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Subject: MAXWELL Coal Mine IPC 13.11.20
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Attachments: [DRAYTON SOUTH IPC Nov 13 2020.docx](#)
[UH MINE MAP.dwg.pdf](#)

To the Independent Planning Commission, NSW

Thank you for accepting this submission regarding the Maxwell Coal Mine application by Malabar Resources, as delivered by zoom, 13.11.2020.

This sending comprises the text of my presentation, plus a map I have drawn based on the 1982 Defence Mapping from the Department of Lands, and taken from the information then available some months ago, showing the array of coal mining interests in the Muswellbrook area, including all kinds of mining plus exploration zones.

Thank you.

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MAXWELL. Coal mine proposal, Malabar Resources.

two pages.

to the Independent Planning Commission

11 and 13 November, 2020.

Beverley F.A. Atkinson, B. Arch.

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The news report says Malabar's proposal will earn the government over a billion in royalties, and its wages bring \$55m per year into the economy. And of course the jobs thing; never challenged.

I don't buy it.

Over my 19 years here I've seen a steady workers' exodus to the coal mines. We all know many well-employed people who went mining. They left our towns short of skills and services. Big nuisance.

We need to recover from that skills shortage. A steady withdrawal from mining will allow people go return to their previous work; to heal the artificial split in the economy caused by the lure of high mining salaries.

But this has not been exposed. I see no curiosity in Government and little in the media, about the work backgrounds of newby mine-truck drivers. No enquiries about what training and experience they left unused and wasted. No full analysis of how the regional skills shortage arose in the first place.

Instead, we get fed fear: It's so insulting to the miners. Pictures are painted of sad crowds of broke, jobless ex-miners, skilled only in minework, useless if the next mine can't open, untrained for anything new, *especially progressive work the Government is avoiding*. It fails to see **that investment and cost, related to progressive work, actually translates to "new jobs"..** and ones which will last. So we just get mine-pushing myths and coverup. In fact, many miners are able and keen to use all their experience in progressive work, including TAFE and research.

We don't read about that potential in "Coal Face" for sure.. nor in general press, or surveys. Mostly, media sticks to beaten paths, missing these questions. The Minerals Council coal propaganda is not challenged enough to be debunked.

However, there is clear debunking available, in a local Hunter coal mine application.

Dartbrook Mine proposal assumed full local employment in required fields. It stated that every one of the 156 touted local jobs would be obtained by offering enough money to lure people from existing work. So it actually offers NIL new jobs. It openly takes away 156 local workers from the economy. It says nothing about the effect this has on the local and wider economy.

Maybe other local mines wouldn't admit even knowing the training and work left behind by their new employees. Not in their interest. Oddly, the Government doesn't ask! It wants us all to think, right or wrong, that coal mine wages will help the economy, whatever that means. But in this Dartbrook example and likely all the mines in the Hunter, new mine wages really just slide across from normal-spending jobs to high-paid higher-taxed ones. So less of the total gets locally spent, and more gets saved or wasted. With net zero gain! So much for the jobs thing and the economy.

As for the royalties, we should be asking:

1) Do they make up for the huge subsidies we give to coal mines?

2) Can they compensate our nation for a) the losses incurred through employment being abandoned for mining: the skills shortage, wasted training, unused equipment, lost teachers and services; and b) personal losses connected with nightshifts, dirty air and unhealthy locations, constant uprooting and family disruption? No, national royalties don't trickle down.. they can never make up for all that loss.

The IPC must face this major aspect of the truth. It's well hidden by mining representatives.

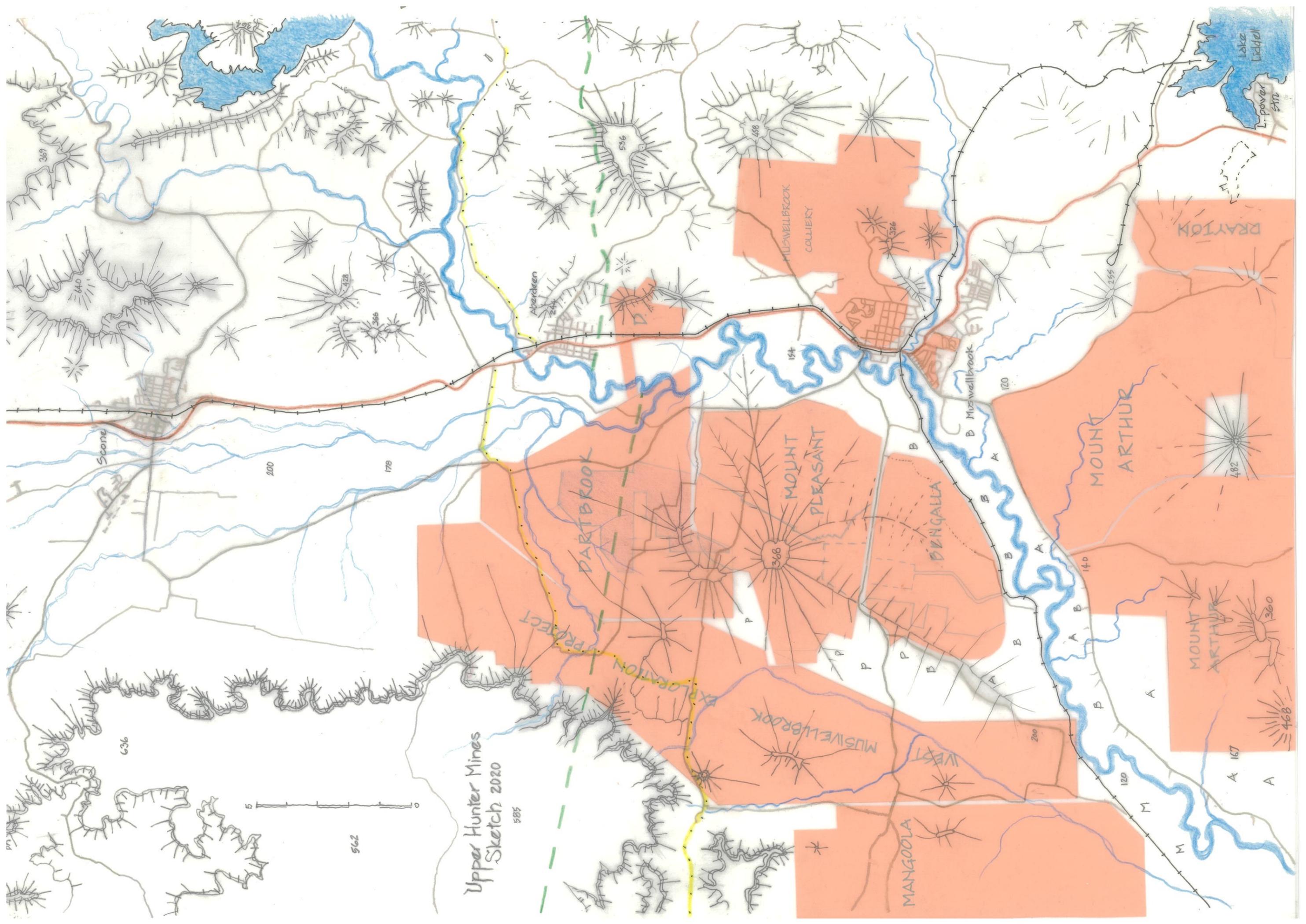
They are intoxicated with their own power over vast workforces, over very large companies, over the recipients of their modest largesse, and over weak, useless politicians.

Having consistently hidden the truth from us, from our Governments, and from the IPC, these lobbyists should turn and accept true progress, or get out. That would at last give Australia's economy, society and reputation a chance to recover.

It would also prolong life on Earth.

I request the IPC to examine Malabar's entire recruitment research tactics, and the full impact of these tactics.

Thank you. B. Atkinson



Upper Hunter Mines
Sketch 2020

585

DRAYTON

MUSWELLBROOK
COLLIERY

Aberdeen

DARTBROOK

MOUNT
PLEASANT

BENGALLA

MOUNT
ARTHUR

MOUNT
ARTHUR

MANGGOOLA

WEST
MUSWELLBROOK

L. Power
Liddel
570

Scone

5

562

200

178

636

369

362

366

428

538

536

488

326

255

164

120

140

120

167

468

360

482