

Paul Morgan

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Letter to the Planning Assessment Commission.

I'm writing to you in support of the Drayton South Mine Project. Firstly Muswellbrook is a Mining town and has been for over a Hundred years. Mining in the surrounds of Muswellbrook has supported the town and helped it to grow into the town it is today. The Muswellbrook indoor swimming pool and gym is a great example of this.

After going to the PAC meeting in Muswellbrook I wonder just how many of the so called EXPERTS have actually have been on a coal mine. LET ALONE WITNESS A BLAST. These are controlled with very little noise and very little vibration. There is no reason for the horse studs to worry about blasting at the mine as Drayton South will be using the latest in electronic blasting technology (IKON) this allows Drayton to change the timing in the blast to reduce vibration and giving better control of the blast. This is the same technology that is used to build tunnels under cities around the world. It would be possible to fire a shot on the boundary of Coolmore or Darley and they wouldn't know unless you told them. I have heard trucks travelling along the Golden Highway making far more noise. If you don't believe what I say check for yourselves and be at a road closure for Drayton or Mt Arthur Coal as they use the same technology. As for the dust etc produced by blasts can be controlled by only firing them when the wind is blowing from the west (a westerly is the predominate wind in this area) .

But Muswellbrook is now dying the community that relied on Mining to survive is dying. Shops are closing. People are moving away there are no jobs for the builders with one builder I know is now moving his business to Newcastle after 30 years of building in the Upper Hunter. The boom in housing in the Upper Hunter has crashed. Unemployment is rising and will continue to rise if Drayton South is not approved. What will happen to the jobs of the 500 workers at Drayton? What will happen to their wife's and their Families? If Drayton South does not go ahead it will mean a lot more than a loss of 500 jobs. More businesses will close. More people will move away. There will be a loss of the next generation of workers as the younger generation move away to find jobs. This will be the greatest loss to the community of Muswellbrook. It will become a ghost town as people move away to find work as there are no other jobs in this area.

By allowing Drayton South to go ahead it will mean continued royalties to the Government? Continued jobs for more than the 500 workers. But hundreds more as it it's all the contractors and suppliers local shops not to mention the Schools as well. It's in fact the whole community.

Last year when the Planning Assessment Commission held its hearings into Drayton South Most of the Business and people thought it would go ahead and didn't register to speak or show their support. As you can see around Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter by the amount of posters and through the Voice for Mining web site has been astounding. This has been in spite of some from the Coolmore and Darley using standover tactics to some Businesses. I know of at least 20 signs

supporting Drayton South that have been torn down or removed from where they were placed. This shows the silent majority of people support Drayton South.

At the last Planning Assessment Commission Darley and Coolmore claim that there are no elite athletes in the Upper Hunter .this could not be further from the truth. There are plenty of children from this area making their mark in sport. My daughter for example has made it to numerous state competitions and has even made it to 2 separate Australian Futsal teams. She will be travelling to Spain in November to again represent Australia. She is not the only one to make Australian squads coming from the Upper Hunter. There have been plenty of people to make their mark eg Kurt Barns who has made it to the top 400 in the world Golf rankings. The Muswellbrook under 17 Netball team are the current state champions. Not bad from a small country town up against huge city teams. You only need to look at the back page of the local paper to find out. This shows how much the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association take notice of junior sport in this area.

I hope that this shows that Drayton South can get the go ahead without disturbing the horse industry so Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter can once again prosper and grow. It will allow all of our children to have jobs and reach for their goals whatever that may be.

Paul Morgan

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Ps If you would like to know any more information please call me and I would be happy to discuss.

NOTE :- I have not given to any money to ANY political parties.