

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: re hunter mine
Date: Thursday, 10 November 2016 8:38:10 AM

Dear Sir

I lived in the hunter 30 years ago and left just before the mines started. The first mine taking over a stud farm. First the dairy industry moved. Dust and the other products of mining and milk production don't mix etc. The Hunter of my time was a just horses, cows and grapes. Tourism and delights. Every time we return it seems there is a new hole and greater damage done.

Horses are in the hunter due to the minerals in the ground which they need to grow strong bones. Similar to our need of certain minerals in our food to keep healthy. Strip mining returns the earth after mining - but it is not the same soil striped in the first place. Where that first mine was finished and "returned to it's original purpose" we have land growing anything but what was originally produced. The soil is not the same. All minerals that it took millions of years of evolution to place in the soil are gone with the wind.

So you now want to do this with in cooe of two of our biggest studs in the hunter. Destroying any chance of this industry gaining any benefit from that soil and creating dust and pollution which the young stock breath in. Using up valuable water resources which in the Hunter can become very hard to come by in certain seasons if the storms don't hit. Even noise could be a problem. Horses are flight animals. If scared they run - into fences, trees you name it they do it when in a blind panic.

It can never go back to the land it was 30 years ago but this land of plenty which rivals the blue grass of kentucky and newmarket for producing great horses is our heritage and cannot be replaced. Once the mines get too close or too big and the pollution grows too great we will loose an industry which goes on into the future and when the mines finish the hunter will be dead. No grapes, wine, horses, cows, tourism. It seems to me a poor exchange even in money value. The horses are worth millions of dollars and these are produced every year. Mines dig, destroy and leave.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Thompson