

**HUNTER THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
SUBMISSION ON DRAFT HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN**

March 2016

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Hunter Regional Plan.

Hunter Thoroughbred Breeding Industry

The HTBA represents over 200 thoroughbred breeders and equine supply organisations.

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeding industry is a multi-billion dollar industry and the largest agricultural employer in the Hunter Valley. It comprises over 175 stallion and agistment farms plus equine support industries which provide employment for thousands of people in the Hunter region and help support an industry that employs over 230,000 people nationally¹. The industry contributes over \$2.6 billion and \$5 billion to the state and national economies respectively² and is recognised by the NSW Government as an industry of national and international significance.

The Hunter Valley Breeders represent the largest concentration of stud farms in the world outside of Kentucky in the USA. The industry is Australia's largest producer, supplier and exporter of premium thoroughbreds and one of only three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world. Appendix 2 to this submission provides additional information on the size and scope, national, state and regional significance of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeding Industry.

Draft Hunter Regional Plan

The attached submission contains a summary of recommendations, our view that the work and policy underpinnings of the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan for the Upper Hunter (2012) should not be lost or diluted as a result of the Hunter Regional Plan and our comments on the Draft Hunter Regional Plan. The submission also appends key quotes from Government Ministers committing to protect the Hunter's Thoroughbred Breeding Industry and quotes from recent Planning Assessment Reports, also recommending the protection of our industry.

We commend long-term thinking and strategies for local, regional and state government planning and note that this draft Plan is intended to provide an overarching framework to guide the development and investment in the Hunter region over 30 years to 2036. We also note that once finalised, this draft Plan will replace current strategies/plans applying to the 11 local government areas referred to in the Plan – including the Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan ("SRLUP") released by the NSW Government in 2012.

However we are disappointed that some 3 years after the completion of the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan – Upper Hunter (which was to provide an overarching framework for 20 years) it is to be overtaken by another Regional Plan – one spanning twice as many Local Government Areas and with much wider remit.

We are genuinely concerned that the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter is not diluted or discarded but rather that it be built upon to reflect the wealth of information now before the NSW Government to protect the Hunter Valley's Equine Critical Industry Cluster.

¹ Economic Impact of Australian Racing, IER Pty Ltd, August 2007

² Size and Scope of the NSW Racing Industry, IER, 2014; Economic Impact of Australian Racing, IER Pty Ltd, August 2007

One of the HTBA's key recommendations is for the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan for the Upper Hunter to be updated (in light of recent Planning Assessment Commission recommendations to Government to provide buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures to protect the Hunter Valley's equine industry cluster) and form a sub-plan as part of the Hunter Regional Plan. (We understand that this is a position that is also supported by both the Upper Hunter Shire Council and the Muswellbrook Shire Council.)

The reason for this is self-explanatory. Without the protection of our industry (through appropriate buffers, zoning and preservation measures) and without planning certainty we have no confidence to invest, and therefore we have no future. The sovereign risk imposed upon our industry over the past two decades as a result of mining uncertainty has been immense. Significant investments in the region are now at risk and many others have been stalled or are being lost to other competing domestic (Victoria) or overseas (New Zealand) investment locations. This is an untenable situation particularly in light of the need for a strong, diversified, resilient economy in the Hunter if we are to transition to cleaner renewable energy sources, as envisaged by the draft Hunter Regional Plan.

There are at least four (4) Planning Assessment Commission reports that attest to the incompatibility of international scale thoroughbred breeding enterprises and coal mining. The most recent Planning Assessment Commission report, on the Drayton South Coal Project (November 2015), made strong and specific recommendations for the protection of our industry through buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures.

The legacy of bad, weak or inadequate planning decisions over the past two decades has resulted in a land use conflict in the Hunter Valley that, as the 2015 PAC acknowledged, "cannot be overcome. **Balancing these competing and conflicting land uses is not inherent in the existing planning framework for the region and espousing coexistence does not make it so."** (piv) **The Planning Assessment Commission also noted that "There is an absence of any meaningful planning tool or provisions currently in place which would provide greater clarity and certainty for all parties on a reasonable exclusion zone or buffer beyond which mining can reasonably occur."** (piv)

Through the Hunter Regional Plan, the NSW Government has another opportunity to correct these deficiencies and ensure that in future we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. It has an opportunity to end the land use conflict in the Hunter and protect important Critical Industry Clusters.

We trust this opportunity is not squandered. We stand ready to work with the NSW Government to develop and implement sector specific policies to grow our industry and develop long-term diverse and resilient regional economies. This cannot happen until our industry and other long-term, sustainable industries are recognised for their worth and importance and given equal treatment to the resources sector in the Government's planning system and planning instruments. The first step in this process should be the immediate implementation of the Planning Assessment Commission's recommendations for buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures to protect our industry.

Should you have any questions or require further information on the attached submission, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Ms Hellen Georgopoulos.

Yours sincerely



Ross Cole
Secretary



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SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R1 build on, not diminish or dilute, the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan for the Upper Hunter. In particular by reaffirming the:
 - 1.1 State, National and International significance of the thoroughbred breeding industry concentrated in a critical mass in the Hunter Valley;
 - 1.2 importance of preserving and protecting the state's and nation's premier breeding industry;
 - 1.3 mapped equine CIC and the need to implement buffers or exclusion zones around the CIC (10km) to preserve, protect and facilitate its growth;
 - 1.4 the critical importance of a diverse regional economy – particularly at a time of transition away from mining.
- R2 recognise the importance of the Equine Critical Industry Cluster and its:
 - 2.1 importance to the regional, state and national economies;
 - 2.2 sensitivity to intensive development and the landscape character of its key players;
 - 2.3 sensitivity (operational, commercial and reputational) to mining in close proximity;
 - 2.4 interconnectivity with respect to equine support industries in the Hunter Valley and complementarity to sustainable agriculture and tourism;
 - 2.5 need to expand and grow with certainty and confidence;
 - 2.6 importance as a key pillar of economic growth (along with wine and tourism) during the transition away from coal mining towards an alternative energy mix.
- R3. institute clear buffers and reasonable exclusion zones and preservation measures to safeguard and protect this important industry, beyond which mining can reasonably occur (as per the intentions of the 2012 SRLUP and the recommendations of the November 2015 Planning Assessment Commission).
 - 3.1 In line with recommendation 1.3 above, these buffer and exclusion zones should be based on the current CIC mapping (rather than re-inventing the wheel) and provide sufficient distance to protect from mining and provide room for industry expansion, investment and growth.
- R4. provide greater clarity and certainty, particularly through the planning system, to address and end the land use conflict in the Hunter Valley.
- R5. strengthen and widen the remit of the Gateway Panel to ensure it has the capacity to identify and prevent significant land uses from progressing (as outlined in the draft SRLUP (March 2012) and the recommendations of the 2015 Planning Assessment Commission).
- R6. prohibit mining on and within 10km of the equine critical industry cluster. This would send a strong signal that the NSW Government:
 - is genuine about preserving and protecting the equine CIC;
 - is serious about protecting its sustainable agricultural resources;
 - will heed and implement the advice of its independent authority, the PAC;
 - will not approve development applications for holders of exploration licences on and within 10km of an equine operation/CIC; and
 - is serious about attracting international agricultural investment by increasing certainty and reducing sovereign risk for domestic and international equine investors.



- R7. adopt national and world's best practices to preserve and protect the Hunter's critical industry clusters.
- R8. reinforce and restate the policies and actions underpinning the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter. The SRLUP should be included, and enhanced as per the recommendations of this submission, and form a regional sub-plan which constitutes part of the Hunter Regional Plan.
- R9. publish a report card on progress to implement the actions promised under the SLRUP. This should be made publicly available by the Department prior to the finalisation of this formation of the Hunter Regional Plan.
- R10. commit to six monthly public reports by the Coordinating and Monitoring Committee on progress towards delivery of commitments.
- R11. establish a separate group of key stakeholders, including representative(s) of the HTBA to separately monitor progress on the delivery of the Hunter Regional Plan and publicly report to the Government and Hunter communities on progress (also at six monthly intervals).
- R12. ensure the operations and reports prepared by the two oversight committees are publicly reported to maintain momentum and competitive tension for reform and implementation of commitments.
- R13. provide planning and investment certainty through appropriate buffers, exclusion zones and preservation measures.
- R14. avoid perpetuating land use conflicts through the collation of a holistic picture of mineral, renewable and agricultural resource assets (including biodiversity offsets) and ensure that this holistic picture informs decisions regarding the release of future exploration and mining licences (as part of Action 2.1.1).
- R15. establish (in accordance with Action 2.1.2 – supporting the growth of the region's important primary industries) a working group comprised of the HTBA and viticulture industry representatives and relevant departmental agencies as a matter of priority, to:
 - 15.1 work with the NSW Government to guide strategic land use planning and appropriate processes;
 - 15.2 provide the right regulatory environment to prioritise the protection of strategic agricultural lands; and
 - 15.3 ensure any mapping of biophysical and strategic agricultural lands not only reflects updated data but recognises and builds on existing equine CIC mapping to provide sufficient buffers to enable the growth of these important industries.
- R16. implement, as a matter of priority, the recommendations of the 2015 Planning Assessment Commission to establish appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones and protection measures to protect the Hunter Valley's equine critical industry cluster.
- R17. make provision for communities and stakeholders to be appropriately compensated if new additional methodology is required to identify and map important agricultural land at the regional level to support the development of local strategies and planning controls and to develop and maintain, in the longer term, a region-wide data base of important agricultural lands.
- R18. allocate adequate resources (both financial and human) for the Department of Primary Industry to develop region-wide data and maps to be used for the protection of vital agricultural land,



industries and resources building on (and not reinventing) the significant body of work that has already been undertaken for both equine and wine CICs.

- R19. acknowledge the thoroughbred breeding industry's contribution to the social fabric of, and attraction of tourism to, the Hunter region and support its role as one of three key economic growth pillars (equine, wine and tourism) which contribute to strong diversified Hunter regional economies and the transition away from mining.
- R20. NOT take a carte blanche staged approach to land use planning in areas in the Hunter Valley where mining should not occur – such as in and near critical industry clusters, BSAL, prime agricultural lands and critical water systems.
 - 20.1 in these cases the NSW Government should move immediately to prohibit mining and protect these strategic land uses.
 - 20.2 the Gateway Panel should be empowered to rule out, at an early stage, mining on other prime agricultural lands and water resources.
 - 20.3 the Government can use its powers (including through the State Environmental Planning Policy, Mining and Extractive Industries or the State Environmental Planning Policy Rural Lands) to immediately prohibit mining on strategic agricultural lands and preserve and protect strategic agricultural lands and water resources.
 - 20.4 in the medium to longer term the HTBA recommends a more permanent solution and legislation be taken to implement protection and preservation measures and provide planning certainty and investment confidence to all.
- R 21. propose immediate action to impose and implement robust assessments of mining projects using triple bottom line and cumulative impact criteria. The HTBA notes commitments to implement such robust assessments have been made before and are now long overdue.
- R 22. include the imposition of appropriately stiff penalties to guard against damaging impacts on the Hunter's water quality and quantity resulting from mining incidents.
- R23. acknowledge that growth in the Hunter Valley will require responsible and increased investment in infrastructure (including tourism related infrastructure), affordable accommodation, educational and health services. Investments in road infrastructure will not only support increased tourism and address congestion but have the potential to save lives.
- R 24. better regulation of coal trains (including regulating train movements to avoid peak hours during the week and Saturday morning) to address health and air quality impacts and save lives.



1. STRATEGIC REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN – UPPER HUNTER – 2012

The Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding Industry was mapped and earmarked for heightened protection as part of the NSW Government's Strategic Regional Land Use Plan (September 2012). That Plan was the product of many years' work by all stakeholders including 1,600 submissions, 2 years work by the Stakeholder Reference group and the work of many regional and stake forums.

The 2012 SLRUP:

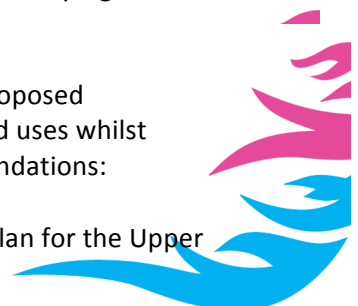
- represented the Government's proposed framework to support growth, protect the environment and respond to competing land uses, whilst preserving key regional values over **the next 20 years** (Emphasis added)(Chapter 1);
- described the region, its agricultural and resource assets and potential future economic opportunities for renewable energy and associated technologies (Chapter 2);
- outlined the Government's intentions to balance agriculture with resources development (Chapter 3) – with particular emphasis on improving the balance between competing land uses; maintaining and enhancing future opportunities for sustainable agriculture; and defining and protecting strategic agricultural land.
 - Action 3.3 of the 2012 SRLUP included appropriate zonings and provisions in local environmental plans to protect agricultural land including as a minimum mapped strategic agricultural land.
- outlined the infrastructure challenges confronting the region (Chapter 4);
 - Action 4.1 required the preparation of a fully costed infrastructure plan for the Upper Hunter region by June 2013.
- described the economic and employment challenges of the Upper Hunter region (Chapter 5) highlighting the economic challenges and drivers of its two distinct regions (the Western and Eastern sub-regions), the land use conflicts in the Upper Hunter, and the imperative to diversify the region's economy and build economic resilience.
- covered the need for housing and settlement (Chapter 6), community health and amenity (Chapter 7), the natural environment (Chapter 8), natural hazards and climate change (Chapter 9) and cultural heritage (Chapter 10).

The HTBA strongly cautions against throwing out the policy foundations of the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan for the Upper Hunter. The HTBA recognises that the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter provides a sound basis upon which the Government should now build to deliver meaningful protection of Critical Industry Clusters, sustainable agriculture, strategic agricultural land and biophysical agricultural land as recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission in its 2015 Report (by instituting clear buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures to safeguard and protect the Hunter's important equine industry).

The HTBA particularly notes that the equine critical industry cluster has been mapped at least three times. In 2014 the equine CIC mapping was given legal effect via an amendment to the NSW Government's State Environmental Planning Policy. The HTBA submits that a significant amount of work has been made in equine CIC mapping. We would not wish to see this work discarded or reinvented. Rather it should form the basis upon which the NSW Government builds to implement appropriate buffers and exclusionary zones to protect and grow this State, National and Internationally significant industry.

The 2012 the Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan was the Government's proposed framework to support growth, protect the environment and respond to competing land uses whilst preserving key regional values **over the next 20 years**. It contained some 35 recommendations:

- to balance agricultural and resources development;
- on key infrastructure needs for the region, including a fully costed infrastructure plan for the Upper Hunter region;



- on economic development and employment, including a regional workforce plan to address workforce and skills issues;
- on housing and settlement – including housing affordability;
- community health and amenity;
- the natural environment;
- natural hazards and climate change; and
- cultural heritage.

Many of the recommendations made in the draft Hunter Regional Plan duplicate or are similar to those listed as action points to be delivered by responsible agencies in stipulated timeframes.

The HTBA makes four comments and observations with respect to the SRLUP and its relationship to the Hunter Regional Plan:

1. the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter was a plan for the next 20 years (ie to 2022). To ditch this plan after only 3 and a half years of operation with little serious attempt to implement the actions identified in the SRLUP:
 - makes a mockery of that process;
 - disrespects the work of the stakeholder group, 1600 written submissions and years of mapping and research work;
 - does little to engender community and stakeholder trust in a Cabinet- approved planning process and policy which is so effortlessly discarded.
2. What is missing from the draft Hunter Regional Plan is a report card on progress to implement the actions promised under the SLRUP. This should be produced and made publicly available by the Department prior to the finalisation of this formation of the Hunter Regional Plan.
3. The SRLUP was specific to the Upper Hunter - covering 5 local government areas with generally similar regional landscapes, issues, challenges and opportunities. The Draft Regional Hunter Plan however covers 11 local government areas and a much broader terrain and vastly different needs, landscapes, issues and challenges. The needs and challenges in the Upper Hunter, for example, are vastly different to those faced by Newcastle and Central Coast.
4. Importantly the policies and actions underpinning the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter should not be thrown out, diluted or diminished by the Draft and Final Hunter Regional Plan. Rather the SRLUP should be included, and enhanced as per the recommendations of this submission, and form a regional sub-plan which constitutes part of the Hunter Regional Plan.

The HTBA strongly recommends that all efforts are taken to preserve and build on the important elements of the 2012 SRLUP. In effect the Hunter Regional Plan should incorporate an update SRLUP as a sub-plan for the Upper Hunter.

Specifically the HTBA recommends that the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R1. build on, not diminish or dilute, the Strategic Regional Land Use Plan for the Upper Hunter. In particular by reaffirming the:
- 1.1. State, National and International significance of the thoroughbred breeding industry concentrated in a critical mass in the Hunter Valley;
 - 1.2. importance of preserving and protecting the state's and nation's premier breeding industry;
 - 1.3. mapped equine CIC and the need to implement buffers or exclusion zones around the CIC (10km) to preserve, protect and facilitate its growth;
 - 1.4. the critical importance of a diverse regional economy – particularly at a time of transition away from mining.



- R2. recognise the importance of the Equine Critical Industry Cluster and its:
- 2.1. importance to the regional, state and national economies;
 - 2.2. sensitivity to intensive development and the landscape character of its key players;
 - 2.3. sensitivity (operational, commercial and reputational) to mining in close proximity;
 - 2.4. interconnectivity with respect to equine support industries in the Hunter Valley and complementarity to sustainable agriculture and tourism;
 - 2.5. need to expand and grow with certainty and confidence;
 - 2.6. importance as a key pillar of economic growth (along with wine and tourism) during the transition away from coal mining towards an alternative energy mix.
- R3. institute clear buffers and reasonable exclusionary zones and preservation measures to safeguard and protect this important industry, beyond which mining can reasonably occur (as per the intentions of the 2012 SRLUP and the recommendations of the November 2015 Planning Assessment Commission).
- 3.1 In line with recommendation 1.3 above, these buffer and exclusionary zones should be based on the current equine CIC mapping (rather than re-inventing the wheel) and provide sufficient distance to protect from mining and provide room for industry expansion, investment and growth;
- R4. provide greater clarity and certainty, particularly through the planning system, to address and end the land use conflict in the Hunter Valley.
- R5. strengthen and widen the remit of the Gateway Panel to ensure it has the capacity to identify and prevent significant land uses from progressing (as outlined in the draft SRLUP (March 2012) and the recommendations of the 2015 Planning Assessment Commission).
- R6. prohibit mining on and within 10km of the equine critical industry cluster. This would send a strong signal that the NSW Government:
- is genuine about preserving and protecting the equine CIC;
 - is serious about protecting its sustainable agricultural resources;
 - will heed and implement the advice of its independent authority, the PAC³;
 - will not approve development applications for holders of exploration licences on and within 10km of an equine operation/CIC; and
 - is serious about attracting international agricultural investment by increasing certainty and reducing sovereign risk for domestic and international equine investors.
- R7. adopt national and world's best practices to preserve and protect the Hunter's critical industry clusters.
- R8. reinforce and restate the policies and actions underpinning the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter. The SRLUP should be included, and enhanced as per the recommendations of this submission, and form a regional sub-plan which constitutes part of the Hunter Regional Plan.
- R9. publish a report card on progress to implement the actions promised under the SLRUP. This should be made publicly available by the Department prior to the finalisation of this formation of the Hunter Regional Plan.

³ Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report, November 2015, p v and vi



2. DRAFT HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN

We commend long-term thinking and strategies for local, regional and state government planning and note that this draft Plan is intended to provide an overarching framework to guide the development and investment in the Hunter region **over 30 years to 2036**. We also note that once finalised, this draft Plan will replace current strategies/plans applying to the 11 local government areas referred to in the Plan – including the Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan released by the NSW Government in 2012.

Stop Naval Gazing and Deliver on a Vision

The HTBA is firmly of the view, as outlined in the next section, that the Hunter Regional Plan should not discard the work, policies and actions committed to as part of the 2012 SRLUP. Rather the Hunter Regional Plan should build on the SRLUP and take the next steps, including those identified in the SLRUP and recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission in November 2015, to protect and preserve Critical Industry Clusters in the Hunter Valley through appropriate buffers and zoning.

The HTBA welcomes the concept of having a multi-decade vision to plan for the growth of Australia's largest regional economy. This is in keeping with world's best practice regional, borough and state planning. However communities also need commitment to balance, sustainability and certainty.

To date the NSW Government has done little to engender confidence in the state planning process – as witnessed by the lack of commitment to implement the actions for the next 20 years identified by the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter and the lack of real protection from coal mining for critical industry clusters and strategic agricultural lands and water resources they rely on.

Communities do not want to waste more time, effort and resources reinventing the wheel and naval gazing. They want Governments to deliver, and build, on their promises.

The suggestion that the delivery of the final Hunter Regional Plan should be overseen by a Coordinating and Monitoring Committee (comprising representatives of the NSW Government and councils across the Hunter region) is noted.

The HTBA is of the view that this Committee should be required to report publicly on progress every six months. While this may seem an onerous task, public reporting is critical to maintain the momentum for reform and implementation of commitments.

The HTBA also suggests that the Government should establish a separate group of key industry and community stakeholders, including, representative(s) of the HTBA, to separately monitor the progress of the delivery of the Hunter Regional Plan and publicly report to the Government and Hunter communities on progress.

This approach would provide a competitive tension to the officials group and ensure that momentum for implementation and reform is maintained. Experience from the 2012 SRLUP demonstrates that without independent and public checks on the system momentum for implementation and reform drifts and key actions are not implemented.

The HTBA recommends that the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R10. commit to six monthly public reports by the Coordinating and Monitoring Committee on progress towards delivery of commitments.
- R11. establish a separate group of key stakeholders, including representative(s) of the HTBA to separately monitor progress on the delivery of the Hunter Regional Plan and publicly report to the Government and Hunter communities on progress (also at six monthly intervals).



- R12. ensure the operations and reports prepared by the two oversight committees are publicly reported to maintain momentum and competitive tension for reform and implementation of commitments.

Goal 2 – Growing the Largest Regional Economy in Australia

The HTBA notes that the Hunter region is the largest regional economy in Australia ranking above Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory in terms of economic output. According to the Government's draft Hunter Regional Plan (p17), the Hunter is the largest regional contributor to the State's gross regional product. This finding accords with the NSW Government's study into the Size and Scope of the NSW racing and breeding industry which also demonstrates the importance of the industry in terms of both employment and value adding (\$2.6 billion annually).

The HTBA agrees with the statements made by the Department in the draft Hunter Regional Plan including (p17):

- in the coming decades, the region's traditional economic and employment drivers, including mining and manufacturing, will continue to be influenced by global and national structural changes;
- the Hunter region will need to maximize its economic competitiveness and at the same time, become more resilient to global influences;
- the Hunter region needs to become more innovative, competitive and resilient, including through:
 - a positive business environment;
 - diverse export industries and increased industry capabilities to reach new markets;
 - strong centres that attract investment;
 - efficient infrastructure and competitive international gateways;
 - access to a diverse skilled workforce.

The HTBA supports the need for all of the above and submits that the Hunter's Thoroughbred Breeding Industry is exactly the kind of industry that would benefit from a more certain, positive business environment, efficient infrastructure and is perfectly poised to:

- deliver successful high quality export commodities to burgeoning international markets in the Asia Pacific, Europe and Middle East;
- build on its international reputation as one of three Centres of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence to attract increased investment into the region; and
- grow the Hunter Valley as a competitive international gateway for Thoroughbred breeding and racing and associated tourism opportunities.

Planning and investment certainty and protection of the Hunter's Equine Critical Industry Cluster is critical to achieve these outcomes. An unequivocal resolution of the land use conflict between mining and agriculture in the Hunter Valley and a clear and public vision and unequivocal commitments from the Premier is required.

The implementation of "quality regulatory and operational frameworks" based on international and domestic best practice require actions and not more words.

Actions not Words

Communities in the Hunter are suffering from reform fatigue. Since the Coalition was elected in 2011 many promises have been made, many reviews have been conducted, many submissions have been written but few tangible outcomes to protect sustainable agricultural resources and industries have been delivered.

The Government has been put on notice by many community stakeholders that community goodwill is running out - particularly on the need to resolve the Hunter's land use conflict. Communities are



desperate for an end to community division, land use conflicts and the need for certainty so they can move forward, plan and make investment decisions with confidence.

The Hunter Regional Plan is the last opportunity for the Government to deliver on its commitments⁴ to protect Critical Industry Clusters, strategic agricultural lands, water resources and end the unproductive land use conflict in the Upper Hunter.

Promoting Investment to Grow Regional Rural and Resource Industries (Direction 2.1)

The HTBA notes that the draft Regional Hunter Plan envisages in the decades to come the need to discover and develop alternative energy sources.

The HTBA supports a sustainable energy future. The weight of evidence before the NSW Government demonstrates unequivocally that sustainable development of rural and resource industries can only occur if appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones and protection measures for sustainable agricultural industries are established to ensure that all industries can grow and invest in the future with both planning and investment confidence.

The wealth of information available to the Government on planning reforms includes previous SRLUP policy documents, 3 Hunter mapping exercises and four PAC reports on sustainable development. All highlight the incompatibility of mining and thoroughbred breeding, the need for appropriate buffers, exclusion zones and preservation measures to safeguard important agricultural industries, or the need for a Gateway process that enables the Gateway Panel to identify and prevent significant land use conflicts from progressing.

This information should inform the Government's future planning system for the Hunter region, ensure that we learn from scientific independent Government advice and not repeat planning mistakes of the past which have resulted in the land use conflicts communities are battling today.

As a result of our direct experience in dealing with Government land use policies and the NSW planning system over the past six years, the HTBA is firmly of the view that successful land use planning throughout the Hunter cannot be achieved without appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures – as most recently recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission in November 2015.⁵

In accordance with the Planning Assessment Commission's 2015 recommendations, the HTBA recommends that the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R13. provide planning and investment certainty through appropriate buffers, exclusion zones and preservation measures .

Actions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 are not mutually exclusive

There are numerous actions and activities identified under Action 2.1.1 to support the sustainable growth of mining industries and diversification of NSW energy supplies in this Plan.

The HTBA notes that the Resources and Energy parts of the Industry Department have been and continue to be well equipped and resourced to identify, collate and map potential mineral and energy resource lands.

⁴ Including 2011 election commitments, public commitments made by O'Farrell and Baird Government Ministers and the 2012 SRLUP commitments

⁵ Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report, November 2015



To avoid perpetuating land use conflicts it is imperative to ensure that a holistic picture of mineral, renewable and agricultural resource assets (including biodiversity offsets) are collated and that they inform decisions regarding the release of future exploration and mining licences.

The HTBA recommends that the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R14. avoid perpetuating land use conflicts through the collation of a holistic picture of mineral, renewable and agricultural resource assets (including biodiversity offsets) and ensure that this holistic picture informs decisions regarding the release of future exploration and mining licences (as part of Action 2.1.1).

Supporting the growth of the region's important primary industries (Action 2.1.2) and working with industry to develop sector specific policies

The HTBA strongly welcomes the NSW Government's commitment to supporting the ongoing success of the Hunter's priority agricultural industries and the commitment to work with the industry to develop and maintain sector-specific considerations to guide strategic land use planning and approvals processes. We support the recommendation that the NSW Government provide the right regulatory environment to prioritise the protection of strategic agricultural lands.

As the largest agricultural industry and agricultural employer in the Hunter, the HTBA stands ready to work with the NSW Government to develop policies, establish the right regulatory environment and prioritise the protection of strategic agricultural land.

Much policy work has already been undertaken and shared with the NSW Government (both in terms of the development of the SRLUP, PAC recommendations, HTBA publications (listed at the end of this submission).

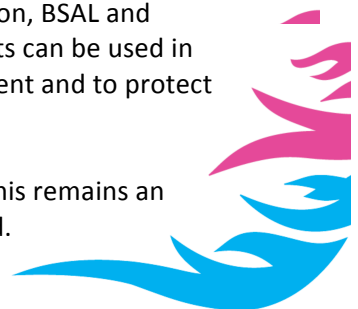
The HTBA recommends that the Government's first priority should be to accept the recommendations of the 2015 Planning Assessment Commission and implement appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones and protection measures to protect the Hunter Valley's equine critical industry cluster.

The HTBA notes that recommendations (p 33) to develop uniform methodology for identifying and mapping land important for agriculture at a regional level to inform the development of local strategies and planning controls supporting sustainable agriculture and, develop and maintain, in the longer term, a region-wide data base of important agricultural lands.

The HTBA supports the use of uniform methodology but would caution against creating more bureaucracy and imposing new, additional and unnecessary costs on communities. The equine CIC was mapped 3 times during the development of the Upper Hunter SRLUP. The constant changing of methodology was frustrating, unnecessary and costly to stakeholders. Should new methodology be required as result of the Hunter Regional Plan the HTBA will support calls from communities to be appropriately compensated.

The HTBA has advocated for many years for appropriate resources to be devoted to the development of data bases not only for important agricultural lands but also water resources they rely on, BSAL and biodiversity offsets so that a holistic picture of key strategic agricultural lands and assets can be used in the development of strategic planning policies, to frame the right regulatory environment and to protect strategic agricultural resources, industries and assets.

This issue was raised as part of the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter. It is concerning that this remains an issue now and there are major gaps some 5 years after this matter was originally raised.



The HTBA recommends the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R15. establish (in accordance with Action 2.1.2 – supporting the growth of the region’s important primary industries) a working group comprised of the HTBA and viticulture industry representatives and relevant departmental agencies as a matter of priority, to:
 - 15.1 work with the NSW Government to guide strategic land use planning and appropriate processes;
 - 15.2 provide the right regulatory environment to prioritise the protection of strategic agricultural lands; and
 - 15.3 ensure any mapping of biophysical and strategic agricultural lands not only reflects updated data but recognises and builds on existing equine CIC mapping to provide sufficient buffers to enable the growth of these important industries.
- R16. implement, as a matter of priority, the recommendations of the 2015 Planning Assessment Commission to establish appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones and protection measures to protect the Hunter Valley’s equine critical industry cluster.
- R17. make provision for communities and stakeholders to be appropriately compensated if new additional methodology is required to identify and map important agricultural land at the regional level to support the development of local strategies and planning controls and to develop and maintain, in the longer term, a region-wide data base of important agricultural lands.
- R18. allocate adequate resources (both financial and human) for the Department of Primary Industry to develop region-wide data and maps to be used for the protection of vital agricultural land, industries and resources building on (and not reinventing) the significant body of work that has already been undertaken for both the equine and wine CICs.

Direction 2.2: Grow and connect service-based industries to support regional communities and provide competitive edge for businesses

The HTBA supports initiatives to grow the Hunter’s service based industries, develop enhanced skills and research and infrastructure to support innovation and better connect industries, particularly agricultural industries, with national and global markets.

Action 2.2.2 Develop strategies for enhancing tourism infrastructure to increase national competitiveness

Each calendar year the Hunter’s Thoroughbred Breeding Industry holds major events that attract significant tourism to the region. These events include regular regional races, the Scone Cup (which alone attracts some 10,000 people for the stand alone 2 day event each May), Scone Horse festival (held between 5 to 15 May,) Stallion Day Parades (held in August each year which attract at least 5,000 people to the region over the stallion parade weekend) and stud tours (held year-round, attract millions of visitors, support local tourism operations, local businesses and contribute to the Upper Hunter’s *Come on Up!* Tourism initiative. These events are in addition to regular stud tours conducted by local guides and frequent visits to the Valley of clients, investors and trainers who regularly visit to inspect foals, yearlings, mares and stallions – particularly prior to the major sales throughout the year.

The Hunter Regional Plan should acknowledge the thoroughbred breeding industry’s contribution to the social fabric of, and attraction of tourism to, the Hunter region. Equine, wine and tourism are three key pillars, which will continue to support strong diversified Hunter regional economies and contribute to the transition away from mining.



The HTBA recommends that the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R19. acknowledge the thoroughbred breeding industry's contribution to the social fabric of, and attraction of tourism to, the Hunter region and support its role as one of three key economic growth pillars (equine, wine and tourism) which contribute to strong diversified Hunter regional economies and the transition away from mining.

Direction 2.4: Manage competing and conflicting interests in rural and resource areas to provide greater certainty for investment.

The Hunter Regional Plan says in Direction 2.4 (p38 and 39) that the draft Plan identifies strategic locations and priorities for protecting energy and mineral resource lands (Figures 5, 6, and 8), strategic agricultural lands (Figure 9), water catchments and drinking water supplies (Figure 14) future transport corridors (Figure 10).

The HTBA notes that these maps are too high a level to be properly scrutinized. Further the HTBA is concerned that this important section of the draft Hunter Regional Plan glosses over the real problem that is perpetuating the land use conflict in the Hunter.

Four Independent Planning Assessment Commissions have concluded that international scale thoroughbred breeding and mining are incompatible land uses. Three Planning Assessment Commissions have recommended against mining in close proximity to international scale thoroughbred breeding operations. The latest Planning Assessment Commission report (November 2015) recommended the Government impose appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures to protect the state's and nation's important thoroughbred breeding industry.

If the Government is genuine about protecting land that currently or may in the future accommodate agricultural activities and their associated water resources, the Hunter Regional Plan must directly address this issue starting by implementing the PAC recommendations for buffers, exclusionary zones and preservation measures.

Papering over the very real land use conflict in the Hunter will only perpetuate this conflict and prolongs unnecessary community division at a time when regional communities need to come together and transition towards a stronger more diverse economic base.

The HTBA notes the concept of a "staged approach to land use planning" (as articulated on page 39 of the draft Hunter Regional Plan). In describing and pursuing a "staged release" it is important to firstly determine where mining can and CANNOT go. It is imperative that this section be balanced with a clear statement that there will be areas where mining should not proceed; where the cumulative environmental impacts and the cost of the loss of productive agricultural land are not acceptable outcomes and mining should not be allowed in these areas. Without these clear distinctions and up-front descriptors, the "staged approach" could be viewed as providing an unwarranted carte blanche approach to mining by stealth. This approach has been discredited by scientific evidence (particularly in or near sensitive agricultural areas), would create unhelpful and confusing precedents in favour of mining and would further perpetuate uncertainty.

The scientific evidence also suggests that once prime agricultural lands have been destroyed they cannot be revived. Once agricultural industries have been forced out they cannot be brought back. As numerous Planning Assessment Commissions have found – once the damage is done it is irreparable and irreversible.

There are clearly areas in the Hunter Valley where mining should not occur – including in and near critical industry clusters, BSAL, prime agricultural lands and critical water systems. In these cases a staged approach is completely inappropriate. As the Planning Assessment Commission recently stated in



its November 2015 report, “It is with great difficulty that the Commission has had to conclude that the land use conflict confronted cannot be overcome. Balancing these competing and conflicting land uses is not inherent in the existing planning framework for the region and **espousing coexistence does not make it so.**⁶” (Emphasis added)

The NSW Government should move immediately to prohibit mining and protect these strategic land uses. The Government should use its powers (including through the State Environmental Planning Policy, Mining and Extractive Industries and the State Environmental Planning Policy Rural Lands) to prohibit mining in these areas and preserve and protect strategic agricultural lands and water resources. In the medium to longer term a more permanent legislative solution will be required.

The Gateway Panel should also be empowered to rule out mining on other prime agricultural lands and water resources at an early stage.

Stated simply and clearly, there is a substantial weight of evidence before the NSW Government, including from the independent Planning Assessment Commission and the Gateway Panel, that:

- concludes that one industry (mining) should not threaten or destroy others (sustainable agriculture)
- recommends the outright protection of important strategic industries (the Hunter Valley’s Thoroughbred Breeding Industry) through appropriate buffers, exclusionary zoning and preservation measures.

The HTBA has been involved in strategic land use planning policy in NSW for the better part of the past decade. Our experience overwhelming has taught us there is no halfway house to resolve the land use conflicts in the Hunter. The only solution, that provides confidence to all players, is through appropriate buffers, exclusionary zoning and preservation measures. Anything else represents a failure to accept the scientific evidence, global and domestic trends, and more importantly a failure to provide a vision for the future and leave a sustainable legacy to future generations.

Annexure 2 to this submission provides examples of domestic and international best practice that have implemented buffers, exclusion zones and preservation measures in the equine or wine industries.

The HTBA strongly recommends the Hunter Regional Plan should:

R20. NOT take a carte blanche staged approach to land use planning in areas in the Hunter Valley where mining should not occur – such as in and near critical industry clusters, BSAL, prime agricultural lands and critical water systems. Rather the Plan should identify up-front where mining should NOT occur and:

- 20.1 in these cases the NSW Government should move immediately to prohibit mining and protect these strategic land uses.**
- 20.2 the Gateway Panel should be empowered to rule out, at an early stage, mining on other prime agricultural lands and water resources.**
- 20.3 the Government can use its powers (including through the State Environmental Planning Policy, Mining and Extractive Industries or the State Environmental Planning Policy Rural Lands) to immediately prohibit mining on strategic agricultural lands and preserve and protect strategic agricultural lands and water resources.**
- 20.4 in the medium to longer term the HTBA recommends a more permanent solution and legislation be taken to implement protection and preservation measures and provide planning certainty and investment confidence to all.**

⁶ Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report, November 2015, p iv



Triple Bottom Line and Cumulative Impact Assessments

The HTBA supports the need for a robust assessment process to consider social, economic and environmental implications of mining activities and the assessment of cumulative impacts of mining projects ((Action 2.4.4 and p 43). Both of these concepts have been proposed and promised for the past five years (including through election commitments, Government policies, including the SRLUP for the Upper Hunter).

It has been a constant disappointment that despite the importance of these policies to any sensible analysis of the costs and benefits of mining proposals (in line with the requirements of the Environment Planning & Assessment Act 1979) they have never been imposed or used to assess the socio-economic impacts of mining projects in NSW.

The underestimation of the detrimental social and economic impacts of mining proposals will leave a lasting legacy to the state and communities of NSW – one that will only be fully realized over the coming decades, once mining has ceased but the health, rehabilitation and structural adjustment costs remain.

The Government has consistently failed to develop appropriate guidance, impose triple bottom line requirements on mining proposals and appropriately evaluate the impacts of mining proposals using triple bottom line criteria.

The HTBA welcomes the reaffirmation of the Government's intention to consider robust assessments using triple bottom line criteria and cumulative impacts. The HTBA urges prompt action to impose and implement these requirements as they are long overdue.

The HTBA recommends the Hunter Regional Plan should:

R 21. propose immediate action to impose and implement robust assessments of mining projects using triple bottom line and cumulative impact criteria. The HTBA notes commitments to implement such robust assessments have been made before and are now long overdue.

Direction 3.2: Secure the health of water resources and coastal landscapes

The HTBA supports all efforts to protect the Hunter's water supplies to meet the needs of the environment, support the growth and development of towns and industries (p57).

The HTBA urges caution on the development of a risk-based decision making framework to manage water quality and waterway health outcomes in any waterway (Action 3.2.2).

The HTBA recommends the Hunter Regional Plan should:

R 22. include the imposition of appropriately stiff penalties to guard against damaging impacts on the Hunter's water quality and quantity resulting from mining incidents.

Goal 4: Supporting robust regional communities

The HTBA supports the growth of robust regional communities and careful planning and management to enable rural towns and villages to grow, anticipate change and transition when necessary. Strategic planning to avoid land use conflicts, from any incompatible encroachment, and a diverse economic base will always provide a strong foundation, encourage sustainable growth and facilitate smooth transitions when required.

The thoroughbred breeding industry has along and sustainable history and heritage in the Hunter Valley dating back to the early 1800's (in some cases dating back to the second fleet).



The industry's history and heritage is not only evidenced in its intimate involvement in the social fabric and development of the Hunter's towns and villages but also through its stewardship of the land, historic buildings and proud heritage of producing equine champions in the Hunter Valley for nearly two centuries.

In its 2013 report the Planning Assessment Commission found that "the historic and continuing land use patterns combined with the built heritage structures, unique topography, landforms and environment have value to the horse and tourism industries, but also have a special cultural heritage significance as well. The Commission considers that the landscape of the studs and their surrounds warrants conservation and protection."⁷

The HTBA notes that growth in the Hunter Valley will require responsible and increased investment in infrastructure (including equine and wine related tourism infrastructure), tourism accommodation, affordable accommodation for those permanently residing in the Valley, educational and health services. Investments in road infrastructure (including the Scone by-pass) will not only address congestion but have the potential to save lives. Investments in roads generally and tourism accommodation will help build on the Hunter's reputation as the NSW's equine, wine and tourism gateway and will help grow a more resilient and diverse economy building on our historic landscape and topography and national and internationally acclaimed equine and wine industries.

Better regulation of coal trains (including through coal train covers and regulating train movements to avoid peak hours during the week and Saturday morning) would also have the potential to address health and air quality impacts and save lives (particularly in instances where emergency vehicles are be caught on the wrong side of the tracks and are unable reach appropriate hospital and other medical facilities).

The HTBA recommends the Hunter Regional Plan should:

- R23. acknowledge that growth in the Hunter Valley will require responsible and increased investment in infrastructure (including tourism related infrastructure), affordable accommodation, educational and health services. Investments in road infrastructure will not only support increased tourism and address congestion but have the potential to save lives.
- R 24. better regulation of coal trains (including regulating train movements to avoid peak hours during the week and Saturday morning) to address health and air quality impacts and save lives.

Direction 4.4: Strengthen the economic and cultural self-determination of Aboriginal communities

The HTBA supports the need to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage values (Action 4.2.2). All strategic land use planning, current and future, should acknowledge, protect and preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage values. This is currently a requirement of the Environment Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and the NSW planning process but needs to be more diligently applied.

The Hunter's Landscape Sub-regions (p 77)

At the risk of being repetitive, the HTBA is of the view that the only way the Government can grow the Hunter's equine and wine industries – 2 of the three economic "powerhouses" identified for the Western Hunter sub-region in the draft Hunter Regional Plan, is by implementing appropriate buffers, exclusionary zoning and preservation measures as recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission in its 2015 Report.

Last year the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders and Hunter Wine and Tourism Association called on the NSW Government to protect of our state, national and internationally significant industries by:

⁷ Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Coal Project, Review Report, December 2013, p 27



- prohibiting new open cut, underground and coal seam gas mining on and within 10km of the equine and viticulture critical industry clusters under existing State Environmental Planning Policies; and
- passing legislation that will permanently protect these critical industry clusters with 10km buffer from new mining proposals.

This request was reinforced by the recommendations of the 2015 Planning Assessment Commission report calling for appropriate buffers, exclusionary zoning and preservation measures to protect our important industry.

Regional Plans are helpful if they build on the work that has gone before and move the debate forward. The time for rhetoric is over. The time has come for the Government to act.



Annexure 1

KEY QUOTES

QUOTE	SOURCE
<i>"Strategic land use plans will be prepared using triple bottom line assessments of the environmental, social and economic values in regional areas. These assessments will inform our decisions about the best way to use land and identify the environmental, social and economic values that need to be protected. In some cases, this will involve trade-offs between two land uses competing to use the same area of land."</i>	NSW Liberals & Nationals, Strategic Regional Land Use, Triple bottom line assessment to protect our regions (p2)
<i>"A key part of the strategic land use planning process will be to identify strategic agricultural land and associated water and ensure that it is protected from the impacts of development. Strategic agricultural land is a finite resource that must be conserved into the future to ensure future food security. It will be identified using a triple bottom line assessment of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the area."</i>	NSW Liberals & Nationals, Strategic Regional Land Use, Triple bottom line assessment to protect our regions (p2)
<i>The NSW Liberals and Nationals believe that agricultural land and other sensitive areas exist in NSW where mining and coal seam gas extraction should not occur. There are other areas where mining and coal seam gas extraction are suitable and should be pursued following a tough assessment of potential impacts. Strategic land use plans will set the framework within which future development will be assessed.</i>	NSW Liberals & Nationals, Strategic Regional Land Use, Triple bottom line assessment to protect our regions (p2)
Reforms to the planning assessment and approval process ... <i>3. Commencing an overhaul of the planning system soon after March 2011, with community input prior to the final determination of the D.A. This would include a thorough examination of enhanced buffer zones and 'ring fencing,' with particular reference to proximity to communities and effect on established industries.</i>	NSW Liberals & Nationals, Strategic Regional Land Use, Triple bottom line assessment to protect our regions (p4)
<i>"A key election platform of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government was to establish a balanced land use policy for the State. We said we would better protect high-value agricultural lands and their water resources from mining and coal seam gas development. This draft Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan delivers on that commitment. It represents a landmark moment in NSW's history which will forever change how we make decisions on mining and agricultural issues."</i>	Premier's Foreword, Draft Strategic Regional Land Use Plan, Upper Hunter, March 2012
<i>"For the first time, this plan maps and protects a large part of the region as high-value agricultural land. This mapped land includes the world-famous horse breeding industry around Scone and the renowned vineyards near Cessnock."</i>	Premier's Foreword, Draft Strategic Regional Land Use Plan, Upper Hunter, March 2012
<i>"The message I want to leave you all with today is this: if any proposed mining or gas extraction activity is likely to harm our prime agricultural land or other important rural industry clusters or the water resources associated with those areas, it will not go ahead under this government"</i>	NSW Deputy Premier, 1May 2012
<i>"More than two million hectares of our State's most valuable agricultural land as well as the critical water sources that supply it are now subject to protections never before seen in NSW. Much of that land is located in the Upper Hunter."</i>	Premier's Foreword, Strategic Regional Land Use Plan, Upper Hunter, September 2012
<i>"The national and international significance of the Upper Hunter's wine and thoroughbred industries has also been recognised, with large areas of the region also identified for heightened protection."</i>	Premier's Foreword, Strategic Regional Land Use Plan, Upper Hunter, September 2012
<i>"Mining cannot go everywhere" "Co-existence is not co-existence without boundaries."</i>	NSW Premier, 29 April 2015
<i>"The importance of the Equine Critical Industry Cluster, its sensitivities to intensive development and the landscape character of its central operators, including the Coolmore and Woodlands studs, needs to be acknowledged with the development and enforcement of appropriate buffers, exclusionary zones or preservation measures to safeguard this important industry."</i>	Recommendation 5 - Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report, November 2015
<i>"the Gateway process need to be strengthened and its remit widened to ensure it has the capacity to identify and prevent significant land use conflicts from progressing."</i>	Recommendation 4b - Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report, November 2015
<i>"Balancing these competing and conflicting land uses is not inherent in the existing planning framework for the region and espousing coexistence does not make it so."</i>	Planning Assessment Commission, Drayton South Open Cut Coal Project Review Report, November 2015, p iv

Annexure 2

ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE - HUNTER VALLEY THOROUGHBRED BREEDING INDUSTRY

Internationally Significant	
1 of 3	International Centres of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence in the World – alongside Kentucky in the USA and Newmarket in the UK
Largest	Concentration of thoroughbred studs in the world outside Kentucky USA
Largest	Australian producer & supplier of premium thoroughbreds
Largest	Australian exporter of premium thoroughbreds, representing:
• 80.35%	Imports from Australia to New Zealand
• 58.65%	Imports from Australia to the Philippines
• 51.63%	Imports from Australia to Macau
• 43.54%	Imports from Australia to Malaysia
• 38.83%	Imports from Australia to Hong Kong
Nationally significant	
\$5b	Contribution to national GDP annually
230,000	Jobs generated and sustained nation wide
State Significant	
\$2.6b	Contribution to NSW economy annually
53,696	People employed or participating in thoroughbred breeding and racing in NSW
34,000	People directly involved in breeding, racing or training in NSW
21,837	Thoroughbred owners in NSW
134	Racing Clubs in NSW
\$175m	Investment in NSW Racing infrastructure underpinned by the quality of bloodstock & racing product produced in the NSW Hunter Valley
Regionally Significant	
55% +	Of the \$2.6b total value added occurs in regional NSW
Largest	Agricultural industry in the Hunter Valley:
2 times	The value of irrigated agriculture
4.5 times	The value of dairy
10 times	The value of meat and cattle
150	Broodmare farms dependent on Hunter Stallion stud farms
Sophisticated	Network of equine support industries dependent on Hunter Valley stud farms –



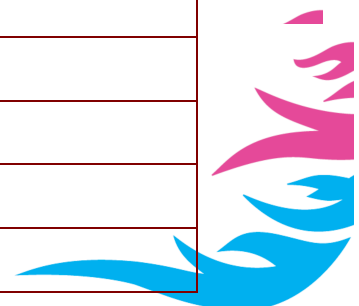
	including farriers, fodder producers, saddlers, equine transport companies and the Southern Hemisphere's largest equine veterinary practice, Scone Equine Hospital
Significant Regional Employer	
42,586	Employees and participants in regional NSW:
• 5,745	in the Hunter
• 10,159	in Sydney
• 5,633	in Western Sydney
• 6,783	in Mid North Coast, Central Coast, Illawara and South Coast
• 14,266	throughout the rest of regional NSW
Significant Regional Investor	
\$5b +	Invested in the Hunter Valley's thoroughbred breeding industry in the past 10 years (and rising)

SOURCE: IER Pty Ltd Report 2006; IER Pty Ltd Report 2014, Marsden Jacob Associates Report 2014, Australian Stud Book

AT A GLANCE

Hunter At A Glance	
470	Breeders
5, 745	Employees and Participants*
6	Race Clubs
78	Race Meetings – including the only Saturday Stand Alone meeting in regional Australia
595	Races
100,416	Attendances
\$564.6m	Value added injected in the local economy by the thoroughbred breeding & racing industry

Sydney At A Glance	
10,159	Employees and Participants
3	Race Clubs
66	Race Meetings
494	Races
291, 858	Attendances



\$11.1 billion	Value added injected into the economy by the thoroughbred breeding & racing industry
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Western Sydney At A Glance	
5, 633	Employees and Participants
1	Race Club
76	Race Meetings
392	Races
237, 411	Attendances
\$321.9 million	Value added injected into the Western Sydney by the thoroughbred breeding & racing industry

* Participants are the lifeblood of the industry. They provide investment, time, skills and passion that underpins the horse racing industry in the State.

Source: IER Pty Ltd, Size and Scope of the NSW Racing Industry, 2014



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE⁸

Equine

Of the three International Centres of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence (Kentucky, USA, Newmarket UK, Hunter Valley, Australia) Australia is the only one that has no buffers or other protections in place to protect its equine critical industry cluster from incompatible land use developments.

Kentucky, USA

Kentucky's equine cluster entered on Lexington in Fayette County is recognised as the country's signature industry.

The equine cluster is protected against competing land development through:

- conservation easements,
- protection of agricultural and equine economies by conserving large areas of farm land,
- conservation and protection of the natural scenic, open space and the historic agricultural resources of rural Fayette County; and
- protection of the tourism economy by preserving the unique character and "sense of place" that attracts visitors from all over the world.

In Kentucky, over 240 farms totalling more than 27,443 acres are permanently protected by conservation easements.

Newmarket, United Kingdom

Newmarket is considered to be the birthplace and global centre of thoroughbred racing.

In Newmarket, the local government planning scheme affords the Newmarket equine CIC development protection from competing land uses.

The Forest Heath District Council's Core Strategy Development Plan recognizes that:

- the creation of the studlands around Newmarket relating to the horse racing industry has resulted in a unique area of landscape. When examining proposals for the development in these areas, the potential impact on this landscape will be an important consideration;
- the importance of the horse racing industry and Newmarket's associated local heritage and character will be protected and conserved throughout the plan period; and
- current planning policies aim to ensure these industries thrive and prosper.

Forest Heath's Development Plan does not permit:

- development proposals which would adversely affect the use or appearance of the racecourse or training grounds or result in their loss;
- changes of use of stud land for any purpose other than that essential to the horse racing industry;
- proposals for development that affect the appearance or landscape setting of the town. (The stud farms and racecourse training grounds are designed as an area of local landscape value).

Where their special character is of exceptional value, individual or groups of training establishments are designated as Conservation Areas.

Viticulture

Unlike their sister industries in South Australia and Western Australia, the Hunter Valley's historic and iconic wine industry is not protected from incompatible mining nor is its character, visual amenity and potential for attracting tourism protected.

⁸ This section is extracted from the joint HTBA Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association publication, *Time to Protect the Hunter Valley's Significant Agricultural Lands and Industries* (March 2015). This section should be read in conjunction with that document which provides further information on both the equine and wine industries, their history and heritage and importance to the national and state economies, national and international best practice, buffers and zoning.



Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale – South Australia

In recognition of special character of the South Australian Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale regions and their importance to the State's economy, in 2012 the South Australian Government legislated protections to these wine districts to protect them, preserve their character and provide for the economic, social and physical wellbeing of the community.

The Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012 and Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012:

- (a) recognise, protect and enhance the special character of the district while at the same time providing for the economic, social and physical well being of the community; and
- (b) ensure that activities that are unacceptable in view of their adverse effects on the special character of the district are prevented from proceeding; and
- (c) ensure that future development does not detract from the special character of the district; and
- (d) otherwise ensure the preservation of the special character of the district.

Any person or body involved in the administration of an Act must, in exercising powers and functions in relation to the district, have regard to and seek to further the objects of this Act.

Character values of the district in theses Acts include:

- (a) the rural and natural landscape and visual amenity of the district;
- (b) the heritage attributes of the district;
- (c) the built form of the townships as they relate to the district;
- (d) the viticultural, agricultural and associated industries of the district;
- (e) the scenic and tourism attributes of the district.

Margaret River – Western Australia

In July 2012 the Western Australian Government took steps to prevent future coal mining in the Margaret River area by terminating all pending applications for coal exploration activities within the area.

The decision was taken pursuant to Section 111A of the Mining Act 1978 and on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority which indicated that coal mining in the area posed unacceptable environmental risks.

Four coal applications were terminated or refused; five applications were withdrawn. Titleholders of nine granted mineral titles within the zone were advised that if any of the titleholders lodge a coal mining proposal it would be refused⁹.

"This decision send a signal to the industry – applications will not be accepted to explore for or min in this area" the Mines and Petroleum Minister, Norman Moore said when announcing the Western Australian Government's decision.

⁹ No coal mining for the Margaret River, Media Statement, the Hon Normal Moore, 24 July 2012.

