

**ANOTHER REFUSAL – DRAYTON SOUTH REJECTED FOR 4TH TIME
BEREJKLIAN GOVERNMENT MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO PROTECT THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY**

23 February 2017

Today's comprehensive refusal of the Drayton South coal mine by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) should mark the end of any future applications for mining on this site **if the State Government acts immediately** to put a SEPP on the Drayton site **and also acts to create a permanent buffer** between coal mining and the Hunter's thoroughbred industry.

"We welcome the PAC's decision to refuse Anglo American's latest proposal for a coal mine on the Drayton South site. We are very grateful to the PAC for its thorough analysis and comprehensive refusal of this mine." Dr Cameron Collins, President Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association said

Today's PAC has found that the proposed Drayton South coal project **would** have air quality and noise impacts that cannot be avoided, mitigated or managed. It found that the project **would have unacceptable negative economic and social impacts in the locality**. It found that the site is **not** suitable for development and is **incompatible** with existing land uses and that the **medium to long term sustainability of the Equine CIC would be detrimentally impacted**.

"After four PAC's finding against this mine, all recommending or making findings of refusal, the NSW Government needs to put an end to community uncertainty and rule out any possibility of entertaining another application for a coal mine on this site." Dr Collins said

"Whilst the PAC has refused Anglo's latest Drayton South application, there is nothing to stop Anglo American, or any future owner of the site, from lodging yet another application. The process is endless and unnecessary. The Government, with a stroke of a pen, can end the uncertainty by putting a SEPP on this site to prohibit future mining." Dr Collins said

"We are very relieved at the PAC's findings and rejection of a mine on the Drayton South site. We are also very grateful to the many thousands of people who have supported our campaign and work.

"We now need certainty for our industry to invest in its future. We call on the new Berejiklian Government to end the land use conflict in the Hunter, put a SEPP on the Drayton South site and act immediately to permanently protect the Hunter's multi-billion dollar thoroughbred breeding industry - by establishing appropriate buffers so that all industries in the region can confidently grow and prosper. This will give certainty to all parties, and allow the region to grow in a diversified and sustainable manner.

"We have been in this position before, after the first PAC process rejected the Drayton South mine in 2015 because it was not in the public interest. That should have been the end of it. But as we have learnt the hard way, the uncertainty will never end unless and until the NSW Government puts a definite end to it. The Government must act – and act immediately."

"Minister after Minister has told us to have faith in the process, to wait for the independent outcome. Twelve independent PAC commissioners have now assessed this project and have all recommended against or rejected it. There are no more excuses for inaction." Dr Collins said

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BACKGROUND:

The Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding industry contributes over \$5 billion annually to the national economy and \$2.6 billion annually to the NSW economy. It supports over 230,000 jobs throughout Australia. It is one of three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world – alongside Newmarket in the UK and Kentucky in the USA. It is Australia's largest producer and exporter of premium thoroughbreds. It is an iconic part of Australia's sporting history and an industry worth protection.

MEDIA NOTES:

1. Next Steps: What can the NSW Government do to Protect the Hunter's Thoroughbred Industry?

With a stroke of a pen the NSW Government can immediately amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 – to prohibit mining on the Drayton South site. Section 9 of the SEPP allows for the prohibition of mining. To date 3 prohibitions of mining/extractive industries are in place.

The Government can also implement the PAC's 2015 recommendation for buffers/exclusions zones (see below) and establishing a 10km buffer around the Equine CIC to permanently protect it from the threats posed by mining. The Government has had this recommendation before it since November 2015 (See PAC recommendation 5 below). The Government had had the joint request from the HTBA and the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association for a 10km buffer since March 2015. http://media.wix.com/ugd/a76d68_a4ec437974404d1796eae577e07b7f4c.pdf

2. What have previous Drayton South PACs decided?

PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION REVIEW: DRAYTON SOUTH COAL PROJECT, DECEMBER 2013
<i>R1. The Coolmore and (Darley) Woodlands horse studs should be recognised as essential to the broader Equine Critical Industry Cluster and given the highest level of protection from the impacts of mining.</i>
<i>R2. The mine plan for the site should not be approved.</i>
PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION DETERMINATION: DRAYTON SOUTH, OCTOBER 2014
<i>R1. The project does not provide sufficient buffer to protect Coolmore and Darley from the impacts of mining as recommended in the PAC Review Report and the Gateway Panel Report.</i>
<i>R2. The project has not demonstrated that it will not adversely impact on equine health and the operations of the Coolmore and Darley horse studs.</i>
<i>R3. The approach of monitoring the response of thoroughbred horses to the mine's operation to address uncertainty is not acceptable because once the damage to the operations of the studs occurs, it is irreversible.</i>
<i>R4. The economic benefits of the project do not outweigh the risk of losing Coolmore and Darley and the potential demise of the equine industry in the area with flow-on impacts on the viticultural tourism industries.</i>
<i>R5. The project is not in the public interest.</i>
PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION REVIEW: DRAYTON SOUTH, NOVEMBER 2015
<i>R1. The application for the Drayton South open cut coal mine should not proceed.</i>
<i>R 4b. the Gateway process needs to be strengthened and its remit widened to ensure it has the capacity to identify and prevent significant land use conflicts from progressing.</i>
<i>R5. 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>



3. **Importance of Breeding and Racing to NSW (Source: NSW Government Report – IER Pty Ltd, Size and Scope of NSW Racing Industry, 2014)**

Region	Jobs (FTEs)	Employees & Participants	\$ Value Added
Hunter	4,797	5,745	\$564.6m
Western Sydney	2,734	5,633	\$321.8m
Sydney	8,641	10,159	\$1.118b
Illawarra/South Coast/Southern Inland	1,308	5,450	\$153.9m
Riverina/Murray	653	3,931	\$76.8m
Central Coast/Mid North Coast	1,150	4,243	\$135.4m
Northern Rivers/Northern Inland	1,147	5,524	\$135m
Central West/Orana/Far West	802	4,811	\$94.5m
Total	21,232	45,496	\$2.6b

