

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Cc: [Steve Barry](#)
Subject: Maxwell Underground Mine Objection
Date: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 9:22:37 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

To Chairman Maxwell Underground Mine Submission.

Please withhold my personal Name and business from publication . Thank You

Thank you for your time on Friday – it was difficult to undertake remotely. Please find the following letter of submission, outlining in more detail my objection.

Firstly, reiterating, I would like to object to the to the Maxwell Underground Mine going ahead. For the past 25 years myself and many people have tried to make the Upper Hunter a destination as have many towns and regions around Australia. Visitors come to our region to look at what we have to offer. National Parks, Wineries, Olive Groves, Thoroughbred Studs and our towns.

When I spoke to you on Friday I didn't spell out to how our own Governments strategies are about transitioning from mining into sustainable long term growth in other industries- particularly tourism and horses/ equine pursuits which is what my business is centred on for good reason- it is the horse capital of Australia (on par with 2 other regions in the world – the famous Kentucky and UK Newmarket) The same Government own Planning Department is disregarding the current policies; **Strategic Land Use Policy 2012** ; and the **Hunter Regional Strategy 2036**. It doesn't make sense that we keep approving new mine proponents for expansion- again at the detriment of others current and future livelihoods. It is again in total disregard for the Equine Critical Cluster which I was a participant back some 10 years ago

My company [REDACTED] has the responsibility to show the visitors about. I have from day one believed that educate and not entertain is what people want. When I go to the vineyards I tell them how a vineyard works on the yearly and day by day happening, from vine to bottle. The same with the olive groves from the trees to the bottle. But our most popular is the visit to our world class Thoroughbred Studs in the Denman area Godolphin (woodlands) and Coolmore. Horses like Fastnet Rock and Lonhro they know but the but the process of getting these champions to the track and giving them the right information is my job. From the pregnant mare, foaling, yearling, breaking in and to a trainer to race the horse on the track. Also very important the husbandry that goes to looking after these animals. They are treated better than most humans.

Mining has impacted greatly on our region as a destination to attract visitors and another mine will only add to that.

My other concern as a farmer in the area for 35 years is the effect this mine will have on the aquifers that supply water to the farming families, once the mine breaks the seal of the aquifer they are gone forever.

Underground Mining is like key hole surgery in humans, you lay on a bed they make a small cut, put in a camera and look for the problem. If the surgeons cant do anything they sew it up and give frame to live.

In Underground Mining is the same put a hole in the ground and after a couple of months they find problems close in the mine and walk away. Meanwhile the underground water is displaced and the farmers wells are empty.

Mining is a deterrent to my business flourishing. It was booming until the mine creep up the Hunter, squeezing tourism, viticulture, agricultural diversity out and muddying the water for all non mine users. My business also supported / provided patronage to the local eateries at Denman, shops and accommodation.

These mines are killing off other opportunities for sustainable industries and tourism.

As a concerned long term resident of the region that has watched with dismay the irreversible destruction to the topography, water and industry diversity, and still relies on the region for my business to succeed – I ask you to not approve this mine.

Please acknowledge receipt of submission

[Redacted signature block]