

Hunter coal cruels horse stud investment

The Land 16 Apr, 2014 10:11 AM



Mr Redvers said he will look to Victoria or New Zealand instead.

A THOROUGHBRED breeder scouting for a new stud location for Qatari Sheik Fahad Al-Thani has ruled out the Hunter Valley because of the “huge scale of destruction” from open cut mining.

British breeder David Redvers, charged with establishing a new stud for the Sheik in the Southern Hemisphere, was turned off after he flying over the valley’s open cut coal landscape last week, he told the *ABC*.

"Firstly, I was surprised by just how green it was," he said.

"That turned to shock and sadness at seeing just how huge the scale of destruction is there of what is prime country."

Mr Redvers said he will look to Victoria or New Zealand instead.

His decision supports the claims made by the Hunter’s established studs, who say coexistence with the expansion plans of the coal industry is incompatible.

No Hunter Valley for Sheikh Fahad

Breednet - Media Release - Wednesday, 16 April 2014

Open coal mines in Australia's famed thoroughbred breeding centre the Hunter Valley have blocked the significant investment of Sheikh Fahad Al Thani in the area.

David Redvers, who is the bloodstock advisor for the Sheikh's Qatar Racing operation, said that after flying over the area they will look to New Zealand or possibly Victoria to create a Southern Hemisphere farm.

"The Hunter Valley, having seen what I have seen will have to come straight off the shopping list," Redvers told *ABC Rural*.

"To have that amount of pollution and destruction of the environment causes huge concern.

"What surprised me was just how open cast all the mines there were and the possibility of dust pollution.

"The horse as an athletic creature has the biggest lung capacity and it only operates well if its lungs are operating well and for there to be that much dust in the atmosphere in what is already a dry atmosphere in Australia it has to be a huge concern."

Qatar Racing has been one of the world's biggest investors in the thoroughbred industry in recent times with the young Sheikh ready to expand further.

"We've been looking at investing in a Southern Hemisphere farm, and a big one, to stand our stallions and breed our racing stock," Redvers said.

"We have only been going for the last four years, but we have gone from one horse winning the Melbourne Cup in Dunaden, to having 240 horses in training and a large breeding part of the business.

"We have three stallions standing in the Southern Hemisphere already and we have just invested in a horse called Zoustar, probably one of the most expensive horses to have been sold privately in Australia this year. I'm not saying we will rival Coolmore or Darley, but I'm certainly saying we are going to be up there competing with them."

Sheikh Fahad Al Thani already has significant investment in the New Zealand thoroughbred breeding industry with his sire Makfi standing at Gerry Harvey's Westbury Stud in Karaka. - **NZ Racing Desk**

See why the Sheikh is shying away. [Click here for the Save the Hunter video.](#)

Sheikh Al Thani Turns Back On Hunter

Thursday, 17th April 2014 NZ Racing

The threat posed to the thoroughbred breeding industry by mining in the Hunter Valley has prompted Sheikh Fahad Al Thani to look elsewhere in search for a suitable location to establish a Southern Hemisphere stud, reports *NZ Racing Desk*.

David Redvers, bloodstock advisor for the Sheikh's Qatar Racing operation, said that after flying over the area they will look to New Zealand or possibly Victoria to set-up an Australian base.

"Firstly, I was surprised by just how green it was. That turned to shock and sadness at seeing just how huge the scale of destruction is there of what is prime country," Redvers told *ABC Rural*. "The Hunter Valley, having seen what I have seen will have to come straight off the shopping list. To have that amount of pollution and destruction of the environment causes huge concern."

He continued, "What surprised me was just how open cast all the mines there were and the possibility of dust pollution. The horse as an athletic creature has the biggest lung capacity, and it only operates well if its lungs are operating well, and for there to be that much dust in the atmosphere in what is already a dry atmosphere in Australia it has to be a huge concern."

Qatar Racing has been one of the world's biggest investors in the thoroughbred industry in recent times with the young Sheikh ready to expand further.

"We've been looking at investing in a Southern Hemisphere farm, and a big one, to stand our stallions and breed our racing stock," Redvers said. "We have only been going for the last four years, but we have gone from one horse winning the Melbourne Cup in Dunaden, to having 240 horses in training and a large breeding part of the business." He added, "We have three stallions standing in the Southern Hemisphere already and we have just invested in a horse called Zoustar, probably one of the most expensive horses to have been sold privately in Australia this year. I'm not saying we will rival Coolmore or Darley, but I'm certainly saying we are going to be up there competing with them."

Sheikh Fahad Al Thani's rejection of the Hunter Valley should sound an ominous warning to government regarding the potential impact of mining on future investment in the region.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Thani rejects Hunter Valley

Thoroughbred Express Thursday, 17 April 2014

A flight over the Hunter Valley's open cut coal mines has prompted a major foreign player in the thoroughbred industry to change his plans about establishing a stud in NSW.

David Redvers, bloodstock advisor for Qatari Sheikh Fahad Al-Thani, is looking to establish a stud in the southern hemisphere. But after flying over the region and witnessing the Hunter coalfields, Redvers told *ABC Rural* he will now look elsewhere in Victoria or New Zealand.

"Nothing prepared me for the devastation left by mines," Redvers said. "Firstly, I was surprised by just how green it was. That turned to shock and sadness at seeing just how huge the scale of destruction is there of what is prime country."

His concerns have been supported by some of the country's leading thoroughbred personalities.

Darley managing director Henry Plumptre says any further development of the coal industry is going to be detrimental to thoroughbred industry in the Hunter.

"We've been saying this for four or five years, in that region of the Upper Hunter, which is basically from Singleton through to Murrurundi, Muswellbrook, Scone, Aberdeen, Denman and Jerrys Plains," said Mr Plumptre.

"If any more of those exploration licences are granted a mining licence, and go from green field to active mines, every new successful application is going to be nail in the thoroughbred industry's coffin.

"If a man like David Redvers, who speaks for one of the biggest investors in thoroughbred racing of the current era, says that he doesn't want to come to the Hunter Valley, you will not get future investment.

"And that's what our industry relies on; we're no different from anyone else."

In the Hunter Valley, coal mining and agriculture have managed to co-exist for more than 100 years. However, the recent large expansion of the region's coal sector is making winemakers, horse breeders and other farmers uneasy.

Since 2001, there has been a tenfold increase in the amount of coal coming out of the Hunter Valley. That figure is rising by an average of 10% each year.



TAKING FLIGHT FROM HUNTER VALLEY Sheikh Fahad and David Redvers
after winning the 2011 Melbourne Cup with Dunaden

Read more: <http://horsetalk.co.nz/2014/04/18/qatari-sheikh-eyes-nz-racehorse-breeding-operation/#ixzz30PsDE2LZ>

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Qatari sheikh eyes NZ for racehorse breeding operation

By Horsetalk.co.nz on Apr 18, 2014 in [Focus](#)

Sheikh Fahad al Thani after his horse Extortionist's win at Royal Ascot. Qatari racing owner Sheikh Fahad Al Thani could be looking to establish a stud farm in New Zealand after seeing the open coal mines in Australia's Hunter Valley.

David Redvers, who is the bloodstock advisor for the Sheikh's Qatar Racing operation, said that after flying over the area they will look to New Zealand or possibly Victoria to create a Southern Hemisphere farm.

"The Hunter Valley, having seen what I have seen will have to come straight off the shopping list," Redvers told *ABC Rural*.

"To have that amount of pollution and destruction of the environment causes huge concern.

"What surprised me was just how open cast all the mines there were and the possibility of dust pollution."

He said the amount of dust in the atmosphere, added to Australia's dry conditions, were a "huge concern" for horses.

Qatar Racing has been one of the world's biggest investors in the thoroughbred industry in recent times with the Sheikh ready to expand further with his Pearl Bloodstock operation.

"We've been looking at investing in a Southern Hemisphere farm, and a big one, to stand our stallions and breed our racing stock," Redvers said.

"We have only been going for the last four years, but we have gone from one horse winning the Melbourne Cup in Dunaden (2011), to having 240 horses in training and a large breeding part of the business.

"We have three stallions standing in the Southern Hemisphere already and we have just invested in a horse called Zoustar, probably one of the most expensive horses to have been sold privately in Australia this year. I'm not saying we will rival Coolmore or Darley, but I'm certainly saying we are going to be up there competing with them."

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