



Mr Paul Forward
Chair – Planning Assessment Commission – Drayton
South project
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

16 November 2016

Dear Mr Forward

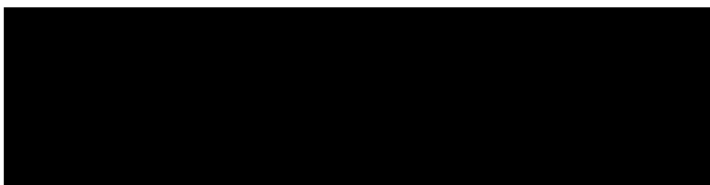
Submission in support of the Drayton South project

I write in relation to the Drayton South Coal Project in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Anglo American's Coal business and I welcome the opportunity to make this submission to the New South Wales (NSW) Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).

Anglo American has pursued approval of the Drayton South Project as a logical extension to the Drayton operations since 2009. The history of mining on this site stretches back over many decades with a mining lease granted in 1989, well before the purchases of Coolmore and Darley into the area, and demonstrates the intention and appetite to mine the site for important thermal coal as part of the existing and enduring coal industry in the Hunter Valley.

Anglo American has continued with the second application for Drayton South, making significant concessions and amendments in consultation with our neighbours to satisfy legitimate concerns and remain committed to coexistence. We have presented a significantly smaller project than originally proposed in our 2012 application. It will now have a 15-year and not a 27-year mine life, and will extract approximately 73 million tonnes, not 119 million tonnes as originally proposed. We have met all conditions placed on the project by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and the previous PAC, including reducing the project footprint by over 25 per cent, ensuring all mining operations remain behind the PAC nominated second ridgeline which removes all visual impacts, and fully meeting all environmental requirements including acceptable mitigation for any and all environmental impacts, and fully adequate environmental offsets.

The resource available on the Drayton South site is of high quality and is the property of the New South Wales Government. The value of the project can be measured in the



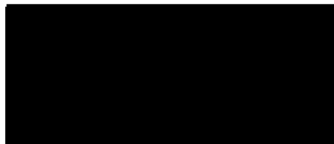
over \$60m in mining royalties and taxes which will be paid to the government each year and the annual injection of over \$50m in local procurement to the area. There is a responsibility to unlock this resource so the economic and social benefits can be realized not only for the local economy but throughout the state.

This is a project that will not in any material way impact the operations, much less the sustainability of any adjoining property owners or interfere with their economic activity. Anglo American has never held the belief of one industry at the expense of another; we are committed to coexistence and believe in the prosperity of the Hunter where multiple industries and communities can thrive to benefit the region.

We are devastatingly in a position where unfounded claims and threats from two horse studs have trumped the social and economic benefits of a considered, responsible project which has always had overwhelming community and DPE support. This has resulted in the lack of continuity between the existing Drayton operations and Drayton South and the loss of jobs for our 500 workers. This PAC has the opportunity to reinstate a significant project in the Hunter Valley and restore confidence to the community, economy and investment by looking at the scientific facts of a wholly approvable project and give the Hunter Valley jobs and security for the future.

The changes made to the project plan have removed for all practical purposes all reasonable objections raised by neighbouring stakeholders, and also many of the unreasonable ones. I ask the Commission to objectively and dispassionately weigh Anglo American's mindfulness of Government policy and commitment to coexistence against unsubstantiated threats from the equine industry.

Yours sincerely



Seamus French

