

15 November 2016

**Personal address and contact details to remain confidential**

**Subject: Registration of Objection to the Drayton South Proposed Mine**

To: Members of PAC committee,

My name is Anthony Williams. [REDACTED]

formerly of: "[REDACTED]"

Property owner: [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, I will be unable to speak at the public meeting in Muswellbrook on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016. I therefore deputise Mr Bruce Slade to express my views and reference this submission on my behalf.

I have made submissions to the previous PAC's and I was able to present my objection to the Drayton South Mine at the 2015 public forum in Denman. I am devastated to learn the NSW Government's Planning Department recommendations for this particular mine to proceed and that we are again faced with the same issue.

I have recently moved to the UK but remain a home owner in the Upper Hunter Shire.

I sold my boutique broodmare farm "Ballymore" in the Hunter Valley as a direct result of the uncertainty of not only Drayton South mine proposal but the overall mining issues in the Hunter Valley, particularly Bickham close to my previous stud farm, and Dartbrook near Newgate where I provided bloodstock consultancy services. I had listened to the submissions at the last PAC and researched as much as I could reasonably do so about the mining and the environmental devastation and effect it will continue to have on the general farming, Horse Industry, Vineyards and other agricultural pursuits. I concluded that there is serious uncertainty of the long-term effects on mining land and the area surrounding it and the possible health implications.

I have been one of the fortunate landholders that was in a position to sell my farm. I hope for the viability of the Hunter Valley that I was wrong to do so. However, I felt there was no long-term certainty that my property would hold its value both monetary wise and environmentally.

I had to make a tough decision to sell our family property - I agonised over the decision, I did not want to sell "Ballymore". However, I made a strategic decision based on the uncertainty of the mining implications in the Hunter Valley and at this point my decision has been vindicated.

I have been in the Thoroughbred Industry for 41 years and living in the Hunter Valley for 11 years. I would be considered a leader in the thoroughbred industry and I like to think I have a reputation and knowledge that should not be lost to the Hunter Valley area or the Australian racing and breeding industry. Unfortunately, at this stage it has been.

I have accepted the position of Managing Director of Goffs UK, based in Scotland. This is an appointment I was head hunted for. I would not ever have considered a move such as this if it had not been for the fact that I had sold my property due to the surrounding land use uncertainties. Yes, I acknowledge this is an opportunity for me however I would never have considered leaving my sons behind if I had certainty in my property viability and livelihood long term.

Being in the UK I have been asked by Bloodstock investors who have stock in the Hunter Valley should they move them? The uncertainty of mining in the Hunter Valley has reached the Thoroughbred Industry Internationally and is having a direct impact on investment and spend in the Hunter Valley. I would not have believed that it would be discussed as widely as it is. However, make no mistake investment and direct spend in the Hunter Valley on an International front will dramatically decrease if this mine goes ahead. Unfortunately, damage has already been done to the reputation of the Thoroughbred Industry in the Hunter Valley from an International perspective.

Not only does this Drayton South mine need to be halted, mining exclusion zones need to be implemented in the Hunter Valley. I am feeling firsthand the thoroughbred exit, and then multiply the monetary cost that will occur in the Hunter Valley unless this Government deals with this issue in its finality and legislates exclusion zones in the Hunter Valley and stops the Drayton South mine.

I emphasise, perception and visual presentation is everything in our business. The Hunter Valley internationally is gaining a reputation of being a dusty mine pit, not the incredible agricultural and horse breeding mecca of Australia that it is.

Yours Faithfully

A G (Tony) Williams  
Managing Director

