

Jessica Griffiths
710/47 Cooper St
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

21 December 2012

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

Dear David,

Objection to the Anglo American Drayton South Coal Project (Drayton Mine)
Application Number: 11_0062

I write to submit an objection to the Drayton South proposal referred to above. I am an employee of the racing industry and have been directly and indirectly involved and associated with the racing industry in Australia throughout all of my life. I am currently employed by a racing stud located in the Hunter Valley and I am very concerned about the effects that mining is having on the industry in the region, and the future viability of employment in the industry as a result. The nature of my concerns are detailed as follows:

Socio-Economic:

Understandably, the racing and thoroughbred breeding industry nationwide, as with most industries, is vertically integrated and as such very sensitive. The flow on effects of a reduction in functionality are felt across the industry and these effects are more apparent when concentrated in a specific region, such as in the Hunter Valley. As has surely been stated before, the loss of profit and negative effects on local businesses in the equine industry from the influence of the mining industry in the Hunter are enormous. This concerns me gravely as an employee of the racing industry and a horse sport enthusiast. Industries such as saddleries, farriers, veterinary practices and feed providers stand to be further affected adversely on a local and national scale if this project is approved.

Historical and Cultural:

The equine industry has a long and successful history in Australia and no more prominent than in the Hunter Valley. Scone in particular is recognised as being the horse capital of Australia and the region has a world renowned reputation of excellence for producing the highest grade of thoroughbred stock. Furthermore, due to the intrinsically linked nature of the various facets of the equine industry this has meant that pursuits such as Three Day Eventing, Dressage, Camp Drafting and local pony clubs have flourished in the Hunter Region. All of these elements of horse sport stand to be negatively affected if further industrialisation of the region continues. The Hunter needs to be preserved as it is a significant historical and cultural hub in Australia, a country that significantly lacks a long lived history of its own.

Environmental Effects:

There are many concerns across the communities of the Upper Hunter region, and across Australia, that the Precautionary Principle has not and is not being exercised with regard to the coal industry. Understood as signifying that a "lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious

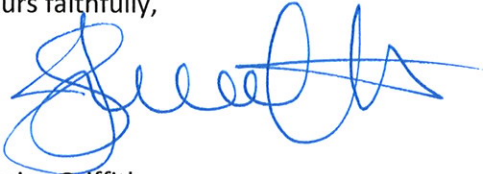
or irreversible environmental damage".¹ The damage being caused to the Hunter region by individual coal projects is further propagated from the lack of analysis into the cumulative effects on the region as a whole. When it is also considered that a coal fired power station is located within a short distance of this proposed project the concern increases yet again. It is a barbaric concept to think that ignorance could destroy an environment which deserves to be preserved and nurtured for generations to come.

Representation:

Negative effects of coal mining that are referred to frequently are issues such as air quality, effects on surface water and groundwater systems and the related adverse health effects on the residents of the region. However, a lesser discussed issue is the unseen but felt effect on the residents of the Hunter who are opposed to mining projects eating up their beloved farm land and natural landscapes with no hope of solution or representation. The situation for these people is one of pure oppression and underrepresentation. The statutory allowance for a state facilitated company to be able to take useful land that is supporting a livelihood and culture, is little better than an extension of imperial colonialism at its worst. Including the deluded justification that corrupt and immoral actions are somehow justified based on a capitalist concept of profitability surpassing the importance justice and democracy. The farmers, residents and people in general opposition to this project have rights and deserve to have their opinions heard and acted upon in this matter.

I hereby submit my objection to the Anglo American Drayton South open cut coal proposal. As is evident from the above points, the objections are heartfelt, genuine and widespread across the region. One only needs to attend a meeting of community members in the region at a local gymkhana or local race day to hear on a grass roots level what the concerns are of the residents of the district.

Yours faithfully,



Jessica Griffiths

¹ Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth), section 391(2)