACTED]
- vet services [REDACTED]
- local consultants [REDACTED]
- hay and feeds [REDACTED]
- service fees [REDACTED]
- legal services [REDACTED]
- photography [REDACTED]
- printing [REDACTED]

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plus wages (av) [REDACTED]

As most (probably around 60% ) of the mares that reside on or visit our property are here to visit Darley or Coolmore stallions it is obvious that if they moved their operations interstate our business would be unsustainable and therefore the jobs of our very loyal staff ,contractors and suppliers would be at risk and most likely lost .

The effect on our small farm will no doubt be replicated hundreds of times throughout the Hunter Valley and a world class industry (Scone is the acknowledged horse capital of Australia ) is at risk of being lost forever .

Trusting that common sense will ultimately prevail and the advice of 15 independent government experts that recommended that this mine be rejected will be accepted .

Yours Faithfully  
Michael Mant

[REDACTED]