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20<sup>TH</sup> December, 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing as a concerned landholder, business owner and resident of the Upper Hunter to object to the Drayton South open coal mine project.

Our property has been growing grapes for the past 14 years and supplying many major wineries within the region.

We have invested considerable resources into building Winbirra Estate with over 160 acres of grapes, 150 head of Angus breeders and 3,500 olive trees and crops.

During this development we have employed the services of many local contractors and now with full time staff of six which is a major contributor to them and the local community.

My reasons for objecting to this proposal are as follows:

1. Impacts on the Wine Industry - The proposed mine will have an effect on key vineyards which will then affect all of our vineyards and damage the reputation of the Upper Hunter Wine Industry as a whole. The survival of our industry needs all these vineyards to continue as a serious wine region not only for our personal reasons but for tourism as well.

There are plans for future tourism developments but they are under great threat because of the proposed mine.

2. The Hunter River - The Hunter River is so important to the Viticultural Industry and all agriculture in the Upper Hunter. Mining is already making an impact on our river water and threatens to further pollute and damage our supply. We worry that the environmental assessments do not give enough attention to this when these decisions are being made.

3. Visual Impact - The Drayton South mine will be at the gateway to the Upper Hunter wine region and the wine industry does not believe that mining and wine and tourism can co-exist.

4. Air Quality - We are extremely concerned about the dust impact on the health of the community. We strongly believe that an air quality and health impact assessment

should be carried out in our area for this and all existing mines.

5. Social and Economic - Our area has a lack of affordable housing and skill shortages. Agricultural land has decreased in recent years in price, which is in our view because of continued expansion of mining.

We believe it is now time to get the balance right and we believe that the continued further expansions of mining will have a negative impact on our communities and agricultural development. It is for these reasons we are opposed to any further expansion in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Yours faithfully,

John Quayle