

HUNTER VALLEY

WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

21 December 2012

The Director General
The Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Objection to the Anglo American Drayton South Open Cut Mine Proposal

The Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association (HVWIA) is the peak body representing the interests of grape growers and winemakers of the Hunter Valley. The HVWIA is a member based organisation representing over 110 winemakers and grape growers of the Hunter Valley, and over 55 associate members.

The Hunter Valley Wine Industry produces over 39 million litres of premium wine annually. This product is packaged and sold under Hunter Valley brands to over 50 countries worldwide, and throughout the domestic market. The value of the sale of this wine is estimated at over \$270 million per year with flow on effects of over \$230 million. There are 125 wineries and over 6,000 hectares of vineyard situated in the Hunter, which has been producing wine since 1830 and is Australia's oldest wine region.

The Hunter Valley enjoys an international reputation for producing premium quality wines. The vineyards and wineries of the Hunter Valley provide significant employment opportunities and the flow on effects of wine tourism create economic, social and cultural benefits to the region. The HVWIA is committed to preserving the viticultural integrity of the Hunter Valley, and to providing a sustainable environment for our industry to prosper for future generations.

The HVWIA recognises the importance of the Upper Hunter as a vital contributor to the broader Hunter Valley Wine Region, providing large scale viticulture opportunities and future expansion potential for the wine industry. The Upper Hunter continues to make a significant contribution to the industry and it is important that the existing vineyards are preserved and can prosper for future generations.

The HVWIA therefore strongly supports the Upper Hunter Winemakers objections to the Drayton South Open Cut Mine Proposal.



Should you have any queries or require further information regarding this submission, please contact me on the details below.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Margan

President

