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David Mooney  
Planner  
The Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Via email: [david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear David,

**Re: Objection to Drayton South Coal Project**  
**Application Number: 11\_0062**

We are writing as concerned landowners and residents from the Jerry's Plains area to object to the Drayton South open coal mine project. As farmers in the area we have grave concerns with this mining proposal, our decedents started farming in the area in the early 1840's. Our properties in the area are at Jerry's Plains and at Apple Tree Flat, both are in close proximity to Drayton South Coal Project.

On our properties we produce top quality Vealers for the Butcher Shop market and we grow mainly Lucerne to produce top quality Lucerne Hay for the horse and cattle market.

Our reasons for objecting to this proposal are as follows: -

This proposal is an additional mining operation in the mid Hunter Valley west of Jerry's Plains. This area in the Hunter Valley cannot with stand any more mining activities, people living and operating a sustainable Primary Production farm in this area are facing many challenges.

1. Pollution and destruction of our water sources, - be it rivers, creeks, or underground streams, they are all important resources for the farming, thoroughbred, viticulture and tourism industries and also for the villages and communities without good quality water not even humans can survive.
2. We have grave concerns for the water that the mining proposal would need to use to subdue the dust, this water is usually high quality water that has run from the precious higher alluvium water streams down into the coal seams and then becomes contaminated.
3. The EA fails to discuss the relative values of the local watercourses (Surface Water) from commercial aesthetic and ecological perspectives.
4. Groundwater Impacts (GWI) and Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA). The EA fails to address the combined effects to GWI from existing operations and the likelihood to be compounded by the impacts from proposed adjacent mining projects. The AIA is solely

based on the site and the off-set site and the economic analysis does not address the impacts on the neighbouring farms.

5. The impacts on farm productivity and land values for neighbouring properties have not been included. There is a need for Government and Government departments to realise that NSW needs a future in farming, without this we will not have a choice of where our food and our livestock's food comes from, you will need to purchase it overseas because at the rate that these mines are expanding, farming will be non-existence in NSW if this continues.
6. The effects of dust on the air quality in the area, health surveys conducted in the area have found an alarming amount of asthma especially in children. Taking into account of all of the above industries if there are alarming levels of asthma in children what is another mining proposal in the area going to do to the health of these above industries' employees that work outdoors and to the animals (cattle, horses sheep etc.) and to the grapevines and horticulture that the community eat and drink.
7. There have been no cumulative impact studies done to collect sufficient data to be able to make a sensible determination regarding the health effects upon the residents and animals of the area that are already exposed to high density coal mining.  
We would have thought that a precautionary principle regarding effects short and long term should be applied.
8. We are among the majority of people living in rural areas that use fresh rainwater for our drinking water this is a major concern to us with all the pollutants from the mining activities in the area. If you built a house in Singleton it is part of the requirements to have a rainwater tank installed, but you are not allowed to drink it, that said a lot for this mining town.
9. With continuing to allow mining, the threat to the diversity of the area's economy, as mining drives out other sustainable industries and the long time employment they provide.
10. The impact of the additional noise from the mining proposal on the community and the neighbouring livestock has not been fully accounted for.
11. The additional traffic & safety issue that now exists on these regional roads, the cumulative impact of an additional mine on the infrastructure in the area. The only new road infrastructure that happens is when mining companies want to mine our roads & then the local communities have to travel longer distances to go about their business. With this new proposal the Jerry's Plains community will have a longer trip to go to town in Muswellbrook.

**As we said earlier this Drayton South proposal lacks consideration of all the cumulative impact of mines together in the area on dust, health, noise traffic safety and the character of the area.**

We respectfully ask that you register our objection to this proposal and seriously consider our objections when assessing the appropriateness of the Drayton South open cut coal Proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Hunter Moore  
and Robyn Ann Moore