

② Joe Clayton

Drayton South PAC Hearing

Joe Clayton, CEO MRS Pty Ltd, Submission

MRS Services Group welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) in support of the Drayton South Project in Muswellbrook. The MRS Services Group, a subsidiary of MRS Plc, is a Muswellbrook based mining services company employing approximately 300 local employees. As a services provider to the coal industry, the livelihood of those we employ and financial security of our business relies on the continued growth and approval of mining projects like the Drayton South Project.

Look around the room. Everything in this room is made from wood, metal, plastic, brick or glass. Wood is grown. For the rest, the majority, the base products from which they are manufactured are mined or quarried. To produce that wood into the functional form seen in this room we need tools made from metal or plastic. But we also need to feed the craftsman. We cannot survive without mining just as we cannot survive without agriculture.

Farmers are bound by the land. We can't move the rich alluvial soils of the Hunter to somewhere else. Miners are bound by the mineral deposits. We also can't move the mineral deposits to somewhere else. The Hunter has been blessed with magnificent farming land and world class coal deposits. For over 100 years we have been working side by side. Many miners are also farmers or horse breeders.

We don't choose where the rich alluvial soil is located just as we don't choose the location of mineral deposits. We just have to make the most of the natural resources we have been endowed with together. We need to find a way to make it work. Stopping and excluding parts of that economic community is not the answer.

I have managed mining operations all over Australia and in the jungles of PNG and Indonesia. Every one of the communities I have been involved in have become more affluent due to mining. Each of those communities struck it lucky by having minable ore deposits adjacent to their towns or villages. In Asia I have seen education, health and living standards in local communities improve exponentially with the introduction of mining.

It is no different with the Hunter. Mining has brought affluence to the Hunter. Just look at the facilities in Singleton and Muswellbrook in the 70's prior to large scale mining starting. Compare community facilities in country rural towns with mining and those towns with no mining. The mining towns of Parkes, Orange, Cobar, Mudgee, Gunnedah, Singleton and Muswellbrook have wonderful and affluent communities. I won't name the non-mining towns in strife but we all know the differences and issues.

NSW a great state for miners to live and work in. There is no fly-in-fly-out. Miners have the opportunity to live in and contribute to their communities with their families in a normal living environment. Living and working side by side with farmers and breeders.

We are both the only Primary Industries because we have both been around since man walked upright. Whether we like it or not we are interdependent and we will be for the life of this planet. We need to start looking at how we work together not deriding or excluding each other.

This Drayton South proposal achieves those aims and should be approved.

The Drayton South Project will secure a strong future for the Hunter Valley and deliver long-term benefits to local communities and businesses, including:

- Employment for 500 Drayton Mine Workers
- Continued employment for approximately 300 local MRS Services Group employees
- Approximately \$140m in local wages and procurement every year
- Support for approximately 140 local businesses that rely on the mine
- \$30m in State Government royalties each year
- Ongoing support to vital local charities, community groups, schools and sporting teams
- Local contributions and sponsorships

I urge you to consider the long-term financial, community and social benefits that the extension to Drayton Mine will have on the Muswellbrook, Hunter Valley and NSW communities and approve the Drayton South Project.

I thank you for your time in considering this submission and I remain hopeful of a positive decision



GW (Joe) Clayton
CEO
MRS Pty Ltd