



# Scone Chamber of Commerce & Industry

...building better Scone business

Planning Assessment Commission  
201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Sent by email: [pac@pac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au)

24 November 2016

Dear Commissioners

**RE: Drayton South Coal Project - D431/16**

The Scone Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity of making a submission to the Planning Assessment Commission on the Drayton South Coal Project.

The Scone Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents 85 businesses in the Scone district representing a wide and divers range of industries from traditional rural industries (including wine and equine) to retail, health and care, education and training, mining, manufacturing, hospitality, professional scientific and technical services, and tourism.

Scone is within the Upper Hunter Shire. It is home to nearly 5,500 people and is a thriving and growing town with significant growth and tourism potential. Our dominant industries are agriculture, manufacturing and retail.

Scone has a rich and diverse history dating back to the days the first European surveyor Henry Dangar first travelled through the area in 1824 and has been renowned from the early 1830's for its pastoral properties such as Belltrees and Segenhoe.

Scone does not have any operating coal mines in the local area. That said, approximately 12 per cent of the local workforce is employed in the mining industry and travel from the shire to work in nearby coal mines resulting in indirect economic benefits which flow back to local businesses.

Scone is well known as the Horse Capital of Australia, as the headquarters of the Australian Stock Horse Society and as the base for the largest equine hospital in the Southern Hemisphere, the Scone Equine Hospital. It supports over 70 horse breeding farms and is home to a world class thoroughbred breeding and racing industry.

The Scone Horse Festival celebrates the town's cultural links to the equine industry. It is celebrated every May attracting tens of thousands of tourists to the region to participate in all manner of activities from wine tours, stud open days, Scone horse sports, a parade in Kelly Street and a black tie ball and the prestigious Scone Cup. In turn providing significant opportunities that benefit many of local businesses.

The Scone Chamber of Commerce support long-term sustainable industries that ensure the viability of our town and the lifestyle it affords our community. We are not opposed to the mining industry

**Scone Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc,**





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and we recognise that it forms a vital part of the local retail economy and employs an important proportion of the Workforce in this Shire.

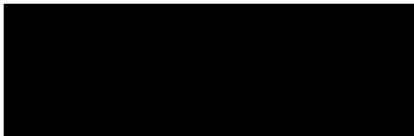
In the interests of a long term sustainable economy, we do not support any new developments that will displace or negatively impact on critical industry clusters or long-term sustainable industries such as Horse breeding.

Anglo American's application for an open cut coal mine at Drayton South due to the negative impact this mine will have on the local thoroughbred breeding industry and the ancillary equine businesses including equine transport, mare boarding farms, Equine hospital, agronomists, and many other agricultural supply and feed companies that are based in the Scone area and form part of the Upper Hunter's Equine Critical Industry Cluster.

We note that three previous Planning Assessment Commissions have recommended against the Drayton South mine due to the unacceptable impacts it will have on the environment and the Hunter's thoroughbred breeding industry.

We are compelled therefore to register our formal opposition to the Drayton South proposal and thank you again for the opportunity of making this submission.

Yours faithfully



**Ben Wyndham**  
President 2016/17  
Scone Chamber of Commerce Inc.

