

Planning Assessment Commission
Re: Drayton South Coal Project

17th November 2016

Dear Commissioners,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am writing to you [REDACTED] to outline the vital importance that the Hunter Valley has in respect of Sydney racing. I am aware of the land use conflict between coal mining and thoroughbred breeders in the Upper Hunter and the potential impacts that further mining could have on the wider thoroughbred racing industry.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I decided early in my career that, to be successful, I needed to be in Australia and, having travelled horses from New Zealand to Sydney for the Carnivals, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We are very proud of our achievements and last year we set new records for prizemoney earned [REDACTED] and Group 1 races won [REDACTED]. There is no doubt that an essential part of our [REDACTED] strength is the horses [REDACTED] that were bred and raised in the Hunter Valley.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There would be no argument from myself or my colleagues [REDACTED] that we owe most of what we do to the horses that come from the Hunter – I believe 75% of races won in either Sydney or Melbourne are Hunter bred.

[REDACTED] we are always looking for new goals and new horizons. When the ATC and the government agreed to upgrade Randwick to an international racing venue and refurbish Rosehill, we could see that Sydney would be challenging Melbourne for the title of premier racing city in Australia. The cost of refurbishing the racecourses at \$200 million and the recent increase in prizemoney by 20% across the board makes Sydney the envy of the international thoroughbred community. However, the facilities and the prizemoney are irrelevant in any racing system without high quality racehorses. While there is no doubt that there are races won by horses bred in Victoria and other States across Australia and New Zealand also contributes to the elite racing during the autumn carnival, the core of our racing model is sustained by the quality horses raised in the Hunter Valley – the annual statistics show that.

New Zealand may be smaller in number than Australia but the thoroughbred industry is very much part of our national identity and is recognised and protected in all of its parts. Like many similar models around the world we have a national breeding centre

in the Waikato Valley which is home to most of the premium breeding farms in New Zealand. Thoroughbred breeding, in line with most agricultural industries in New Zealand, is protected and investment is encouraged by that protection. In Australia, the Hunter Valley is widely regarded as the national centre for Australia's thoroughbred breeders. The industry strength is based on the quality and calibre of its stallions and that is directly reflected in the level of investment in stallions each year by the larger operators in the Hunter. In looking at Coolmore and Darley, they would be widely recognised as industry leaders, without which the regional industry would be massively impacted. That impact would definitely be felt [REDACTED] particularly if either farm was forced to relocate interstate or perhaps to New Zealand.

On behalf of my family and colleagues, I respectfully ask the commissioners to say NO to the Drayton South proposal. I am reliably informed that mining in the Hunter is strong and there are many productive mines producing the net results that the government is looking for. However, I am also aware that further expansion of mining would be crippling for the Hunter thoroughbred industry because the impacts would probably result in Coolmore and Darley being forced to relocate. The consequences for the whole racing system would be unthinkable.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]