

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

By email: [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

**Re: Maxwell Underground Project**

Dear Commission,

My name is Ross Souter and I am a consulting engineer in the coal mining industry. I have lived in the Hunter region for 40 years and have been involved in designing new coal preparation plants, materials handling systems and many upgrades to existing coal facilities during my career.

I am writing to register my support for Malabar Resources' Maxwell Underground Project.

I support the Project because:

- *The Maxwell Project will generate approximately 250 jobs during construction and 350 jobs during operations. Malabar has also promised to provide training for local people so the skills to operate an underground mine can be developed within the local area.*
- *The Maxwell Project will boost our local economy and help local business owners. It will support local businesses throughout the construction phase and operation of the mine over 26 years. Long term projects, like this one, will mean local businesses can hire more people and keep young people in the region.*
- *The Maxwell Project is a sensible and common-sense proposal that can co-exist with other industries. Previous open cuts proposals have failed to listen to local people. Malabar has instead developed an underground proposal that will greatly reduce dust and noise related impacts on nearby properties and the horse studs. These changes will make a significant and positive difference to the local community.*
- *The Maxwell Project will allow our community to benefit from the existence of a number of strong local industries. Our region has a long history of industries co-existing and working together to support jobs, services and economic growth.*
- *Malabar takes mine rehabilitation seriously. The Maxwell Project will mean better rehabilitation outcomes by filling voids at the former Drayton Mine with reject stone and rock.*
- *Malabar mine takes advantage of the existing infrastructure (offices, coal handling system, coal preparation plant, train load out system and rail loop) on the Drayton Mine site. By re-using the existing infrastructure, the project has minimal impact on the local area.*

These benefits will make a long-term, positive difference to my community.

Regards,



Ross A Souter