

Director, Resources Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Proposed Jerry Plains open cut mining prohibition

I am Kate Wolfgang (Local Farmer, community volunteer & local family member)

I am writing to express my solid support for the NSW Government's proposed Jerry Plains open cut mining prohibition.

I support the proposed amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 and State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 because:

- It will deliver **certainty, security & stability** for the local community and local businesses – including the Upper Hunter equine industry. The local community has been very frustrated by ongoing attempts to approve an open-cut coal mine at EL 5460. This decision recognises that mining underground is a far better outcome for the community. It will dramatically reduce impacts associated with dust, light, blasting, noise and subsidence. It will also greatly reduce any impact on local horse studs, with their properties situated roughly 5km away from a mine entry, and 15km away from mine infrastructure. Particularly and most importantly to the horse studs – the visual impact. There will be no change to the natural landscapes within the area.
- It will provide a much-needed **economic boost** for the local area. A new underground mine could generate about 350 new jobs for the region, with many more indirect jobs. In addition, the project will provide ongoing support for local businesses, schools, sporting facilities for our families to enjoy, local volunteer organisations can do more for people in need, from the initial capital to establish an underground mine and substantial ongoing operating inputs. Annual export sales are likely to be around \$600 million and it is expected that over the initial 30 years the project will generate around \$1.7 billion of royalties.
- **It is a common sense "win-win"** for our community, that allows us to continue to benefit from the existence of a number of strong local industries. As you would know, for well over a century many different sectors have worked side by side here, creating a wide range of jobs for a wide range of people. Sustainability in our region requires industries to co-exist and work together to support jobs, services and economic growth. I believe the prohibition strikes a very appropriate compromise – recognising the importance of co-existence in our region, and the important role underground mining developments will play in its future.

The proposed prohibition provides certainty for the local community. It means we can continue to reap the benefits of strong local industries that have worked side by side for over a century, and all the jobs and economic investment they both provide. Also not forgetting the extremely important positive 'flow on' affect this will have on this community for many years to come to generations to benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel & Kate Wolfgang

